

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### The Voter Fraud Squad Fraud

Back in May President Trump signed an Executive Order creating an Advisory Commission on Election Integrity.

As any scientist with a PhD in humor could explain at great length, that is technically hilarious; the essence of humor is dissonance, and studies have shown there are no two things more dissonant than Donald Trump and integrity.

The joke ultimately falls flat. There aren't many people with a sense of humor robust enough to actually find this funny. Trump told it anyway and, in classic fashion, in case anybody didn't get it, he beat it to death by appointing Kris Kobach Vice Chair.

In the long and frequently sordid history of this country, we've had plenty of commissions. How come when Trump appointed this one, we instantly thought of the one that was run by Lucky Luciano?

Having now established our pristine objectivity on this topic, we shall wade into this fetid swamp and wrangle with a few gators.

#### Just the Flaks, Ma'am

The Kris Kobach Kommission's proponents will tell you that its sole purpose is to establish the facts. It saddens us to reveal to readers that politicians sometimes fail to tell the truth.

The purpose of the Kommission isn't to establish any facts. That is precisely the last thing it is intended to do. What this is all about is arming the party's flaks by giving them ammunition to conduct an assault on the truth.

This sudden national concern about the chimerical beast called "voter fraud" is all a piece of performance art, political theater, a production being staged to extend a franchise, much like the apparently

endless succession of movies based on comic book superheroes: the X-Men, the Avengers, &c., &c., *ad nauseam*.

The Kobach Kommission is a mobile factory created to manufacture factoids, a bunch of meaningless tidbits that are loosely and only semi-plausibly related to the general topic of people casting ballots at the polls. These factoids will then be strung together by teams of highly-paid professionals, who will hammer them together into a semi-coherent narrative.

The telling thing about the narrative which is currently under construction is that it need not make a bit of sense. Like the elaborate gizmos in Rube Goldberg's cartoons, only needs to offer a vague suggestion of coherence. It only has to entertain a certain slice of the public.

The rest of us can go to hell.

#### Red Brain, Blue Brain

It is a devious and cynical scheme, but, in defense of its perpetrators, it must be said that they're only acting in self-defense. The sprawling cabal that, under the now-forever-sullied brand "Republican," is nominally running this country (into the ground, it must be said) desperately needs to entertain and distract the members of the red-brained tribe.

In a 2011 study, scientists at the University College of London determined that three times out of four they could predict a person's political leaning by using an MRI to measure the volume of parts of their brains.

Liberals tend to have larger anterior cingulate cortexes. "One of the functions of the anterior cingulate cortex [ACC]," according to the study, "is to monitor uncertainty and conflicts. Thus, it is conceivable that individuals with a larger ACC have a higher capacity to tolerate uncer-



tainty and conflicts, allowing them to accept more liberal views."

Conservatives, on the other hand, tend to have larger right amygdalas. "The amygdala has many functions," the pointy-headed, no doubt liberal-leaning scientists wrote, "including fear processing. Individuals with a large amygdala are more sensitive to fear, which, taken together with our findings, might suggest the testable hypothesis that individuals with larger amygdala are more inclined to integrate conservative views into their belief system."

A scary story about fraudulent voters stealing elections will automatically home in on conservative voters. A political franchise built on fear will bypass the thought process and herd conservative voters like cattle.

Are Republicans, who are constantly expressing disdain for science, using arcane neuroscience to craft their political strategy? You may as well ask, who's that guy riding in the back of the Popemobile.

#### Wheels Within Wheels

Science-hating Republicans using science to delude their voters—how ironic is that? Let's add another layer: it may be fear that's driving them to do it.

God forbid that the people who make up the vast bulk of their team should ever sit down and analyze their situation. They might eventually figure out that they have been well and truly hornswoggled. If that were to happen they might turn on their so-called leaders, who have really been their tormentors all along, and eat them.

Now, that's a spectacle we would gladly pay to see.

#### Not My Job, Man

As we said, this voter fraud narrative need not stand up to any serious scrutiny, because it will not get any. Certainly not from deluded Republican voters, who aren't asking any questions.

Aggrieved Democrats are howling, of course, but they have little or no power to act.

Who, then, does that leave? Only our old friends, the media. They, of course—the ones that matter, the ones with the big budgets and big audiences—announced long ago that they're not in the business of making judgments. They don't call balls and strikes anymore. They just report what happened. One team just walked off with the bats, balls, and bases. It's up to us to decide what that means.

#### The New Hampshire Advantage

On Tuesday, Kris Kobach's Kommission erected its circus tent on the grounds of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics in Goffstown. Of course. That's what we do here. It helps make up for the long winters.

By all accounts, the Kommission got a pretty warm welcome—warm as in hot under the collar.

Our Secretary of State for Life may have been duped into playing along with this new KKK, but the people here still get to have their say, too—if not at the ballot box, at least in the streets.

## The Alleged News®

### It's 2017: SNAFU

When 2016 finally slunk off the stage, we heard a few people say they were glad it was over. That never made any sense to us. We're now nine months in, and we haven't heard a soul yet say they're glad it's now 2017.

Whatever sorts of threats happen to set off your amygdala, this year has been offering them up in spades. The natural world alone has got you covered, whether it's unprecedented heat waves in San Francisco and Portland, wildfires all over the West, a swarm of earthquakes in the vicinity of the Yellowstone Caldera, or a pair of monster hurricanes tearing up Texas and Florida.

Hurricane Irma in particular should serve as a humbling reminder of man's relative impotence in the face of nature. Florida's Lower Keys in particular suffered devastating property damage. If humanity could influence the paths of hurricanes

through online voting, the Keys would have been spared while Mar-a-Lago was obliterated.

Apocalyptic signs and symbols seems to be everywhere. A particularly spooky one recently appeared on Twitter. It showed a large mass of nearly-black soil flowing like lava on a plateau in Tibet. The moving material was said to be melting permafrost.



If in fact that's what it is, it's terrifying—and the perfect subject for a Hollywood disaster-porn blockbuster, since frozen permafrost binds up vast amounts of methane, a particularly potent greenhouse gas. If the permafrost in the high-

er reaches of the Northern Hemisphere melt, our collective geese are cooked.

Being the spoilsports that we are, though, we rooted around until we found the blog of Dave Petley, a scientist at a university in the UK. "The video does not show any obvious frozen soil or ice blocks," he writes. "This is quite reminiscent of the landslides that we see in peat in the uplands of Europe . . . It is not possible to say whether this is indeed a peat landslide, or something similar in an organic soil, or a permafrost slide."

So...impending disaster or not? Who knows? Would you like a side of uncertainty to go with your dread? **Don't Bother, Nature, We'll Handle This**

We featherless bipeds are notoriously capable of destroying each other all by our lonesome. With a little help from Mother Nature, though, we really shine.

When Hurricane Harvey dropped 50 inches of rain on Texas, the managers of the Arkema chemical plant told their workers to evacuate. That left nine trailers full of volatile organic peroxide unattended—and unrefrigerated. When first responders showed up to fight the resulting fires, they were incapacitated by the fumes.

Now the company is being sued by some first responders. The company's defense seems to be that they shouldn't have gotten so close.

Management at a Jacksonville Pizza Hut took the opposite approach. They warned employees that if they followed the Governor's advice and fled Hurricane Irma, they might be out of a job.

#### Economy? Eh...Deport Those Dreamers!

We seem to recall hearing on many occasions that "the markets hate unpredictability." Everyone was supposed to tiptoe around, so as not

to frighten the job creators—who are apparently a bunch of lily-livered snowflakes.

President Trump, the alleged ace businessman, seems to have forgotten that lesson. First he sends out Little Beauregard to announce that 800,000 Dreamers had better have a bag packed. Then the Trumpster tells them not to worry, everything's going to be fine, Congress is going to fix everything—which came as a bit of a shock to that body, which hasn't fixed anything in years. Finally—for now, anyway—he doubles down on the uncertainty, saying if Congress doesn't act, maybe he will.

If a Democrat pulled this stunt Republicans would pile on, dutifully followed by the media. 2008 taught them all nothing, though, so this little dustup will have no effect.

The Alleged News®

to page two



The Alleged News®

from page one

Robin Hood Begets Merry Men

Like the proverbial blind squirrel who finds an occasional acorn, the corporate media sometimes turn up, amid the endless rehashing of tedious stuff we've all heard a hundred times, a news item that actually tells us something ... new.

The August 20th *Boston Globe* carried just such an item. It effectively destroys a fundamental tenet of Republican dogma: the unspeakable horror of wealth redistribution. Running under the headline, "Robin Hood Begets Merry Men," the story took up a staggering two column inches.

In keeping with the roguish spirit of the headline, we'll reappropriate the story and run it here in its entirety:

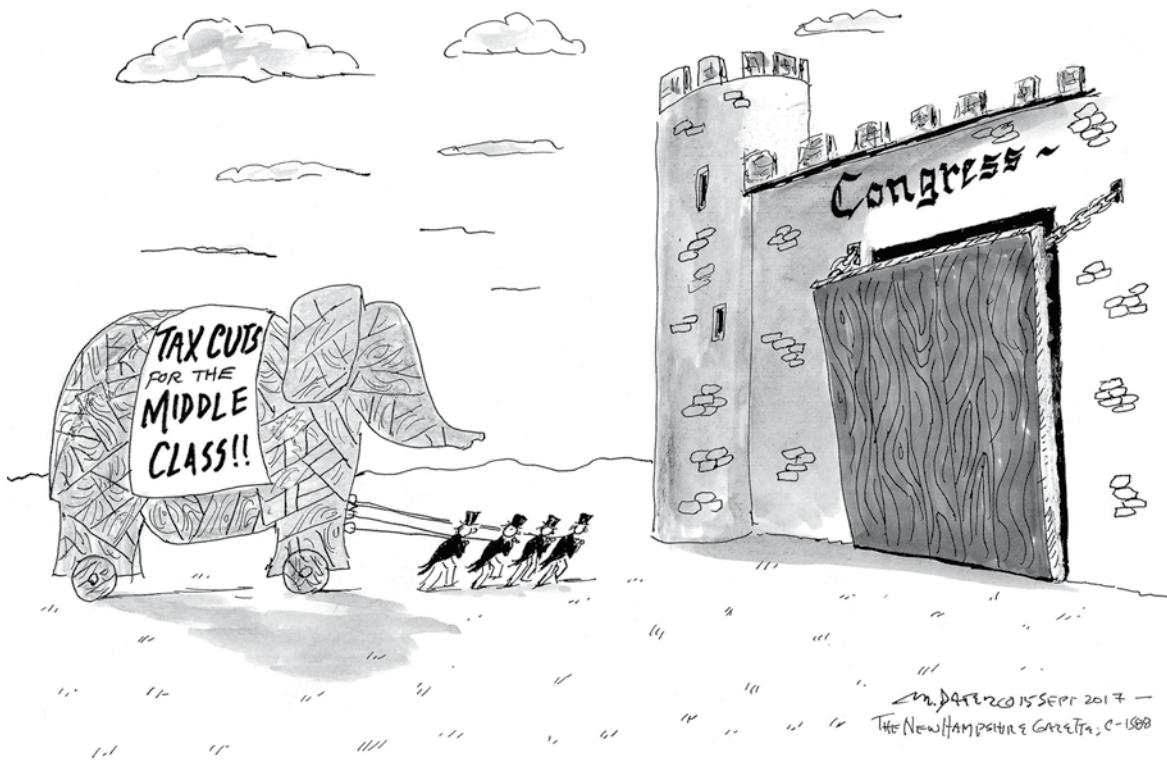
"Analysis of survey data collected from 33 countries over 24 years

revealed that increases in income inequality in a country were associated with lower life satisfaction. Indeed, five percent more inequality was comparable to the effect of a more than 10 percent reduction in GDP per capita. Redistribution that decreased inequality was associated with exactly the opposite, and was positive for both 'taxpayers and welfare-receivers, for liberals and conservatives, and for the poor and the rich.'"

Inequality is measured by what's called the Gini coefficient, which is expressed as a value from zero to one. Zero means everyone is equal; one means one person owns the whole shebang.

The Gini coefficient of the U.S. during the 1970s was high in relation to other developed countries. Since then, it's risen steadily.

In other words, things were bad enough some time ago, and have been getting steadily worse for the



past 40 years. Jeepers—no wonder everybody's cranky.

What an amazing coincidence: an apparently simple cure for our general malaise would be to take a fairly simple step that all the major conservative think tanks violently oppose.

*"Increases in income redistribution predicted greater satisfaction for tax-payers and welfare-receivers, for liberals and conservatives, and for the poor and the rich"*—but it doesn't fit the dogma, so to hell with it.

The Noise Police and Flying Motorcycles

First, a word of explanation: after prolonged negotiation we have reached a special arrangement with the Noise Police, who will, as they are able, provide us with photographic evidence of motor vehicles caught in the act of violating Article IV, Section 3.402, Paragraph G of the City of Portsmouth's Noise Control Ordinance, to wit: "It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue or cause to be made or continued any excessive, unnecessary or unusually loud noise or any noise which either annoys, disturbs, injures, or endangers the comfort,

repose, health, peace or safety of others, within the limits of the City [including the] discharge into the open air of the exhaust of any ... motor vehicle except through a muffler or other device which will effectively prevent loud or explosive noises therefrom." Having thus established the basic parameters of this feature we shall proceed to immediately contravene them.

We publish this photo not because the machine depicted is in violation of Article IV, Section 3.402, Paragraph G—its image was captured as it was proceeding along Congress Street last Sunday at a perfectly acceptable 83 decibels—but because it appears to be a flying motorcycle. If it is not the first such machine to roll through Portsmouth, it's the first one we have seen.

Although it may not be clear in the photo—the capture of pixels was subordinated in this effort to ascertain the decibels—there is a propeller affixed to the back of this rig which is about four feet in diameter. The prop is surrounded by a heavy-gauge guard—for safety, of course.

This is the same layout used by

smaller, less spectacular aircraft known as flying parachutes, which typically amount to lawn chairs on wheels, powered by small engines. This robust chariot seems to be running a considerably more powerful water-cooled V-4 motor, to which is attached a canister which looks suspiciously like the nitrous oxide tanks used on drag racers.

Although our Google Fu is strong, we have as yet failed to acquire any intelligence regarding this machine, beyond that which is encapsulated in the pixels herein provided. If any of our readers have more information on this magnificent beast, we implore them to transmit it to us.

Good News on Sanders Poynt!

According to an email from Bob Jesurum, work finally began in earnest at Sanders Poynt on Monday—and not a moment too soon. Superior Court Judge Marguerite Wageling gave Wentworth by the Sea Country Club a deadline of September 17th to restore public access. It now looks as if they may make it.

We have heard some loose talk of a celebration Sunday, but as yet,



As wrote the immortal Burns, "The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft agley." No sooner had our exclusive arrangement with the Noise Police taken effect—before we were even able to record a single 106+ decibel bust—than we succumbed to temptation and perverted the intent of this long-planned new feature. See the Alleged News for the sordid details.

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#### The AWLD Endorses Noise Pollution

In a bizarre twist of fate which no fiction editor would let pass, Robert Jesurum, the Hero of Sanders Poynt, is also the landlord of one of our nemeses, Seacoast Helicopters.

The *Portsmouth Herald* published a particularly obnoxious puff piece about Seacoast Helicopters on Sunday, September 3rd.

Reporter Jeff McMenemy framed his story as that of a plucky little company that “began its business at Pease International Tradeport with one red helicopter ... [and] endured the summer of 2015 when some residents complained repeatedly about its tours over the downtown and the City Council held meetings to discuss what it could do about the company.

“Eventually, the City Council realized Seacoast Helicopters was an allowed use at Portsmouth International Airport at Pease and focused its attention on other things.

“The Pease Development Authority [PDA] still gets complaints about the helicopters, but they usually come from just a few people.”

In other words, stand your ground and annoy people long enough, eventually you can go about your business of bothering them without the hassle of them bothering you.

Going from one upbeat note to

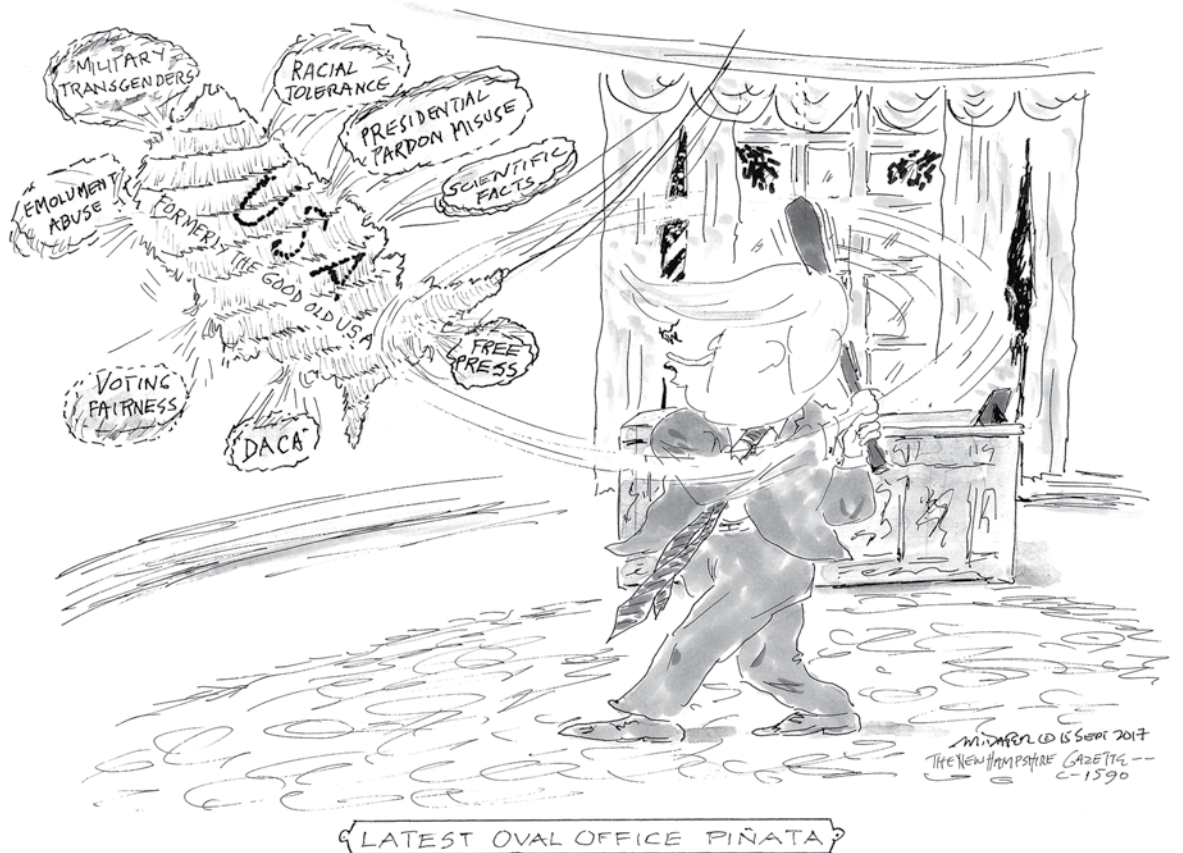
another, McMenemy reports that “Bruce Cultrera, president and chief executive officer of Seacoast Helicopters, said the company has continued to grow, adding staff, helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.

“We still get a phone call or somebody that’s upset with us, but generally it’s gone away. I think there’s been general acceptance of what we’re doing.”

No wonder that’s what he thinks. First, that would be to his benefit. Second, the PDA’s complaint line is ineffective and pointless. You call and leave a message, and the message is ignored. The PDA isn’t going to do anything as a result of your call, and neither is the FDA. Only the most committed are going to use the complaint line. Because so few use it, Cultrera and the PDA can paint those who do use it as cranks.

Perhaps what is needed is a simple website—run by citizens, not the PDA—that would allow people to register their complaints into a database. As the complaints accumulated they would appear in a display. At least people would have the satisfaction of watching the numbers rise.

Mike Thiel, whose complaint to Seacoast Helicopters back in 2015 earned him a visit from the Portsmouth PD, has been in touch with a group in Hawaii, where helicopters have been making people mis-



Soon a considerable amount of attention will be paid to the new “middle bridge” being erected to connect the Rt. 1 Bypass between Kittery and Portsmouth. Let’s hope that new bridge works as well as the new Memorial Bridge, which was opened to traffic four years ago, in August, 2013. Shown here, about to pass under the Memorial Bridge, is the chemical tanker Erria Swan. It hails from a little town in Denmark called Middelfart.

erable for decades. They formed a non-profit called Hawaii Island Coalition Malama Pono, or HICoP. [Malama Pono means “take care of yourself” in Hawaiian, and is used to say goodbye.] Mike’s contact says they have had some progress, and intend to keep pushing for more. They want to establish an offshore route, similar to one that has been established on the north shore of Long Island in New York. They’re at [www.hicop.org](http://www.hicop.org).

#### Their Turn to Listen

The next meeting of the Pease Noise Compatibility Committee is scheduled for next Thursday, September 21st in the PDA board room at 55 International Drive, Portsmouth at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend and speak.

#### Recent Robinson Helicopter Crashes

On August 15th a Robinson R44 helicopter which had been spraying a corn field in Westby, Wisc., crashed after the tail rotor struck a power line. The machine landed 100 yards from the Nordic Lanes bowling alley. Miraculously, no one was injured.

A Robinson R22 helicopter went missing in the Ivano-Frankivsk region of Ukraine on Monday, August 28th, according to the Xinhua news agency. Would-be rescuers found the machine’s wreckage, and the 53-year-old pilot’s body, in a forested area of the Carpathian Mountains the following day.

On September 8th, a Robinson R44 helicopter crashed into a lagoon at Botswana’s Okavango Delta. According to a news report, both the pilot and a passenger survived.

#### Legion Gets Right Re: U.S.S. Liberty

In June we reported on the 50th anniversary of the Israeli attack which nearly sank the *U.S.S. Liberty*. Ever since, survivors have been asking Congress to investigate. They’ve also been trying to get the American Legion to help them. They’ve had about the same results: nada, zip, bupkis.

On August 24th, the Legion finally came around, passing a resolution demanding that Congress “publicly, impartially, and thoroughly investigate the attack on the *USS Liberty* and its aftermath and to

commence its investigation before the end of 2017, the 50th anniversary year of the attack.”

#### Gundalow Piscataqua to Newburyport

The gundalow *Piscataqua* sailed down the coast to Newburyport on Tuesday, September 5th, for several days of public sails and private charters. It was then scheduled to travel up the Merrimack to Amesbury, for more of the same kind of fun and excitement.

This is an historic occasion—it may be the first such trip by such a vessel in a hundred years or more. Anyone who’s had anything to do with that beautiful vessel should be bustin’ their buttons with pride.

#### Bacevich to Speak on The Price of Permanent War and U.S. Empire

Andrew Bacevich, West Point grad, Vietnam veteran, career U.S. Army officer and historian, will speak on Thursday, September 21st, at the Portsmouth Public Library’s Levenson Room on *The Price of Permanent War and U.S. Empire*. The talk, sponsored by Seacoast Peace Response, is free and open to the public. It will begin at 7:00 p.m.

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**Helicopter Noise Meeting Coming Soon**

To the Editor:

People who are concerned about the noise from the tourist helicopters should join us at the next meeting of the Noise Compatibility Committee at Pease. This is scheduled for September 21, 2017 in the PDA board room at 55 International Drive, Portsmouth at 6:30 p.m., and the public is invited to attend and speak.

I plan to be there, because it's the only public forum that addresses this issue.

The tourist helicopter operators seem to think that we have accepted this situation. Many of us think they're wrong, so we'll be going to the meeting next Thursday.

John Stephenson  
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:  
*Thank you for this timely reminder.*  
The Editor

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**Brooks Raises Questions About N.H. GOP**

To the Editor:

Last Friday, while watching the News Hour on Public Television (PBS), I was stunned by the comments of David Brooks, a fairly conservative Republican columnist. With regard to the state of the Republican Party under Donald Trump, he stated that it has become the White Nationalist Party. He went on to say that any decent person now had to decide if he wanted to remain part of what used to be the Republican Party. His depiction of the Republican Party was validated and supported by Mr. Trump's pardon of the racist former Sheriff Joe Arpaio the same day.

Mr. Brooks's comments raise some very troubling and serious questions regarding leading New Hampshire Republicans, including Governor Chris Sununu. There has been almost complete silence from Mr. Sununu and other New Hampshire Republican Party leaders regarding the recent comments by Donald Trump equating neo-Nazis and white nationalists/supremacists to those protesting against these groups. Their silence and failure to loudly denounce such rhetoric leads one to question where they stand with

regard to racism and the acts of violence we witnessed in Charlottesville.

Leadership demands having the moral courage to stand up to evil and hatred. It demands that those in positions of power and influence use that power and influence to improve the lives of all the people they serve, not just those of their own class or political party. Leadership requires that you hold accountable even those in your own political party, when they take positions contrary to the basic traditions and values of our nation. Silence or apathy in the face of evil and hatred is not leadership, it is cowardice. Republicans, including New Hampshire Republicans, brought this plague onto our house, and now they are allowing it to continue unabated.

If the New Hampshire Republican Party "leaders" cannot or will not stand up and unambiguously denounce what their Party leader has said, then they have joined with Mr. Trump in what Mr. Brooks now calls the former Party of Lincoln; the White Nationalist Party. If that is their choice, then they have ceded the moral authority to lead the people of New Hampshire.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

*Your categorization of David Brooks as a "fairly conservative" Republican raises the rather unattractive question of the trajectory of that party over the past half-century—not to mention the context in which the Party of Lincoln has devolved: the nation's shifting Overton window of acceptable public discourse. In the lexicon of a bygone era Brooks is indeed fairly conservative. We suspect, however, that among Republicans today, he's rated somewhere between "squishy" and RINO; neither term being meant as a compliment.*

*As a decent and reasonable person, you tend to give others the benefit of the doubt. This is an admirable trait in a person, but the way things have been going, we have to wonder whether that only serves to further enable the guilty.*

*Chris Sununu has never shown any signs of having the qualities that would make a good Governor. He recently said or did something which we found worthy*



*of his office, but we can't recall now what it was; some subsequent reversion to fast-talking flim-flam drove it right out of our editorial mind.*

*Your basic point is indisputable, of course: thanks to the ravages of time and the allure of subtle self-interest, the party that was created to free the enslaved now seeks to make peons of us all—particularly and especially the descendants of the enslaved.*

The Editor

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**Secretary Gardner Leads Us to the Gutter**

To the Editor:

Secretary of State Bill Gardner has managed to drag New Hampshire into the gutter by agreeing to membership on Donald Trump's so-called Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity.

Trump's massive ego was unable to accept the fact that he lost the popular vote by 2.8 million ballots cast. So, he decided that outcome was the result of widespread voter fraud. Either Trump is using that argument as a public rationalization for his loss, or, more disturbing, Trump actually believes it despite the fact that virtually no one agrees with him.

One person who does agree with Trump is the Vice-Chairman of Trump's Commission, Kris Kobach. The *Kansas City Star* wrote on August 4th, "Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach has perfected the 'big lie' that millions of fraudulent ballots are being cast in American elections, and President Donald Trump has repeated that lie often."

The underlying logic of the "big lie" is that if it is repeated often enough, people will come to believe it. The *Kansas City Star* continues, "The ultimate objective of this big lie: Create a groundswell to pass restrictive voting regulations. The big lie is bound to work, and we all know which legal voters this effort would disenfranchise: the poor and the young. Guess

how they vote?" The obvious answer, of course, is Democratic.

The overriding question is why New Hampshire Secretary of State Gardner chooses to associate himself (and New Hampshire) with such a partisan and biased commission. For his part, Gardner offers two weak-kneed excuses. Although he recognizes that voter fraud is rare in New Hampshire, he says one or two fraudulent votes could determine an election.

I have news for Secretary Gardner. As political behavior texts note, a person has a greater chance of having a heart attack on the way to the polls than of having his or her vote determine the winner of an election. Someone who casts a fraudulent vote thinking that it will turn an election, is wasting time.

Second, Gardner argues that even though illegal voting is rare in New Hampshire, he wants to avoid even the appearance of it. Secretary Gardner, that is a hopeless task. People with a suspicious turn of mind will continue to question the legality of elections, no matter what you do. An election involves, thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even millions of votes, and is run largely by volunteers. The chance of one being one hundred percent perfect is zero.

Secretary Gardner, give up your fool's errand, resign from the Commission, and return to New Hampshire before your integrity and wisdom are further undermined.

Gary Patton  
Hampton, N.H.

Gary:

*Your perceptive analysis of this dismal situation paints a disturbing picture: a weak, petty, would-be tyrant, seeking to soothe his bruised ego—that apparently being his only motivation for doing anything at all, ever—egging on Members of*

*Congress in their perverse roles as the tools of corporate interests, busily hollowing out what remains of our democracy.*

*We already live in a country where over-compensated so-called job creators lord it over a vast multitude who are living from paycheck to paycheck. Those who benefit from this arrangement would have us believe that there is no alternative. That, of course, is a big fat lie.*

*There are two alternatives. Wiser heads among the decision-making elite could, at any time, decide, "You know, we've got it pretty damn good. We should secure our winnings and quit while we're ahead." Sadly, that eventuality is a lot less likely to occur than the sight of a squadron of winged pigs doing a flyover at the next GOP convention.*

*In lieu of that unlikely outcome, the American people could conceivably come to understand that 99 percent of them, whether in red states or blue, are being kicked around by the same set of bastards—and, since they outnumber said set of bastards, they can, thanks to our not-yet-completely-destroyed democracy, turn the table on them and set things right.*

*Failing that, there will be more of the same: not just more debt, more despair, and more addiction, but also more protest, more entirely justified anger, and more American carnage.*

*All this, we feel, is painfully obvious. Less obvious, and the particular challenge we face, is that ancient question: how to communicate that message effectively enough to tip the balance?*

The Editor

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**Unfair Property Taxes? Blame the State!**

To the Editor:

I totally agree with many recent letters that complain about the unfair property tax increases they are expecting as the result of the new property

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evaluation. Someone on a fixed income should not be forced out of their home or their home town, because of ever increasing property taxes. Our taxes should consider the income of the homeowner. However, this is a New Hampshire problem, known as the New Hampshire Advantage, and not something caused by the City of Portsmouth.

Because our state has very limited ways of raising revenue, it has been continuously down-shifting various financial responsibilities to counties and towns, forcing increases in the local property taxes. I along with many legislators have consistently advocated that our state broaden the revenue base, e.g. with an income tax, a sales tax, or revisions in the business taxes, and directly couple that change with a reduction in local property taxes.

Unfortunately, we remain in the minority until property taxpayers rebel and demand change.

In my opinion, the City of Portsmouth has done a good job in keeping budget increases at reasonable levels. Our city has some outstanding services, and very dedicated city employees that most of us are not willing to do without. However, reading in the local paper that my friend Harold Whitehouse saw his property value go up by 21 percent, which would result in a tax bill increase of ~ten percent, was quite shocking to me. Looking at my own situation, I saw that my home value increases by 14.7 percent and is expected to increase my tax bill by ~4.5 percent. I don't quite understand the need for such high tax increases when our city's budget is only increasing by approximately three percent. Another item that surprised me in a recent newspaper article is that allegedly, commercial real estate values are in-

creasing at a slower pace than residential values. In a recent letter, Mr. Hamilton pointed out that this claim flies in the face of what most of us are observing. That is, we see booming investments by both businesses and the hospitality industry in our city. But since the residential population has remained flat for at least the past 10 years, these are the types of investments that are driving growth in city services such as water and sewer, as well as needs for downtown parking. I hope that all candidates running for city offices will keep that in mind and do their own investigating.

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

Peter:

No one who waded through our screed in response to Gary Patton, above, will be surprised that we agree wholeheartedly with both your points.

The City of Portsmouth appears to be allowing out-of-town investors to assault not just the eyes of residents, but their purses as well.

In doing so it follows the lead of the State of New Hampshire, burdening the many for the benefit of the few.

The Editor

#### A Repulsive False Equivalency

To the Editors:

Today on the Fox "News" Program Fox & Friends, host Brian Kilmeade made the most repulsive false equivalency comment I have ever heard. He suggested that in 100 years people might want to remove the 9/11 memorial like they are doing now with monuments to the Confederacy and its leaders. To suggest that there is any equivalency at all between the victims of the 9/11 attacks, and the likes of General Robert E. Lee and other Confederate leaders is shameful and un-American.

General Lee and the other Confederate leaders were traitors to the United States of America. They started and led a rebellious insurrection against their country in an effort to preserve their southern economy and way of life. An economy and way of life built on and supported by the institution of slavery. General Lee and the Confederacy were responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Americans fighting to preserve the Union, as opposed to those like Lee fighting to destroy the Union. General Lee and other Confederate leaders were educated by the people of the United States at West Point. They took an oath of office to protect the constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic. Instead of abiding by this oath, they chose to become traitors and an enemy to their own country.

General Lee and other Confederates were responsible for many more deaths and greater destruction than any terrorist has even inflicted on America. To honor those who fought to destroy the Union with statues as a way to remember and honor that dark part of our history is perverse. We would never put a statue of Timothy McVeigh in Oklahoma City or Osama bin Laden in New York to remember and honor the evil history they created. We honor the victims and heroes who fought against evil with memorials to celebrate our history, not the perpetrators of the evil.

On this solemn day, when we honor the victims of 9/11, Fox "News" attempted to make a sick political statement regarding a false equivalency between the monuments of the traitors leading the Confederacy and the monument to the 9/11 victims, comparing those innocent victims of evil, to those who voluntarily and willingly fought to preserve evil. You cannot get much lower than this.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

Rupert Murdoch's minions are building on a foundation of lies, the construction of which was well under way when Reconstruction ended.

The Editor

====

#### Durham Post Office Mural signage

To the Editor:

Those looking for better signage for the Durham Post Office mural might wish to read Cotton Mather's *A History of King Philip's War, 1675-1676*. As I remember, King Philip's family was sold into slavery down to the West Indies. As to Philip himself—his corpse was hacked into four quarters, his head set out on a post in Plymouth, and his hands sent down to Boston. At war's end there were about 100 Narraganset left. To quote the good Reverend himself, "But God hath consumed them by the Sword, by Famine, and by Sickness ... So let all thine enemies perish, O Lord."

Who could ask for better context than that?

Larry Brown  
Milton, N.H.

Larry:

Your recollection regarding the fate of King Philip and his family is correct in every grisly detail.

Thanks for drawing our attention to the writings of the Mathers on this topic. Our curiosity piqued, we skulked around on the intertubes. We failed to find the work you cited, but did come across *A Brief History of the Warre with the Indians of New-England, by Increase Mather, published in 1676. It's a ripping yarn, available online from the University of Nebraska's Digital Commons, and it would, indeed, provide a context that would help illuminate the "Cruel Adversity" panel of the Durham Post Office's mural.*

Here's *Increase Mather, revealing how his religious beliefs gave him a sense of entitlement to the land of the Wampanoags, and the offense he took at their contesting its occupation:*

"the Heathen People amongst whom we live, and whose Land the Lord God of our Fathers hath given to us for a rightfull Possession, have at sundry times been plotting mischie-

vous devices against that part of the English Israel which is seated in these goings down of the Sun ..."

Mather seemed miffed that after half a century of allowing the English to do as they pleased, the scattered remnants of a decimated native population began to put up a fight:

"they have been quiet untill the last year, that must be ascribed to the wonderful Providence of God, who did (as with Jacob of old, and after that with the Children of Israel) lay the fear of the English, and the dread of them upon all the Indians. The terror of God was upon them round about. Nor indeed had they such advantages in former years as now they have, in respect of Arms and Ammunition, their bows and arrows not being comparably such weapons of death and destruction, as our guns and swords are, with which they have been unhappily furnished."

Though we are blessed to have had ancestors in these parts for nigh onto 400 years, we are not in any position to tell anyone what to think or demand when their ancestors came to this land thirteen thousand years earlier, in the wake of departing glaciers.

That being said, if it were us, we'd be tempted to make the point that the term "Cruel Adversity" applies more accurately to the plight of the fellow in the bushes with the torch.

The Editor

====

#### A View from Texas

To the Editor:

The Democratic Governor of Virginia was very silent on radical hate groups such as Black Matter [sic] which has been completely against policemen. Suddenly, the Governor ordered all Confederate monuments (related to thousands of American soldiers) be taken down as result of slave history. It was not long ago when the dangerous ISIS groups from the Middle East destroyed many statues and other records of important history. Isn't the liberal Governor of Virginia following the same dangerous pattern? It appears that those violent

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Noiseyville

by William Marvel

Of all the endless annoyances of modern life, at least in the United States, the most pervasive is undoubtedly noise. Fifteen years ago, during a sojourn in Baltimore, I found it nearly impossible to sleep because of the suburban soundscape. Sirens howled hourly through the night even in a slightly upscale neighborhood, shrieking over the perpetual buzzing of the air conditioner. The television on the other side of a shared row-house wall mumbled and blared late into the night, unnoticed by the would-be viewer who had passed out on the couch. Visitors who finally slipped away from indulgent hosts or demanding par-amours in the wee hours couldn't resist waking up the neighborhood with two good blasts from the horn, offered in juvenile farewell. Once, several public works trucks and a platoon of city employees pulled up across the street an hour

after midnight, gunning multiple chain saws to dice up an eight-inch limb that had lain harmlessly on the ground for a week. By day it was even worse. The roar of traffic on the expressways carried about a mile, and in Baltimore one is rarely more than a mile from an expressway. Major streets provided a constant oscillation of engines accelerating vigorously in an effort to get through one extra traffic light, or gearing down hard—with frequent squealing of brakes—when the attempt failed. Side streets hummed perpetually with the idling of long lines of cars creeping five yards at a time toward one of those larger intersections, yearning for the moment they could roar into full throttle. It was in Baltimore that I first became conscious of the gasoline-powered leaf blower. In a city then inundated with immigrants from southern Mexico and Central America, it was no surprise that most of the leaf blowers I saw were nearly half the size of the men who

carried them. That hollow, high-pitched whine echoed up and down York Road most of the morning every day, especially on the grounds of Towson University, where a naive traditionalist might have expected students to be trying to think. As those deafening contraptions blew blizzards of leaves and litter into adjoining ditches and woods, they struck me as a mechanical metaphor for people who solve their own problems by making them someone else's. Then I returned home, bringing with me the only treasure Baltimore could boast. She ended up volunteering me for a lot more chores in town than I really wanted to do, so I soon learned that Conway had also gotten a lot noisier than I remembered it. Trailer trucks seemed to have proliferated dramatically, slowing traffic down and making it bumper-to-bumper. The steady roadside din scuttled the concerts that once serenaded townspeople from our community bandstands,

which had provided the only welcome noise. Even indoor venues along the main drag could no longer shut out the roar thanks to motorcycles, the principal purpose of which now appears to be an ear-splitting, patented rumble designed to draw all attention to the rider. Then there were the sirens, which had grown nearly as common here as they were in Baltimore. But at least peace still reigned out on the hill, where I lived and where I had learned to appreciate quiet. Nothing louder than an owl or a pack of coyotes echoed during the night, and their presence so comforted me that I usually drifted into a deeper sleep after hearing them. There had been another house within sight of mine for the past few years, but its inhabitants apparently appreciated the peace of the woods as much as I did. Then someone within earshot built a pen for several dogs that barked periodically through the night, out of loneliness or fear. That

went on for a few years, during which a new house sprang up about annually, punctuating each spring, summer, and fall with hammering, screeching saws, the beeping of trucks and equipment, and finally several days and evenings of seismic well-drilling. The volume and valuation of the sprouting homes escalated until it began to sound as though I were living beside a gravel pit. It was only a few years ago that I heard the first car alarm go off down in the development, half a mile away. More recently, one of those people wandered onto the hill who can't say goodbye at the kitchen door, but has to do it with the horn, so everyone will know. This summer I've heard a particularly ominous whine not so far away, at locations up and down the road. It continues for half an hour at a time, and sometimes more than once a day. As much as I hate to admit it, there appear to be leaf blowers somewhere on either side of me. Baltimore has followed me home.

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

groups have affected certain parts of our various police departments. For unknown reasons, many cities such as Berkeley and Charlottesville were not completely protected by the city police. It would be best for those radical hate groups to fly to Egypt and tear down all statues and pyramids since they were made by thousands of slaves years ago! We simply have too many dead-beat idiots in this country that have nothing else to do than erasing history and fighting policemen. Ken Senkow San Antonio, Texas Ken: You seem confused. Are you suggesting that black Americans should sit by quietly when they're murdered by police? That's an awful lot to ask.

We recommend reading the following letter. The Editor —==— Broken Trust To the Editor: Eight hundred thousand Americans trusted our government when they registered to become "legal" under the DACA program. They believed that by following the rules, this country, into which they arrived as children, and which for all intents and purposes is their home country, would accept them as legal immigrants. Now, Trump has terminated the DACA program and threatens to begin deportations within six months. The "Dreamers" who trusted are now vulnerable and at

risk. All their personal information is in government files, available to ICE whenever it decides to come after these people, who are our people—our neighbors, our colleagues, our friends, employees, and service providers. This threat and fear extracts a cost, both on Dreamers and on all of us who believe that this injustice does not and should not represent who we are as Americans. Moreover, it destroys the possibility of success for any future government program that asks people to trust a commitment. No longer can anyone trust our government to do what it promises; anything can change whenever a self-serving, deceptive huckster or ideologue rises to power. Bruce Joffe

Piedmont, Calif. Bruce: President Trump's gutless stunt—sending a Keebler elf out to do his dirty work, then passing the buck to Congress—is of a piece with the entire Republican program: gratuitous cruelty which does not even serve the lunkheads who promote it. Scapegoating and deporting undocumented immigrants is a step towards recession, as is fighting a living wage. The Editor —==— Congratulations, Portsmouth Businesses To the Editor: As a state representative, I am bombarded with mailings and magazines from every possible organization that operates in New Hampshire, and there are quite a few.

My curiosity was recently attracted to the Sept. 2017 *Business New Hampshire Magazine* highlighting the "Best Companies in New Hampshire To Work For." Based on surveys of employees at these companies, they were asked to explain why they liked working for a certain company. For most employees, a flexible work environment and good benefits seemed to dominate. Looking at this year's top ten companies, I discovered that three of the top ten are based in Portsmouth: Medtronic Transformative Solutions, Lofware, and Pax World Management LLC. Congratulations to these companies and to Portsmouth for hosting them. Additionally, looking at a list of the winners for "Best Companies to Work For" during the past 20

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## What is worse than being poor?

by Jim Hightower

One of the lucky things about being rich is that you automatically become handsome, your jokes are hilarious, and politicians treat you with fawning deference.

On the other hand, the unlucky thing about being poor is that—well, you're poor. And society generally treats you poorly. Indeed, morally-corrupt Right Wing offi-

cials in Washington and across the country are pushing the idea that poor people must be punished, as if debilitating poverty is not punishment enough. One especially ugly example of this is spreading through hundreds of school districts—an abhorrent practice called “lunch shaming.”

From first-grade through senior class, most schools make families pay for their kids' cafeteria lunch,

and a computer program alerts cashiers when a student's lunch account is unpaid—a shortfall that nearly always involves poverty-level kids. Rather than dealing with this discretely, school systems have taken to publicly humiliating children whom the computer tags as having a meal debt.

Some schools literally take an indebted student's tray of food away, making a show of dumping the

lunch in the trash in front of everyone. Some remove the hot food from the child's tray, replacing it with a cold sandwich of white bread and a slice of cheese, claiming that this so-called “sandwich” meets federal nutrition standards. Others actually brand the offenders, using markers to write “I need lunch money” on the poor kids' arms! Nearly half of America's school districts use some form of shaming and stigmatizing,

embarrassing children to tears.

What educational lesson is this teaching? And what's the matter with school boards and lawmakers who are either allowing or directly causing this abuse, using lunch to punish the poor? Being poor means you lack money; being mean to the poor means you lack a soul.

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years, I discovered that 14 of the 96 companies—15 percent were likewise from Portsmouth.

All the companies mentioned are to be congratulated for the way they have been treating their employees, and I am sure the reputation and the social climate that Portsmouth provided has something to do with attracting those companies and their good employees. For a city with only two percent of our state's population, that is a remarkable result.

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

=====

### A Reply to Jean Stimmell

To the Editor:

Long time subscriber and big fan.

I agree with much of what Jean Stimmell said in “Wanting vs. Being in the Age of Trump,” in your letters section September 1st. However, I have to take issue with her characterization of “secular” as in “The more secular ... we become ...” as being one of the causes of our current mess.

Many European countries are becoming majority secular, and they are also becoming more progressive. And most of our current U.S. regressive leaders are religious fundamentalists. I won't say it's a cause and effect situation and I don't think “religion” is the cause of our regression. All bad ideas, whether religious or secular are the result of bad thinking and/or mental illness.

I think we progressives must stop sniping at each-other and adopt a

more Unitarian attitude if we are to stop the madness of the alt-right.

Bob Corr  
Tiverton, R.I.

Bob:

*Once again we find ourselves in the uncomfortable position of correcting a person who has, to our delight and benefit, taken the time to write to us.*

*Not that we're going to engage in another one of our fractious religious debates—a role for which we're qualified only by our inherent lack of interest.*

*We'd just like to point out that the gender pronoun you applied to Jean is—through no fault of your own, of course—not just incorrect, but hilariously so.*

*We hope that you're as amused by his mischance as we suspect he will be.*

The Editor

=====

### The President's Alleged Salary

To the Editor:

On Friday, the Trump administration released their [sic] annual report to Congress on White House Office Personnel. It includes the name, status, salary and position title of all 377 White House employees. The report also said that Trump decided not to take a dime of his salary, instead he donated it to an amazing cause (see below)!

The report also showed that President Trump is far better at saving money than Obama was. The total annual White House salaries under Trump are \$35.8 million vs. \$40.9 million under Obama, a savings of \$5.1 million.

Here are some other key findings: There are 110 fewer employees on White House staff under Trump than under Obama at this point in their respective presidencies.

Nineteen fewer staffers are dedicated to The First Lady of the United States (FLOTUS). Currently, there are five staffers dedicated to Melania Trump vs. 24 staffers who served Michelle Obama (FY2009).

However, it's what the report said Trump did with this salary that has everyone talking!

Instead of taking his salary, Trump donated all \$400,000 to the Department of the Interior where it will be used for construction and repair needs at military cemeteries! Amazing! It's so great to have a President who loves our brave military men and women so much!

Oh, and where's the media coverage of this? Oh that's right, they don't cover anything good that the President does.

Dick Marple  
Hooksett, N.H.

Dick:

*Something about the tone of this letter made it sound a little different from your others. Imagine our lack of surprise when we found it, word for word, at TruthOrFiction.com.*

*Since one bad turn deserves another, here, verbatim, is what TruthOrFiction.com had to say about these claims:*

**Trump White House/Obama White House Staff Sizes, Salaries-Truth!**

Claims that the Trump White

House had 110 fewer employees than the Obama White House at the six-month mark are true. But the claims that Trump spent \$5 million less on payroll is somewhat misleading because it compares Trump's first year in office (2017) to Obama's last year (2016).

The Trump White House had 377 employees by July 2017 compared to the Obama White House's 487 staffers in July 2009. And Trump's payroll came in at \$35.8 million, compared to the \$40.9 million payroll of the Obama White House in its last year.

We're calling this one “true” because the central claim that Trump had 110 fewer employees and paid \$5 million less in payroll check out.

**Melania Trump Has Five Staffers Compared to Michelle Obama's 24-Fiction!**

Rumors about the size of Michelle Obama's staff persisted throughout the Obama's eight years in office, and we've found claims that the former First Lady's staff was much larger than other First Ladies to be false.

The rumor we previously investigated, that the size of Michelle Obama's staff in July 2009 (the same time period in question in the new rumor) was 22 compared to Hillary Clinton's three staffers.

First, the list released by the White House didn't specify if staffers worked for the President or First Lady, and the rumor (falsely) assumed that all 22 of them listed

worked for Michelle Obama.

Second, even if Michelle Obama had 22 staffers, it wouldn't have been far off from previous staff sizes. A White House Museum page states that Hillary Clinton had 20 staffers and an additional 15 interns. Photos of Nancy Reagan and Laura Bush posted on the page show them posing in various photos with comparable staff sizes.

So, while it's hard to tell how large Melania Trump's staff was compared to Michelle Obama's—earlier claims that Obama's staff was bloated don't ring true.

**Trump Donated His \$400,000 Presidential Salary to the National Park Service-Truth! & Fiction!**

It's true that President Trump donated his first quarter presidential salary to the National Park Service to support historic battlefield sites. However, the president's first quarter salary was \$78,000 — not \$400,000, as the rumor claimed.

The Editor

=====

*Dear Gazetteers — Enclosed please find a check for a year's subscription to the paper. I've been sponging off a friend's copy long enough. Nothing of any value can be obtained for free, and it's time for me to step up to the bar and do what's right. And a little Yankee common sense is certainly needed in these Alice-in-Wonderland times of ours. Thanks much, and keep up the good work.*

— J.C.F. Richmond, Va.

=====

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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, SEPTEMBER 17	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
<p><b>2013</b>—<i>Mother Jones</i> releases a video showing Mitt Romney denigrating 47 percent of Americans as leeches.</p> <p><b>2011</b>—Hundreds of fed-up protestors finally Occupy Wall Street.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—President George W.[MD] Bush says, “ ... fool me once, shame on—shame on you. Fool me ... you can’t get fooled again.”</p> <p><b>1991</b>—Yale Law’s Dean tells the Senate Judiciary Committee that Clarence Thomas might grow intellectually if he’s confirmed for the Court.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Anastasio Somoza Debayle, Nicaraguan ex-dictator, is assassinated in Paraguay with an RPG-7.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—The Mt. Washington cog railway train derails; eight die.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Count Folke Bernadotte, in Jerusalem to mediate the Arab–Israeli conflict for the UN, is assassinated by the Zionist Stern Gang.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—Ex-Dodger outfielder Len Koenecke charts a plane, fights with the pilot, and dies from a knock on the head from a fire extinguisher.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—Wilbur Wright crashes a Wright Flyer at Ft. Myer, Va.; Lt. Thomas Selfridge becomes the first person killed in a plane crash.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—An elephant charges and derails a railroad train in Malaysia.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—At Antietam, in Maryland, 113,000 men clash; 3,654 are killed and 17,292 are wounded—bloodiest day in U.S. military history.</p> <p><b>1787</b>—Having OK’d the Constitution, its authors head to a tavern.</p>	<p><b>2001</b>—Five anthrax-laced letters are mailed to news media by a person or persons still un-apprehended. Five people die.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—EPA Chief Christine Todd Whitman, acceding to a White House request, says the air at “Ground Zero” is safe to breathe.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Phyllis Schlafly’s son John, a 41-year-old attorney who lives and works with his mother in Alton, Ill., defends her “family values” politics while announcing he is gay.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—A dropped 30-pound socket wrench hits a Titan II missile fuel tank in Damascus, Ark. The tank springs a leak; the leaking fuel catches fire.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—The FBI catches “Tanya,” press baron Wm. Randolph Hearst’s bank-robbing granddaughter.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld and 15 others are murdered when their DC-6 is brought down in Northern Rhodesia. Mining interests are the likely suspects.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—Japanese troops blow up their own railroad at Mukden, Manchuria, blaming it on the Chinese to justify an attack on Chinese Nationalists.</p> <p><b>1873</b>—Civil War financier Jay Cooke goes bust on railroads, precipitating the Panic of 1873.</p> <p><b>1755</b>—Mark and Phillis, enslaved blacks, are executed in Charlestown, Mass. for poisoning Captain John Codman, their “owner.” She is burned at the stake; he is hanged. His gibbeted body is displayed for 20 years.</p>	<p><b>2014</b>—Iraq vet Omar J. Gonzalez jumps the fence and runs into the East Room of the White House.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—George W.[MD] Bush tells CIA chief George Tenet to look for links between S. Hussein and al Qaeda and recommends Dick “Dick” Cheney as a source.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The U.S. goes to war against Afghanistan—what could go wrong?</p> <p><b>1991</b>—Alpine tourists discover 5,300 year-old Ötzi the Iceman.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—After eight hours of fire, a missile silo in Arkansas explodes, hurling a nuclear weapon 600 feet. Somehow only one person is killed.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—Betty and Barney Hill of Portsmouth, N.H. find their trip back home from a vacation takes two hours longer than expected.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Nikita Khrushchev is denied admittance to Disneyland.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—After 25 above-ground blasts in 111 days, the U.S. begins underground nuke tests.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—R. Nixon is Veep and Joe McCarthy a Senator, but the U.S. bans Charlie Chaplin unless he proves he’s of sound moral character.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—William “Lord Haw-Haw” Joyce, U.S.-born fascist of Irish descent, is sentenced to death in England for broadcasting German propaganda.</p> <p><b>1692</b>—After spending two days being crushed by huge rocks, suspected warlock Giles Corey, 81, dies in Salem.</p> <p><b>1676</b>—Gov. William Berkeley flees Jamestown as rebels burn his capitol.</p>	<p><b>2009</b>—A Robinson R22 goes “bang” over Forest Grove, Ore. and tumbles to the ground; two die in an inferno.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—George W.[MD] Bush declares a War on a noun, <i>viz.</i>, Terror, before a joint session of Congress, which somehow takes him seriously.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—A U.S. military spokesman in Saigon says Agent Orange has no harmful effects on human health.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A deranged woman stabs Martin Luther King while he autographs books in Harlem.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Ex-Nazi, former SS member, and rocket scientist Werner von Braun begins working for the U.S.</p> <p><b>1830</b>—In Philadelphia, 38 free blacks form the National Negro Convention to abolish slavery.</p> <p><b>1797</b>—The frigate <i>Constitution</i> is launched in Boston.</p> <p><b>1797</b>—Captain Pigot of <i>HMS Hermeine</i> orders that the bodies of three sailors who died trying to fulfill his orders be thrown overboard.</p> <p><b>1777</b>—British troops conduct a surprise nighttime bayonet attack near present-day Malvern, Pa. The Paoli Massacre leaves 272 dead, wounded, or missing.</p> <p><b>1565</b>—Spanish forces slaughter 135 Frenchmen in Florida, “for heresy.” It’s the first clash of European colonialists in the New World.</p> <p><b>1378</b>—French cardinals elect Robert of Geneva, aka “The Butcher of Cesena,” to be Pope Clement VII, bringing the number of sitting Popes to two.</p>	<p><b>2014</b>—Abu Mohammad al-Adnani al-Shami, spokesman for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), calls U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry an “uncircumcised old geezer.”</p> <p><b>2008</b>—A Kenosha, Wisc. family of five wakes up when a Robinson R44 helicopter crashes through the roof at 5:38 a.m., exiting out the front door. They all live; the intruders don’t.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The CIA tells Dick “Dick” Cheney his alleged Iraq/al-Qaeda link is bogus, but Cheney persists.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Ex-Chilean Ambassador to the U.S., Orlando Letelier, and an assistant are assassinated by car bomb in Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Hurricane Carrie and a badly-trimmed load of barley sink <i>Pamir</i>, the last cargo-carrying windjammer, off the Azores. Six crewmembers survive, 80 drown.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Anastasio Somoza García, Nicaraguan dictator, is assassinated by Roliberto Lopez, a poet.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—No Kum-Sok, a Lieutenant in the North Korean Air Force, defects to South Korea via MiG-15.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—New England is clobbered by a nameless 183 m.p.h. hurricane that kills up to 700.</p> <p><b>1897</b>—A <i>New York Sun</i> editorial lies to a girl named Virginia, telling her a mythical “Santa Claus” is real.</p> <p><b>1797</b>—The crew of <i>HMS Hermeine</i> slaughters eight officers, heaves their bodies overboard, and hands the ship over to the Spanish.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—“A year from now,” Richard Perle says, “I’ll be very surprised if there is not some grand square in Baghdad that is named after President Bush.”</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Rollen Stewart, who held up a “John 3:16” sign at sporting events while wearing a rainbow wig, kidnaps three people to spread the word of God.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Navy Reserve Capt. Timothy J. Dorsey shoots down a Navy plane during a training exercise. Its crew survives with injuries. Dorsey’s career is unscathed: daddy’s an Admiral.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Disabled ’Nam vet Oliver Sipple deflects Sarah Jane Moore’s shot, saving President Gerald Ford.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—President Nixon requests more FBI spies for college campuses.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Fire Commissioner Robert J. Quinn sounds the air-raid sirens to celebrate the White Sox’s pennant win. Many Chicagoans assume it’s war with the Russians.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Right Wing American capitalists form “Sentinels of the Republic,” one of several front groups for the fascist American Liberty Lobby. Eleven years later many of them will plot to overthrow FDR.</p> <p><b>1907</b>—In Genoa, the luxury liner <i>S.S. Principessa Jolanda</i> sinks upon launch.</p> <p><b>1906</b>—Following a gubernatorial campaign in which the candidates—both Democratic newspapermen—run on their racism, 10,000 whites use unsubstantiated newspaper stories as an excuse to attack blacks in Atlanta. Death toll: 25 blacks and two whites.</p>	<p><b>1999</b>—The \$328 million Mars Climate Orbiter burns on landing because Lockheed Martin forgot to use the metric system.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—The New York Fed bails out broke hedge fund LTCM, establishing a suicidal precedent.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Fort Knox opens for inspection to quell a tabloid rumor.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Alan Ginsberg, Peter Orlovsky, and LeRoi Jones meet in Manhattan with Fidel Castro.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—A white male jury which believes they’re guilty finds Emmett Till’s murderers “not guilty.”</p> <p><b>1952</b>—Richard Nixon cites his daughters’ dog as proof he’s not a crook. Many are fooled.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—French forces overthrow the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The U.S. acquiesces.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—Birth of Ray Charles.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Release of Mack Sennett’s first “Keystone Comedy.”</p> <p><b>1861</b>—Osceola, Mo., is sacked, looted, and torched by drunken, pro-Union Jayhawkers. Nine men are hanged after a drumhead court-martial.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—John Curtis, of Bangor, begins producing “State of Maine Pure Spruce Gum,” the first commercial chewing gum.</p> <p><b>1838</b>—Birth of Victoria Woodhull, proponent of free love and the first female presidential candidate.</p> <p><b>1779</b>—John Paul Jones takes the British ship <i>Serapis</i> as the <i>Bonhomme Richard</i> sinks under him.</p>
<p>9:30 9:49</p> <p>3:10 3:27</p>	<p>10:24 10:43</p> <p>4:06 4:23</p>	<p>11:13 11:33</p> <p>4:56 5:14</p>	<p>11:59</p> <p>5:42 6:01</p>	<p>12:19 12:41</p> <p>6:26 6:46</p>	<p>1:03 1:23</p> <p>7:07 7:30</p>	<p>1:47 2:03</p> <p>7:47 8:13</p>
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
<p><b>2007</b>—A plane previously used for “rendition” flights carrying alleged terrorists to Gitmo crashes in the Yucatan carrying 3.3 tons of cocaine.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—<i>The New York Times</i> publishes a leaked intelligence document concluding that the Iraq War has increased the threat of radical Islamic terrorism.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—George W.[MD] Bush says, “When the final history is written on Iraq, it will look just like a comma.”</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Human Rights Watch reports that U.S. troops routinely beat and tortured detained Iraqis.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—A Robinson R22 partially disassembles over Wildomar, Calif., crashes, and kills its two occupants.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—CIA Director William Casey urges that intelligence agencies be exempted from the Freedom of Information Act.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—On his yacht in Chesapeake Bay, right-handed CIA spook John Paisley takes a shotgun blast behind his left ear. It’s ruled suicide.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Protestors destroy 10,000 draft files in Milwaukee, Wis.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—The Dodgers play their last game at Ebbetts Field.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Portsmouth native Ensign Charles Emerson Hovey, 26, is shot and killed by natives on the island of Basilan in the Philippines.</p> <p><b>1869</b>—Black Friday; Jay Gould and Jim Fisk try to corner the gold market, precipitating national financial collapse.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—Somali pirates capture the <i>MV Faina</i>, a 500-foot freighter with a cargo of 33 Soviet tanks.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—Texas kills Michael Richard on schedule because Judge Sharon Keller refused to work overtime.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—An early draft of an interim report from weapons inspectors in Iraq says no WMD have been found.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W.[MD] Bush says nonsensically, “You can’t distinguish between al Qaeda and Saddam when you talk about the war on terror.”</p> <p><b>1982</b>—A Robinson R22 partially disassembles over Nashville, crashes, and kills its two occupants.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—The smallest crowd in the history of Yankee Stadium—413—watches the White Sox beat the Yankees 4-1.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—While listening to the first Liston/Patterson fight, Vivian Stanishall and Rodey Slater form the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—The U.S. Navy loses a nuclear depth charge, minus its fissile core, in Puget Sound.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Henry Ford announces the eight-hour, five-day work week.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—At Loos, France, British forces release 150 tons of chlorine gas towards German troops. Then, to their chagrin, the wind shifts.</p> <p><b>1789</b>—Congress passes the Bill of Rights.</p> <p><b>1662</b>—Portsmouth adopts a bounty: £5 for every wolf killed whose head is “nayle[d] upon the meeting house.”</p>	<p><b>2011</b>—Dick “Dick” Cheney is stuck in a Vancouver building while police clear an angry mob.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W.[MD] Bush claims that “the Iraqi regime possesses biological and chemical weapons.”</p> <p><b>1991</b>—The House bank announces that, after covering 8,331 rubber checks written by Congressmen over the past year, it will stop.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Lt. Col. Stanislav Petrov disregards Red Army computers showing attacking American nuclear missiles. Having thus averted World War III, Col. Petrov is reprimanded.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Kennedy and Nixon hold the first televised presidential debate.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—American OSS officer Lt. Col. A. Peter Dewey is killed in Saigon by Viet Minh guerrillas who have mistaken him for a French officer. Before his death, Dewey filed a report saying the U.S. “ought to clear out of Southeast Asia.”</p> <p><b>1933</b>—The same day G-Men arrest Machine Gun Kelly, ten men escape from an Indiana prison using guns smuggled in by John Dillinger.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—The Battle of the Meuse-Argonne begins, the last great battle of the War to End All Wars.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—Abraham Lincoln’s body is viewed one last time before being covered with two tons of concrete. Among the 23 present is Fleetwood Linley, 13, who lives until 1963.</p> <p><b>1687</b>—A Venetian shell hits the Parthenon, igniting Turkish gunpowder.</p>	<p><b>2002</b>—Donald Rumsfeld calls the alleged link between al Qaeda and Iraq “accurate and not debatable.”</p> <p><b>1994</b>—On the Capitol steps, 350 GOP candidates take out a Contract on America.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—For the first time in decades, the U.S. has no nuclear-armed B-52’s on alert.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—To show kids there are more constructive things to do than take drugs, Jeffrey Petkovitch and Peter DeBernardi climb into a barrel and go over Niagara’s Horseshoe Falls.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—The first stretch of the Trans-Amazonian Highway opens; bye-bye rain forest, hello global warming.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The Warren Commission reports that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed President John F. Kennedy.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—A group of 35 U.S. B-24s, isolated over Germany by a navigational error, are jumped by 100 enemy fighters; four survive.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—The U.S. government begins large-scale production of plutonium on land taken from the Yakama Indian Nation.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—William T. “Bloody Bill” Anderson and his 80 guerillas, including Jesse James, massacre 150 Union soldiers in Centralia, Mo.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—<i>S.S. Arctic</i>, holed in a collision off Newfoundland, sinks. Her lifeboats are commandeered by the crew, who leave 300 passengers to drown.</p>	<p><b>1868</b>—Knights of the White Camelia massacre between 25 and a few hundred blacks in Opelousas, Miss.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Tom DeLay (R-Texas) becomes the first House Majority Leader indicted for violating campaign finance laws. Five days later he resigns.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—The Pentagon says it will investigate charges that soldiers posted photos of dead Iraqis online in exchange for free access to porn.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W.[MD] Bush claims Iraq has WMDs, al Qaeda terrorists, and a nuke coming soon.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—To avoid further scorn in these pages, Fleet Bank removes its 18-foot tall green, illuminated sign from the middle of Pleasant Street’s sidewalk.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—A Robinson R22 spontaneously disassembles over Knightdale, N.C. The pilot dies in the ensuing crash and fire.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—UC Berkeley students protest free speech restrictions.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Ted Williams takes the plate at Fenway for his last at bat and hits his 521st home run.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—At Munich, British and French diplomats give Hitler the Sudetenland and the GOP a future talking point.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—In Chicago, 166 Wobblies are busted for messing with the war effort.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—In New York a woman is arrested for smoking a cigarette.</p> <p><b>1891</b>—In New York a 72 year-old writer named Herman Melville dies in obscurity.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—Anti child-porn crusader Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) resigns after his lurid e-mails to young males leak.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The White House denies that Karl Rove had revealed the name of CIA agent Valerie Plame.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—The Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua wins a lawsuit preventing the Executive branch from regulating or prohibiting foreign aid that is intended to relieve human suffering.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—<i>The Washington Post</i> publishes Janet Cook’s Pulitzer-winning story about a fictional 8 year-old junkie.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—On Vineyard Sound, a short, bearded man in sneakers fails in his spontaneous attempt to throw former Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara off the ferry <i>M.V. Islander</i>.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The U.S. Army drops murder charges against Special Forces Col. Robert Rheault—the CIA won’t let its agents testify.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Maynard G. Krebs is introduced on CBS, insidiously destroying a whole generation.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—A Soviet nuke fuel plant blows up, kills hundreds, and spews more radiation than anything until Chernobyl. The CIA suppresses the news to protect the U.S. nuke industry.</p> <p><b>1940</b>—On a training flight over Brocklesby, N.S.W., two RAAF Avro Ansons collide, one “piggybacking” the other. Three of four crewmembers bail out safely; the pilot of the lower plane lands them successfully, saying, “she was heavy on the controls.”</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—<i>NY Times</i> reporter Judith Miller tells a Grand Jury that Dick “Dick” Cheney leaked Valerie Plame’s name to her.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—George W.[MD] Bush vows to find out who leaked CIA agent Valerie Plame’s name.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—The GAO reports that Ken Starr had spent \$40 million in a failed effort to nail Bill Clinton.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—A Robinson R22 helicopter over Martinez, Calif. emits a loud bang and disassembles. Two people die in the crash.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—A Robinson R22 helicopter over Paige, Texas emits a loud bang and disassembles. Two people die in the crash.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—César Chávez founds what becomes the United Farm Workers.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—<i>U.S.S. Nautilus</i>, the first atomic-powered ship, is launched.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Pres. Harry S Truman signs NSC-68, a blueprint to contain Communism—and reap presumed Keynesian economic benefits.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—A white man dies in a shootout in Elaine, Ark. Over the next three days, 240 blacks and five whites die in the U.S.’s worst single racial conflict.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Black Union soldiers capture Confederate entrenchments at battle of New Market Heights.</p> <p><b>1630</b>—John Billington becomes the first Pilgrim hanged for murder.</p> <p><b>1542</b>—Johannes Gutenberg publishes <i>The Bible</i>. No royalties for the presumed author.</p>
<p>2:30 2:45</p> <p>8:28 8:57</p>	<p>3:15 3:29</p> <p>9:11 9:44</p>	<p>4:02 4:17</p> <p>9:57 10:34</p>	<p>4:55 5:10</p> <p>10:48 11:30</p>	<p>5:53 6:09</p> <p>11:45</p>	<p>6:55 7:10</p> <p>12:29 12:44</p>	<p>7:54 8:07</p> <p>1:29 1:44</p>

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