The Fortnightly Rant

Another Layer of Lies

The Roman Republic stood for over a century until its fall to dictatorship. The United States of America, in half that time, has gone from George Washington's first State of the Union to Donald Trump losing a battle of wits with Kim Jong Un as Congress tries to kill off constituents by depriving them of healthcare.

How the hell did that happen? Gradually and then suddenly, over the past seventy years—which happens to be the period covered by the new documentary series, “The Vietnam War.” That half-forgotten war is our Rosetta Stone: one can read on it the story of our republic's precipitous decline.

This new series might seem at first to be a chance to gain a better understanding of that sorry period. It fails, though, to break through the cramped boundaries of the Official Narrative. In fact it never had a chance.

Author! Authorness!! Sponsor!!! As we all know, Ken Burns and Lynn Novick were long ago granted tenure as America’s Videographer Laureates. They earned this exalted position by toiling in the vineyards of PBS, PBS receives 12 percent of its funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting [CPB]. CPB, in turn, is funded by Congress. Each link in that chain provides some measure of distance, but there is still a hand at one end and a neck inside the other. The neck always knows that a hard yank could come at any time.

Congress, of course, also funded the Vietnam War—until it didn’t. A reversal that still provides one of this topic’s most obscure points of contention. Other entities which paid for the Vietnam War—until it didn’t: a century. The expense of maintaining a mission civilisatrice—peace by killing people, it would see through our ability to create world peace by killing people, it would see—was a tragic mistake made by honest people doing the best they could in difficult circumstances. That’s one way to look at it, but it’s not very helpful and largely not true.

Deja Vu

“Though we have not seen them refer to it, Burns and Novick were surely aware of what happened to Stanley Karnaow. He wrote the script for “Vietnam: A Television History,” the first multipart Vietnam documentary, which aired on PBS in 1983. His straightforward, accurate, honest work was attacked for its alleged left-wing bias, errors, and distortions.

The source of this critique was Accuracy in Media [AIM], a tax dodge which diverts money from the U.S. Treasury to Right Wing fanatics. Thanks to like-minded executives appointed by the Reagan Administration, PBS, in 1985, aired a two-hour rebuttal to Karnaow's documentary. According to "Television's Vietnam: The Real Story," narrated by Charlton Heston, America’s involvement in Vietnam was a noble cause in which our brave soldiers won every battle, only to be stabbed in the back by hippies, draft dodgers, the lying media, and profligate politicians.

The Vietnam War, With the Bark On

French missionaries began what they called a mission civilisatrice in Vietnam in the 17th century. By the mid-19th century, a few hundred thousand Vietnamese had converted to Catholicism. Many of the millions who had not converted found those who had annoying naturally. Naturally the French felt responsible. Rather than withdrawing, though, they instead prodded soldiers to protect the converts, and forts to protect the soldiers. One thing led to another, as such things have a way of doing.

By the end of WWII, French colonialists had, for all practical purposes, been treating “French” Indo-China as a slave labor camp for nearly a century. The expense of maintaining this mission civilisatrice was defrayed by selling opium to the drug-mongering masses. Ho Chi Minh was just one of many Vietnamese who took exception to this arrangement. When an opium purchasing agent for the Vietnamese stilled a tribe of Mst popping growers in Laos, they happily helped Ho’s Minh haul artillery to the hilltops surrounding Dien Bien Phu.

By the time this cunning French enterprise went bust, Truman and Eisenhower had been propping it up for a decade, acting like Lillian Wallman, of whom Mary McCarthy famously said, "every word she writes is a lie, including 'and the'."

Anyone assuming our skins must have been cleaner than those of the French could learn a lot from reading Alfred W. McCoy’s The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia. McCoy, a respected academician, concludes that the three top figures in our SAI-gon puppet government were running competing heroin rings while their country collapsed.

Important, If True

"To see what is in front of one's nose needs a constant struggle," George Orwell wrote, just about the time Harry S. Truman started lying about Vietnam.

To that we would only add that the biggest obstacle to a clear view of how governments and the world at large work is that most people are decent and therefore reluctant to believe that things could possibly be as awful as they appear. They’re probably worse, but try getting anyone to sponsor that story.

Political lies were not invented by American politicians in the wake of WWII, but the Cold War proved to be a perfect hot house for their propagation. Paradigm Right Wing<<<<<<crow Democrats into senseless fights that could not be won—or even ended.

The Alleged News®

World Almost Ends, We Almost Miss It

Nine days ago Puerto Rico was hit by its second major hurricane in less than three weeks. The island has been battered that 3.4 million inhabitants, all U.S. citizens, will be without electricity for months. As many as 1.5 million said to be without potable water.

Two days later, the President of the United States took a break from tweeting about Kim Jong Un to tell the owners of NFL football teams what to say when a player kneels to protest racism during the national anthem. Cold War<<<<<<field right now! Out. He’s fired. He’s firing!

It’s enough to make a person wonder, is the world coming to an end?

The Washington Post didn’t help the situation any when it published a piece about David Meade, a self-described Christian numerologist who is now particularly famous thanks in large part to the Post. Apparently Meade convinced a lot of people that the world was ending September 23rd.

Apprentently this information has been sitting there in the Bible, in plain sight, at Luke 21.25 to 26, for a couple of thousand years. Apparently not one eye had ever noticed it before. Work on that comprehension, people.

Fortunately we’ve been so distracted by the concatenation of genuine catastrophes that we didn’t find out about this fake one until the day after it didn’t happen.

The Post, of course, is read only by sophisticated types who don’t believe in mumbo-jumbo—not of the Doomsday Christian variety, any way. Out in Orange County, Calif. it’s a different story. They still believe in mumbo-jumbo—not of the Catholicism. Many of the millions who had not converted found those who had annoying naturally. Naturally the French felt responsible. Rather than withdrawing, though, they instead prodded soldiers to protect the converts, and forts to protect the soldiers. One thing led to another, as such things have a way of doing.

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wasn’t missing at all—it just couldn’t be accounted for. Totally different problem, and quite routine for the Pentagon. Nothing to worry about.

Alex Emmons, an impudent young man who writes for the online journal The Intercept, had the gall to suggest that the money might better be spent elsewhere.

‘… with $80 billion a year, you could make public colleges and universities in the U.S. tuition-free. In fact, Sanders’s proposal was only estimated to cost the federal government $47 billion per year. If the estimate was a market, killing at least 84 civilians. “Although ISIS fighters were at these sites,” according to Human Rights Watch, “the high civilian death toll raises concerns that military forces of the US-led coalition failed to take necessary precautions to avoid and minimize civilian casualties, a requirement under international humanitarian law.”

Is the Shipyard on the Chopping Block? The Government Accountability Office issued a report a few weeks ago which said all four U.S. Naval shipyards are obsolete money-sinks. “The cost of backlogged restoration and maintenance projects … shipyards has grown by 41 percent over five years … and will take at least 19 years … to clear. Similarly, a Navy analysis shows that the average age of shipyard capital equipment now exceeds its expected useful life.” Meanwhile, back at the Senate, Arizona’s John McCain is making noises about starting another round of Base Realignment and Closing. No doubt Maine and New Hampshire’s Congressional delegations will take up arms against this threat to our local economy.

Victory at Sanders Point! After a full five years of denying Granite Staters—and, when you think about it, the entire human race, not to mention their canine companions—their Constitutional right to stroll along the strand at Sanders Point in Rye, William “Bill” Binnie, failed Senate candidate and proprietor of the pretentious amusement park commonly known as Wentworth by the Sea Country Club has finally designed to comply with the orders of the Rockingham County Superior Court and restored the public access facility his minions destroyed on his orders back in October of 2012. Credit for this victory, of course, goes to Rye resident Robert Jesurum—who stood up for his own rights, and the rights of the people, when the Attorney General of the State of New Hampshire declined to challenge “Bill” Binnie’s blatant land grab. Jesurum was obviously quite well served by his attorney, Paul McEachern, and his associate, Jacob Marvely.

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Photo courtesy R. Jesurum.

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grand celebration.

“This date is a suggestion and may be changed according to peoples' availability.”

The next day we received an email from New Castle Town Historian Jim Cerny:

“Just read the note on page two of the September 15th edition about Sanders Point (the faux-historic spelling “poynt” always grates on me) and thought you might like a picture of the Leftist Marching Band celebrating there. I thanked by red Robinson helicopters, frequently spotted carting gawking tourists through our skies. At least, that’s the story from the guy who’s been making money from that nuisance trade. Recently the Award-Winning Local Daily reported that self-serving nonsense. More than two dozen people showed up for the Pease Development Authority’s latest Noise Compatibility Commission and told its members something completely different.

In fact there is such an effort. On September 14th we got word from Don Swanson, of the Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire (CCANH), saying another $150 had been recently donated, bringing the total to $10,490.00. Then, on the 26th, we got another email from Don: “Just picked up mail, 14 new checks totaling $1,040.00. That now brings us up to $11,530. Many notes thanking Robert, The Gazette, and some for the CCANH.”

“Now there is a long way to go before all those legal expenses are recovered. Those wishing to help may do so online at canh.org/sand-ers-poynt, or mail their personal checks payable to CCA NH, PO Box 4372, Portsmouth, N.H. 03802-4372. Checks should be payable to the “Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire,” with “Sanders Poynt Legal Fund” on the memo line. All funds raised go directly to reimbursement Jesurum.

The legal expenses required to obtain justice in this case are appalling, but there is one consolation. The expenses of the arrogant individual who started this fight must have been far higher. Not only did he burn through the billable hours of his attorneys, but he ginned up a sizeable body of work for his team of landscape architects. This absurd yet serious court battle must have cost him at least a quarter million. It’s not over yet. Jesurum says Rye’s town’s attorney, Michael Donovan, “has publicly stated that the town of Rye would support the Wentworth if it applied to NHDOT to restrict parking along Wentworth Road near Sanders Poynt.”

“Probably, they will use public safety as their rationale, but it is clear to me that the only reason they wish to restrict parking is to prevent use of Little Harbor Beach by any significant numbers. That has been their goal from the beginning of this dispute, and the town of Rye is continuing its pandering to WBTSCC.”

Those wishing to thwart this scheme could assist by writing to Ms. Victoria Sheehan, Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Transportation, John O. Morton Building, PO Box 483, 7 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. 03302-0483, stating their opposition to the imposition of any new restrictions on parking along Rt. 1B by NHDOT.

Then there is the matter of the Town of Rye’s Master Plan. According to a letter from Jesurum, Samuel Winebaum alerted him back in 2011 that when beach access points were listed in the Master Plan, Sanders Poynt and Little Harbor Beach were pointedly omitted. Not long after that the Selectmen allowed Binnie to close off public access.

Jesurum writes, “The Planning Board is holding a special meeting at the Rye Junior High School at 6:00 p.m. on October 12th, to again consider the master plan, and this is a chance to get them to do the right thing for Sanders Poynt. I plan to attend and would welcome all the support I can get.

“Also, in my last letter to the Select Board demanded information as to how many town officials or employees are members of WBTSCC, and if any of those memberships are subsidized. As usual with my communications to the Selectmen, I have been completely ignored. Do they not have a duty to come clean about gifts they may or may not have received?”

The public meeting on Rye’s Master Plan will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the 12th of October at the Rye Jr. High.

Robinson Helicopters Crash

A pilot was injured on Wednesday afternoon, September 20th, at the Long Beach Airport in California, when the Robinson R22 helicopter he was attempting to land flipped over on its side. The machine “sustained substantial damage,” according to news reports, but did not burst into flames. The pilot was taken to the hospital for treatment. Apparently he is expected to survive. Four days later and 130 miles to the northwest, two people were injured at the Santa Barbara Airport when the Robinson R22 they were in lost its battle with gravity and crashed, landing on its side. Once again, the occupants were spared a fiery death.
To the Editor:

The credit agency Equifax announced that the names, addresses, social security numbers and drivers licenses of 143 million U.S. individuals were stolen. Someone with that information could take out a credit card or home or car loan in your name. In order to protect yourself you need to put a lock on your credit score. If you lock your credit score no one can take out a credit card or loan in your name.

To unlock your credit you simply enter a pin number.

For the past 18 months Maine residents have been able to lock and unlock their credit scores for free due to legislation passed by the State. New Hampshire residents have to pay for this protection. We should not have to pay the three credit agencies for the right to lock their credit because one of them allowed everyone’s personal information to be stolen.

Call your Governor, State Senator and Representative and demand we make it a national right. Since Equifax put us in jeopardy, demand it pay the three credit agencies for the protection. We should not have their stockpiles early in 2018. To reverse its slide. Washington collects an enormous pile of tax revenue from corporate welfare to banks, drug companies, and the health-insurance industry.

This sudden national concern about the chimerical beast called ‘voter fraud’ is all in a piece of performance art, political theater, a production being staged to extend a franchise much like the endless succession of movies based on comic book superheroes … “.

For a brief moment I thought you were talking about Russiagate, that fictional performance that is still going on and that accuses Putin of using the Jedi mind trick that he learned from the aliens that were captured when their spaceship crashed in the Tunguska region of Russia, in order to change the minds of those millions who really wanted to vote for Hillary Clinton. You see the problem with the neocons is that they conduct theirMRI examinations during the day but the daytime is not when the fevered amygdalons of the liberals are excited. It is at night time when those liberals, unable to sleep, see images of Generals Robert E. Lee rising up to lead an army of statues of dead Confederates, and founding fathers—like the army of the dead in ‘Game of Thrones’—to march on Washington to dismantle the Federal Government in order to

Protection From Corporate Carelessness

To the Editor:

The Obama Administration finally decided to take a major step on no-first-strike nuclear attacks. In contrast, President Trump tweeted that America ‘trust greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capacity ‘… and even more robustly that ‘we will outmatch other nations at every turn and loud as them.’ That we have the nukes to exterminate every person on earth.

times over doesn’t seem to vex him?

America already possesses more nuclear weapons than any other country—4,180 warheads, with Russia a close second. In a bipartisan 71-26 vote, U.S. and Russia are set to reduce their stockpiles early in 2018.

But wait. Trump called it a “bad deal” for America, and will probably be the spoiler, which could touch off a serious new nuclear arms race.

There’s no need for overkill regarding weaponry, nor for a plan, as proposed, to build new delivery systems costing hundreds of billions of dollars. That would ultimately make us less safe.

All former administrations have at least paid lip service to nuclear containment and/or disarmament. Not Trump.

Nuclear weapons are grotesquely distinctive. A typical warhead of 300 kilotons detonated above a city would kill every living thing within a one mile radius. People within three miles wouldn’t fare much better. For many cities it would amount to one million dead and an additional two million seriously injured. This is just from a single warhead.

Loco? Unhinged? Reasonless? Welcome please to the blasphemy known as the age of the Trump presidency.

Mike Kulla

Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Walter Hamilton

To the Editor:

We’ll say this for the Grand Yam: he’s deranged. It’s unfortunate, and integrity to preserve and regenerate the commons. It’s unfortunate, because promoting and serving the interests of the public sector is their primary reason for being! New this 2018 campaign is under way (or under foot), we’re already

America’s infrastructure is crumbling is because today’s crop of pay-for-play politicians lack the technical know-how and integrity to preserve and regenerate the commons. It’s unfortunate, because promoting and serving the interests of the public sector is their primary reason for being!

Now that the 2018 campaign is under way (or under foot), we’re already seeing a lot of malarky about quick schemes to fix infrastructure and put Americans back to work. Not good enough. Band-Aid solutions dreamed up by lobbyists and lawyers offer no remedy. We need to start electing technocrats who believe in science and have the requisite knowledge and skills to solve complex problems over the long haul. And, we need to nau any candidate to the wall who won’t swear on his mother’s grave he’ll fight to bring America’s tax dollars back home to work for us! That’s not isolationism, it’s just simple common sense!

Rick Littlefield

Barrington, N.H.

Rick: We have always felt that, dollar for dollar, few things bring a better return—

The Devil’s Post

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is the most economical advertising medium on the Seacoast. This space is available for just sixteen dollars. To learn more, call (603) 433-9898, or e-mail editors@nhgazette.com.
I am not in favor of tax reform. To the Editor: Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin is a near billionaire. After becoming Secretary he married a Scottish actress whose family is rich enough to have a castle as a vacation home. She tweeted whose family is rich enough to have a fortune like that, the Republican wish to appoint a Justice to the Supreme Court he has been ignored since three years ago, my daughter is a disgrace to our country. Once again, Donald Trump has clearly demonstrated that he completely lacks the character, temperament, wisdom, and humanity expected of a person in his position and is unfit to lead our nation. In an angry, racially divisive and vulgar speech, before an almost exclusively white audience in the deep south, Mr. Trump attacked mostly black National Football League [NFL] players for peacefully and lawfully exercising their Constitutional, First Amendment right of free speech. In so doing, Mr. Trump also demonstrated his total lack of understanding of our Constitution and violated his oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution. In his hateful speech, Mr. Trump was much more aggressive and harsh in his criticism of these NFL athletes for exercising their Constitutional rights than he was toward the violent White Nationalists in Charlottesville, or toward Vladimir Putin for his attack on and interference in our recent election. His public use of profanity and his reference to the swamplike creature in the Oval Office is a disgrace to our country.

By his words and actions, Mr. Trump damages the image, credibility and standing of the United States across the globe. While we have men and women fighting to protect our Constitution, and spread democracy to other nations, Mr. Trump sends a message that directly conflicts with our most cherished values and traditions, values and traditions that thousands have died to defend. The hypocrisy of Mr. Trump’s message does not go unnoticed by our enemies, who will use Mr. Trump’s words to their own advantage.

If Mr. Trump cannot understand that when he now speaks, he speaks for the entire nation, regardless of their color, ethnicity, political party, gender or sexual orientation, he should return to private life where he can speak only for himself. During the 2016 presidential campaign, Mr. Trump asked an audience of African Americans to vote for him.
Hypocrisy Incorporated

by William Marvel

I
t just returned from a lon-
ger-than-usual visit to my wife's
home town in Kansas. Sojourns in
that pervasively Christian climate
usually provoke me to lament that
so many people of apparent good
sense believe so literally in a myth,
but not this time. Recent events
left me reflecting instead on the
relative ideological tolerance even
among the most fundamentalist of
those prairie believers, at least
when judged against the ostensibly
liberal, inclusive society in which I
live.

No visit to Jesselud passes with-
out some revelation of my disdain
for the metaphysical fantasy under-
lying daily life there, and this trip
was no exception. Still, I've never
been made to feel uncomfortable.
In fact I seem to be regarded with
reciprocal amusement and heartfelt
concern for my impending dam-
age. 'We'll get you to heaven somehow, Bill,' a Liberty University
alumnus once assured me, dropping
a hand on my shoulder as though se-
rying for my impending dam-
age. He'd had no fury like that of
a liberal burned, as letters to my lo-
cal newspaper confirm in the reflex-
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In this parody of intellectual
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The Wizard of Flaws

The Editor:
Any time Donald Trump spots a
victim in America's social unity, count
on him to jam in a chisel and start
pounding. It happened in Alabama,
and will continue throughout his
reign because it's what he does. Like
a rampaging hockey badger, his mis-
sion is to agitate and promote polit-
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Politics is work, like any other
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Can’t America do better than today’s ripoff health care system?

by Jim Hightower

Rather than a health care system, our country’s leaders have kept us shackled to a “corporate care” system, allowing insurance giants, drug company ghouls, hospital chains, and other profiteers to ration our care based on whether a family can pay what-ever outrageous price the corporation demands to maintain their own exorbitant profits.

While the guiding ethic of physicians, nurses, and other caregivers is: “First, do no harm,” the corporate owners of the system impose a contrary ethic: “First, maximize profit.” Thus, despite Americans spending some $3.2 trillion a year on health care, more than any other nation in the world, 28 million of our people have no health coverage; tens of millions are so underinsured they can’t use the policy they’re paying for; and one out of five adults can’t afford prescription drugs they need; our people are less healthy than other advanced nations (for example, the U.S. ranks 29th in life expectancy); and CEOs and top shareholders of the system are hauling off millions of dollars each.

Can’t we do better than that? Of course we can—if we start treating health care as a human right, rather than a corporate profit center.

But doing this requires a whole new complex system. Congress can just extend America's successful Medicare program to every man, woman, and child in our country. This egalitarian “Medicare for All” idea would deliver comprehensive care, be much easier for patients to navigate, and be far cheaper than today’s ripoff system. At last, a hospital stay would not bankrupt a family, people wouldn’t avoid going to the doctor because they can’t afford it, prescription drugs would be affordable, and workers wouldn’t be stuck in bad jobs just to get basic health coverage.

To learn more about Medicare-For-All, go to www.BernieSanders.com/MedicareForAll

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