

The Fortnightly Rant

In the Hall of Mirrors

One is tempted to call the entire Trump Administration—its personnel, its legislation, its regulatory actions, its general demeanor, its every jot and tittle [see Matthew 5:18, ye heathens]—a government-funded late-term abortion. That, though, would be an insult to a medical procedure which, though virtually forbidden these days due to undemocratic and unconstitutional prohibitions, is probably, in those rare cases when it is actually carried out, not just legitimate from a legal, medical, and moral point of view, but a positive blessing to all concerned.

In contrast to the rest of the record, though, the Helsinki Summit was sublimely appropriate: it took place in a Hall of Mirrors. That little factoid transformed the meeting between Putin and Trump into a microcosmic simulacrum of the world in which all of us live. We see what we see, but we can't be sure that what we're seeing is really real.

Let us, however briefly, put doubt aside; perpetually questioning everything makes it impossible to achieve anything—which, according to one theory, is the goal of Big Bad Vlad, the world's worst supervillain.

Early last week the White House was informed of upcoming indictments of 12 Russian agents who helped put him in office. From a PR point of view—the only one that matters to him—that spelled trouble.

Lo and behold, the day before those indictments were announced, not one but two Congressional committees just happened to hold what they seemed to think would be the Greatest Show Trial of the 21st Century. The Guest of Dishonor, former FBI agent Peter Strzok, had been tenderized in advance with a year's worth of villification courtesy

of Sean Hannity, Grand Inquisitor of Fox "News." Skewered on a virtual spit, he was roasted with hot air for ten hours straight. Christian martyrs of old, were they watching from heaven, would have shed a tear of admiration for the condemned. Strzok struck back as good as he got.

Thus the event did not entirely go as planned—unless, perhaps, chaos *was* the plan. One participating Congressman called the televised event "a freak show"—and he can't be accused of partisan bias. Rep. Trey Gowdy [R.-S.C.] is the Chairman who convened one of the hearings.

One does not trifle with immutable laws of the universe, not even the one which states that any hearing in which Rep. Louie Gohmert [R.-Texas] speaks automatically ends up filed under "Farce." In one important sense, of course, the hearings were a great success. Campaign managers for participating Republicans will have plenty of footage for the TV commercials they will run later on this year.

Let us put aside light entertainment for the moment, now, and dispel some of the confusion that has settled on us during the three benighted years since The Donald descended the Gold-Plated Escalator. Who exactly is rooting for whom here?

For the better part of a century—well, the worst part, really—the FBI has been the bane of anyone to the left of the Rotary Club. From the Palmer Raids of 1919, through the campaign against Martin Luther King, right up to Whitey Bulger's Get Out of Jail Free Card, the Bureau has earned, shall we say, a certain degree of healthy skepticism.

For Republicans, ever the Party of Law *und* Order, these transgres-



sions against the Bill of Rights have never been more than trifles. Now, though, they suddenly see the Bureau as some sinister Fifth Column. To be fair, they have little choice. Authoritarian to the core, they must defend their champion, even if he is a compromised goon.

For the Democrats, as usual, everything depends on which way the wind is blowing. If Trump and the Republicans are now the enemy of the FBI, Democrats will be its friend—never mind how it's treated their various constituencies since the Presidency of Woodrow Wilson.

If that Congressional grandstanding was a sideshow intended to distract from last Friday's indictments, they came up short. The indictments still had plenty of impact, even though those Russians are unlikely ever to occupy cells in the same block with Trump's former campaign manager. No, Rosenstein's press conference was upstaged by the latest performances of the Commander-in-Chief.

First Trump went to Brussels and threatened to blow up NATO. Hijacking a meeting on a different topic, he conjured up a fake funding crisis, bullied and berated a boatload of actual diplomats, then left claiming he'd solved a problem that did not exist. On his way out the door he thanked the President of Finland for his country's support—it isn't even a member of NATO. He then warmed up for the main event by honing his boorish behavior skills on the Queen of England and telling Theresa May how to run the U.K.

Trump might have gotten through even Helsinki unscathed, had it not been for his old nemesis, the lying media.

The AP's Jonathan Lemire asked, "Just now President Putin denied having anything to do with the election interference in 2016. Every U.S. intelligence agency has concluded that Russia did. My first question for you, sir, is who do you believe?"

Blowing off the assessment of his own Director of National In-

telligence, among a host of others, Trump replied that "President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today. He just said it's not Russia. I will say this: I don't see any reason why it would be."

One observer claimed that response "rises to & exceeds the threshold of 'high crimes & misdemeanors' [and is] nothing short of treasonous." But, what does former CIA Director John O. Brennan know about any of these things?

Three U.S. Senators also denounced Trump's response, calling it "disgraceful," "shameful," and "bizarre and flat-out wrong"—and they were all Republicans.

A day late and several gobs of credibility short, Trump tried to walk back his fateful answer.

Will the Senators buy his recantation? More to the point, will people who show up at his rallies?

We'll find out soon enough. It looks like his trade war with China is going to double the price of MAGA hats.

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Stage magicians traditionally used young, attractive, scantily-clad female assistants to distract their audiences, thus making it easier to fool them. As it has done with everything else, this Administration has turned that practice on its head. With this bunch, the titular head is the distraction. As he cavorts and thrashes across the world stage, his assistants are busily picking pockets—or worse.

For example, on Monday Treasury Secretary and part-time cartoon villain model Steven Mnuchin announced that Charles and David Koch, two of the world's richest men, and several hundred other oligarchs of their ilk, would no longer suffer the onerous burden of paying accountants the exorbitant cost of filing reports with the IRS revealing which of their billionaire buddies were chipping in millions of dollars from their loose pocket change to

cover the rent and pay the salaries at the innumerable propaganda mills which perform the vital daily task of feeding the public fresh lies. Americans for Prosperity, at 767 Islington Street, across from the Pic'n Pay, for instance.

Two weeks ago the FCC, led by Trumpazoid Ajit Pai, voted 3-1 to discontinue the review of "informal" customer complaints about misbehavior by telecom companies. Undoubtedly, their past behavior has placed them above reproach. If, some nebulous day in the theoretical future, a worker from AT&T or Comcast does somehow manage to slip up, it will still be possible for a customer to file a "formal" complaint—so long as they pay a \$255 filing fee.

Due to budget cuts which should make it possible for the fabulously wealthy to become slightly more fabulous, the Agency for Healthcare

Research and Quality has pulled the plug on the National Guidelines Clearinghouse [NGC]. Funding for 2017 was a rounding-error level \$1.2 million.

The NGC was "perhaps the most important repository of evidence-based research available," the Director of Research at the Center for Evidence-based Policy at Oregon Health & Science University told *The Daily Beast's* Jon Campbell.

"*Guideline.gov* was our go-to source," Valerie King said, "and there is nothing else like it in the world."

Make that *was*, Val.

On July 3rd, the FAA announced that if airlines want to jam passengers into flying aluminum tubes so tightly that they can't fully inhale, well, it's not the government's business to say they can't. Market capitalism has apparently reached the stage at which, in an emergency, only the nimble deserve to survive.

Given the prevailing inability of our political system to counter these multitudinous adventures in neo-feudalism, what is a mere peasant, without access to his or her own team of highly-paid lobbyists, to do?

Ever resourceful, many Americans have taken to spontaneously chastising, insulting, and ridiculing these second-level oppressors, hounding them on the streets, refusing to serve them in restaurants, &c. &c.

It ain't much, but it's something.

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Big Orange Baby versus Real Babies

Try as they might to attain his level of expertise, none of his minions have the effortless knack of the big orange baby in the White House. As evidence we submit the following dispatch, received from an expert on the particular subject:

"There have been so many assaults on health by this administration it's

hard to keep it all straight. One in particular caught my eye.

"According to an article by Andrew Jacobs on the front page of the July 9th *New York Times*, the United States has gone after Ecuador, threatening to withdraw aid and take punishing trade measures if that small country took to the World Health Organization a proposition for it to strengthen its support for breast feeding. Oddly, Russia came to the defense of the proposal—no other country would stand up against the threats from the United States.

"Trump denied the allegations of threats and tweeted 'The failing *NY Times* Fake News story today about breast feeding must be called out. The U.S. strongly supports breast feeding but we don't believe women

The Alleged News®
from page one

should be denied access to formula. Many women need this option because of malnutrition and poverty.’

“Contrary to Trump’s tweet, there is certainly no lack of access to formula. WHO has long recognized the multiple health benefits of breastfeeding, especially for women living in poverty, and it is the *cure* for malnutrition, not a cause.

“The only trouble with breastfeeding is that it produces no revenue for companies manufacturing formula. So, those companies have used a variety of tactics to entice women to buy their products. Back in the 1970’s, many of us will remember, Nestlé was pushing formula in Third World countries, effectively convincing women that they could not keep their babies healthy and that formula was superior to breast milk. As a result, millions of women stopped breastfeeding. Without access to good water for mixing formula, they were not able to maintain sanitary conditions. Estimates are that about 66,000 infant deaths occurred as a result.

“This is what prompted the World Health Assembly—the forum which governs the World Health Organization—to create the Infant Formula Code of Marketing in 1981. It basically states that neither health professionals nor hospitals should promote human milk substitutes. The code is lengthy and lays out plans for governments to protect infants from the influence of industry advertising. Of course the U.S. voted against it—Ronald Reagan was president. We were a bit more honest then, and admitted the reason was it infringed upon free enterprise.

“Nestlé is still a major formula producer, but other big players now are Abbott Laboratories and Mead Johnson, recently purchased by Reckitt Benckiser for a mere \$16.7 billion. Both companies have been doing about four billion dollars worth of business a year. Abbott produces no food products other than Similac and its derivatives, and has the contract for WIC, the U.S. Department of Agriculture program for healthcare and nutrition of low-income pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and children



The Foundry Place Parking Garage is beginning to take shape. We don't know if it's going to solve this town's parking problems, and we don't know if it's in the right place. Considering that the section shown here represents only half of its eventual footprint, here's what we can say with assurance: It. Is. Going. To. Be. Freak. Ing. Hugh. Mon. Gus.

under the age of five.

“Overall, formula is a \$70 billion industry and is expected to grow by four percent this year.

“Once upon a time, formula companies provided hospitals with all the diaper bags given to new mothers, along with free formula samples. Now, at designated ‘Baby Friendly’ hospitals, all formula promotion is prohibited. These hospitals do not allow formula vendors to promote their products. Any formula used is purchased by, not given to, the hospital.”

— Shannon Darr, RNC, CLC
[Registered Nurse, Certified; Certified Lactation Counselor]

Four Die in Three Robinson Crashes
A 91-year-old Virginia woman was killed Sunday, July 8th, when a Robinson R44 helicopter crashed into her Williamsburg, Va., townhouse. Nine other units in the complex

were evacuated, but Jean Lonchak Danylko was the only casualty among the residents. Danylko lived independently and was active and cheerful, according to friends. June Kasperek, 92, a fellow-member of a chair-based exercise class for arthritic seniors, told the *Williamsburg Yorktown Daily*, “I never saw her in a bad mood, not once in all the years I knew her. Some of us get a little cranky at times. Jean never did.”

The pilot, Henry E. Schwarz, 85, also perished. As a Major in the U.S. Army, Schwarz led more than 100 combat air assaults in Vietnam. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism above and beyond the call of duty during a mission on February 24, 1967. Lifting reinforcements to an ambushed Vietnamese convoy, he hovered his UH-1D “Huey,” under continuous enemy fire, to direct other ships to safe landing areas.

According to reporting by the Newport News *Daily Press*, Schwarz had just left a meeting of the Virginia Helicopter Association [VHA] at the Williamsburgh Jamestown Airport. Schwarz was President of the VHA.

Ray Jarman, membership coordinator of VHA, told the *Daily Press*, “I don’t know what happened yesterday after Henry took off. I know he was the type of person that if he had any type of control over that aircraft at all, it wouldn’t have ended up where it did.

“The thing with helicopters is, helicopters have thousands of rotating, moving parts. Helicopters have everything that moves. It’s got to all work together, and maintenance wise, it all has to be put together for things to work right.”

An airport worker told the *Washington Post*, “Schwarz kept his helicopter well maintained, even flying

“No whining on the yacht.”

— Rep. Earl Blumenauer, Democrat, Oregon 3rd District

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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it to the manufacturer in California last year to have it overhauled for just shy of around \$400,000.”

A July 10th story about the crash in the *Williamsburg Yorktown Daily* raised the question of Robinson helicopters’ fundamental airworthiness. It quoted aviation attorney and helicopter pilot Ladd Sanger, who said, “The R44 does have a statistically higher accident rate than other helicopters. The question on this case is why did the helicopter come out of the air in the first place?”

Ray Jarman, who had seemed to suggest to the *Daily Press* that Schwarz’s Robinson had been at fault, paradoxically defended the machine to the *Williamsburg Yorktown Daily*. Countering Sanger’s assessment, Jarman said, “I take issue with that. That’s untrue as far as I’m concerned. They are not unsafe. Any aircraft can be unsafe if it operated outside of its design limits”—which would seem to put the onus back on Schwarz.

Several witnesses told the media that the helicopter was in distress shortly before the crash. A man living nearby said it “basically didn’t sound right.” He saw the helicopter crash into the building, then heard an explosion and saw the building catch fire. He, along with others, pounded on doors to alert other residents to evacuate.

One day earlier, a Robinson R44

crashed in the Slovakian village of Veľký Šariš, killing Marián Troliga, its pilot and sole occupant. Troliga owned an eponymous company which built buses.

“The helicopter probably got snagged on [electrical] wires and this resulted in its fall,” according to rescue personnel. The Východoslovenská Distribučná electricity utility said the incident caused a blackout for 55,000 of its customers.

On June 29th, in Sterling, Texas, an experienced helicopter pilot died when his Robinson R22 crashed as he was attempting to land his machine on a trailer. Ewing Fowler McEntire, 66, was close to the ground when, according to a witness, “a loud popping sound emitted from the aircraft and then the aircraft crashed to the ground on its right side.”

Two Australians survived an R44 crash in rural Lethbridge, just west of Melbourne, on July 11th. In a now-familiar scenario, the machine appeared to be operating properly until it crashed. The severed tail was found 25 meters from the cabin. Both men were taken to hospitals, one with back injuries.

Noting that the U.S. helicopter industry “just endured the worst 10-day stretch of fatal accidents observed since late 2012,” a trade association called the U.S. Helicopter Safety Team issued a statement,



The splendidly proficient Piscataqua Rangers Fife & Drum Corps entertained passersby for several hours at Vaughan Mall on Saturday, July 14. Perhaps they were honoring Bastille Day, in honor of the French allies who helped us gain our independence; we don't know, our Wandering Photographer is notoriously lazy when it comes to ascertaining that sort of detail.

saying, in part, “None of the individuals involved in these tragic events woke up that morning thinking this would be their last helicopter flight. The series of fatal helicopter accidents is a reminder to our community. There is sometimes a fine line between a flight that ends uneventfully and one that ends disastrously. In response to the recent fatal accidents, the USHST is encouraging members of the U.S. helicopter community to do their part to ensure the 10-day surge in fatal helicopter accidents is an anomaly and does not stretch into a long-term trend.”

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Hear Live Jazz and Support WSCA!

We see by a recent e-newsletter that the Button Factory Stage is keeping busy. On Thursday evening, July 26th, the Nick Mainella Quartet will play as part of the ongoing Button Factory Jazz series. There’s a suggested donation of \$8 to \$10, most of which goes directly to the artists. The general ambience has been enhanced with some new tables.

The station is always looking for additional volunteers. To sign up, just call (603) 430-9722, select option 5 from the menu, and leave your name

along with a contact number. A staff member will call back to place you on the volunteer list.

WSCA broadcasts at 106.1 FM in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and covers the Seacoast area. The station also streams live on the internet at wscafmm.org.

It’s a Banner Day—Or So We Hope

In February, 2013, an obscure change in a minor postal regulation required us to re-engineer our method of preparing this newspaper for mailing to subscribers. During the ensuing 142 fortnights, our Subscription Fulfillment Crew has gamely faced the challenge of attaining ridiculously high levels of expertise in the art of origami. Our subscribers, meanwhile, have been forced to accept a certain level of occasional disfigurement of their reading material caused by peeling off self-adhesive dots.

Furthermore, to accommodate our indicia, that is, the printed matter asserting that we have paid the requisite postage, and have that indicia appear in its proper location once the tortuous folding and sealing process had been completed, our nameplate, or flag—the top part of the front page, which carries our

paper’s venerable name—had to be redesigned. Horror of horrors, it was, by necessity, asymmetrical.

We are pleased—hell, we’re damn near ecstatic—to announce that, thanks largely to the dogged persistence of Judy Graham at the Heritage Avenue Bulk Mail Facility, we have developed a new mail preparation method which we believe will largely obviate most of these difficulties.

We hope this new mailing method will also speed delivery. That was our original intent when we set out on this arduous process—which, for the record, involved delving into some of the seamier intricacies of Bill Gates’ demon child Microsoft Word. It was like living for a fortnight on a set where “War and Peace,” “Dr. Zhivago,” and “Platoon,” were being filmed simultaneously, bombarded all the while with Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture, played at deafening volume on out-of-tune plastic instruments.

There’s only way to find out if this latter variable has changed. Readers: if your paper arrives earlier in the cycle—or, God forbid, later—we’d be grateful if you’d drop us a note. We’re at editors@nhgazette.com.

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The Game of Personal Attack

To the Editor:

This kitchen-table pastime lets you create some great retorts for those pro-Trump barstool patriots who've managed to wedge themselves under your skin. Play it to excrete your political venom in a safe place, here among friends, rather than in a public forum or on Twitter where it can come back to haunt you!

To begin play, spend a few minutes writing down every derogatory adjective you can dredge up to describe your least-favorite Trump supporters. For illustration, I came up with the following:

"Trash-mouth, gun-waving, Islamophobic, baggy-eyed, dissembling, sexist, whitey-up-tight, frat-boy, Putin pandering, gay bashing, slogan-spewing, child molesting, girlie-groping, baby-snatching, gun-waving, knuckle-dragging, Kremlin-kissing, bot-tom-pinching, and muckraking".

Once you have a list, pick four or five entries at random, string them all together, and turn the last one into a noun. Finally, put it into a sentence. For example, you might say:

"Why should I believe anything coming from a baggy-eyed slogan spewing trash-mouth baby-snatcher like you?"

Play this game knowing that in real political discussions, communication experts warn against resorting to personal attack at all cost. In fact, under the rules of forensic debate, "going personal" equates to abdicating your position, throwing in the towel, and admitting defeat.

If you should aspire to become a strong political persuader, far better to channel "The Silver Fox", Bill Clinton, than to emulate our bloviating commander-in-chief and his rabid friends at Fox. Clinton was something of a master at disarming his toughest critics without resorting to disparaging words. In addition to an exceptional ability to recall facts and figures, he was skillfully empathetic — able to listen carefully, acknowledge, and convince you that he understood exactly how you were feeling. Then, instead of lecturing, he would ask thoughtful

questions — the type that would force you to unravel your own argument. Republicans hated him for that!

Feel free to work on your persuasion skills later. First, let's just gather around the table, break out the tequila, take pen in hand, and indulge our baser instincts. Invite a Trump supporter to join if you dare, but be advised that the game of Personal Attack cuts both ways!

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

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The Right Kind of Troublemaker Speaks Up
To the Editor:



Last week my friends and I disrupted Governor Sununu during his State of the State address in Rochester. We did this as a team because young people in our state are facing a crisis like we never have before. We are in a crisis. For decades our legislators have been relying on our votes, but not returning the favor when it comes to policies. It's no secret we have the most expensive in-state college tuition in the country, and our generation is being hit the hardest by the heroin epidemic. Also, our legislators have done nothing to make substantial change to stopping climate change. That's because they are bought out by the fossil fuel industry. This was very clear as Governor Sununu sat with Eversource vice president Paul Ramsey, and gave his remarks in front of an Eversource banner, leaving the rest of us to just wonder what an energy company, as large as they are, could do to our democracy.

[Due to the 2008 financial crisis, the writer's family moved from relatively-wealthy Derry to Carroll County. — *The Ed., trimming to cope with a flood of letters.*]

What I saw was the tale of two New Hampshires, one with a high fast-paced standard of life, where the majority are scraping by and fighting to stay put, and the other a slowed down,



beat-up economy drained of most of its culture and still haunted by income inequality. The average family in Carroll County make \$20,000 dollars less than the rest of the country.

I felt like it was time to take it to the Governor. In 2018, we have a major opportunity to make steps toward a New Hampshire that works for all of us. But we have to want it. The longer we stay out of the ballpark the more times the 1 percent get to pitch strikes, and I don't know about you but my life has seen way too many strikeouts rule in favor of the big banks, CEOs, and establishment. If young people turn out to vote on September 13th and November 6th for candidates that share our values, we can outnumber the Republicans and main stream Dems. We can win back some ground in the state to make sure we won't see Sununu's anti-immigrant, anti-environmental justice and anti-young people policies become law, and then we can take it to 2020 to elect more young people champions. I'm ready to work beside you to do this, join me and New Hampshire Youth Movement.

Dylan Carney, 22,
Newmarket, N.H.

Dylan:

Bravo, young man. Your generation would have to work awfully hard to do any worse than ours.

New Hampshire generally has, we believe, a better turnout than most states, but you are exactly right to point out that the key to taking back power—which, let's recall, is the point of this whole exercise—is in converting non-voters to voters.

The Editor

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New PFC Law Potentially Dangerous

To the Editor:

A year ago, I was a New Hampshire parent worried about how to address our statewide problem with PFCs—persistent synthetic chemicals that don't leave the environment or our bodies and that are especially con-

sequential for those in utero, like the child I am carrying.

A year ago, I would have lauded Governor Sununu for signing into law a pathway for lowering PFC standards to reduce New Hampshire water contamination. But I've evolved from concerned parent to community rights activist. Today I see the law as a potentially dangerous lateral move toward complacency.

Before I continue, the mothers of Testing for Pease and Greenland Safe-Water Action—and New Hampshire Representative and now New Hampshire Congressional candidate Mindi Messmer—deserve copious praise for making New Hampshire's PFC issue so public and officially recognized. My criticism is not for these tireless advocates, but for our institutionalized minds.

We're conditioned to celebrate lowered levels of toxic chemicals even when we know that no amount is good for us. To be fair, I've heard New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services scientists genuinely concerned about PFCs state the impracticality of setting a zero standard because of the ubiquitous nature of PFCs. I respectfully can't accept this.

The CDC just reported that New Hampshire has the nation's highest rate of pediatric cancer. Our children are being poisoned and dying. We must go beyond standards and reductions to elevate people's and ecosystems' rights by wholly preventing future contamination by disallowing it.

Problematically, New Hampshire and its permitting agencies abide by a regulatory system standardizing "safe" chemical levels, thereby legalizing the claimed "right" of corporations to harm us, favoring corporate profit and toxic consumer choice over health of people and planet.

I believe we rely on this system because we're not awoken with outrage that we have such little democratic pathway to directly protect ourselves in a state functioning under Dillon's Rule, meaning that New Hampshire is the parent and its municipalities are the children who must obey even if the parent allows harm to come to them.

Enter community rights, a people's movement of rights-based ordinances [RBOs]. RBOs are local laws New Hampshire residents adopt to protect themselves and their ecosystems from corporate harm while not limiting already protected state and federal rights of individuals. Since 2006, RBOs have been adopted in New Hampshire towns by individual residents collectively exercising their right to vote yes or no in a town vote on the RBO.

Residents adopting and enforcing RBOs reference a number of New Hampshire Bill of Rights Articles, namely Article 1—all government of right originates from the people, is founded in their consent, and instituted for the general good; and Article 10—people have the right and duty to reform governments when those governments manifestly endanger public liberty.

This year, a people's movement of supporters brought forth the New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment to recognize and secure the right of New Hampshire residents to adopt RBOs, so long as they always expand, not limit, established rights of New Hampshire residents. As a constitutional amendment, it needs 2/3 the New Hampshire people's vote, but we can't cast this vote unless our legislators allow us to by giving the amendment at least 3/5 support in both House and Senate. This year it

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earned 1/3 House support and will be back. You can learn more from the New Hampshire Community Rights Network, a statewide, grassroots non-profit that informs citizens and legislators about their inalienable right to local self-government.

In the meantime, New Hampshire towns continue adopting and organizing RBOs, including my town where I co-founded Alliance for Newmarket Citizen & Ecosystem Rights. We're so new we've yet to make a website or Facebook page, but we invite you to these upcoming public events.

Monday July 30th, from 7-9pm, ANCER will host an all-ages fundraiser at Newmarket's Stone Church, with a brief informational presentation between two sets by local blue-grass duo Green Heron. \$5 suggested door donation.

Friday August 17th from 6-9pm and Saturday August 18th from 9am-5pm, ANCER will host Daniel Pen-nock Democracy School at The Loft in the Newmarket Mills. Given by the non-profit, public interest Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, Democracy School explores how corporations have hijacked democracy and how New Hampshire residents can push back against legalized unsustainable activities that violate the rights of residents, our communities, and nature. Registration due August 10th on a sliding scale: \$30-\$50 (scholarships available).

Please email monica.christofili@gmail.com for more information.

Monica Christofili
ANCER co-founder
6 Central Street,
Newmarket, N.H. 03857
(503) 853-9279

Monica:
For the record, you understate the

*radical import of Article 10. In the late 1970s, the Editor asked Rep. Joe Eaton, who was then Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Revision, if the title of Article 10 really mean what it said. He said yes. The authors of our 1784 Constition were deadly serious when they gave Article 10 the title, "Right of Revolution."**

The Editor

=====
It's Still Bogus

To the Editor:

None of the indictments that Chief Inquisitor Mueller achieved has any relation to Russian meddling in the 2016 election. Not one polling booth was compromised, and not one vote was changed by Putin or Pokémon or any of the other fantastic ways the liberals have convinced themselves of. Hillary lost, and that is that.

The Mueller investigation is bogus, a witch hunt, and a waste of taxpayer's money.

If they want to see shenanigans the Democrats should look in their own backyards where they will find the sabotaging of Bernie Sanders' bid to become the Democratic candidate. Then they should look at the contributions made by the Saudis. Then there is the crime of the Clinton servers and the pay-for-play Clinton Foundation. And of course, the lies presented to the FISA court in order to obtain warrants to spy on Trump and his supporters.

* "[Art.] 10. [Right of Revolution.] Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men; therefore, whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government. The doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power, and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind." — June 2, 1784

These are real crimes.

And, as far as the Supreme Court is concerned the demise of the Warren Court is welcomed and long overdue. This court found rights that were not in the Constitution and wanted to deny rights that are there. But liberals with their childish concepts of governing believe that you can change the rules in the middle of the game—the living Constitution concept. Try that in sports or in a poker game, and see how that works out.

The Constitution guarantees equality of opportunity, not equality of outcome through government intervention and special rights based on group identity.

In short, the only way the liberals can force their bizarre agenda onto others is through a strong central government that uses duress to accomplish its goals. The liberals' love affair with Uncle Joe Stalin will never end. Now, there's a man who knew how to run a trial such as Mueller wants. After all, who needs evidence, when you have fantasy, hearsay, and innuendo?

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.

John:

The fact that Clinton ran a deplorable campaign does not negate the near-certainty that Putin's crew meddled in the 2016 election—and has his sights on 2018.

For some reason, as we read your letter, we hear the relentless, angry drone of that well-fed friend of the common man, the millionaire Sean Hannity.

We the people have failed to perceive the real source of our problems: rampant corruption, due mostly, we believe, to two things: the success of the dominant corporate press in turning a blind eye, and the success of vested interests in their perpetual campaign to further legalize it.

By the way—about those indictments

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The Editor

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About Those Indictments

To the Editor:

Special Counsel Mueller, as part of his investigation into the Russian attack on our 2016 election, AKA "The Witch Hunt," has found and indicted 12 Russian intelligence agents/"witches." This is in addition to the almost two dozen previous individuals/businesses/"witches" indicted or convicted for their roles in attempting to destroy our Republic.

What was interesting is that Mr. Rosenstein said that the Russian hacking did not change the "vote count" of the 2016 election. This statement may give people the idea that the entire Russian attack on our election had no effect on the outcome, and that Trump was not assisted by the Russian interference. Such thinking is naive and dangerous. The Russian government would not have gone to such lengths, spending millions or rubles, involving their entire intelligence community for an exercise that would not provide great rewards. While the Russian hacking may not have actually changed votes after they were cast, it certainly influenced votes before they were cast, or created such disgust that many decided not to vote at all. The misinformation, distortions, lies, confusion and fabrications distributed by the Russians and possibly others on social media targeted voters' minds not voting machines, with great success.

In making his announcement, Deputy Attorney Rosenstein also said that these indictments do indicate that there was or was not collusion by the Trump Campaign with the Russians. Of course, the Trump administration quickly stated that these indictments prove that there was no collusion, which is patently false and wishful thinking on their part. Mr. Mueller has now identified specific individuals within the Russian intelligence community along with an exquisitely detailed accounting of the methods, tactics, and possible sources they used to attack our election. Having this level of detail, indicates that these agents likely had sources in America, and the next shoe that Mr. Mueller will drop will be possible indictments of Amer-

icans who colluded and conspired with these Russians agents.

For all the criticism by Republicans that the Mueller investigation has gone on too long and has found nothing, the reality is that in almost a year and a half, Mueller has accomplished much more than Mr. Starr in his four years of the Bill Clinton investigation. The walls are closing in on the Trump White House, and Republicans know it. I fear that as the pressure continues to build, Mr. Trump will take drastic measures and create a constitutional crisis to save himself. That will leave us with a Republican controlled Congress and Supreme Court to save the country. Will they serve the needs of the nation or their party and power? Considering their recent history, I fear the answer.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

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No Court Confirmation Until Next Year

To the Editor:

Can the President pardon himself or others, to free himself from criminal investigation? Can the president be compelled to testify before a grand jury? Can a sitting President be criminally indicted for obstructing justice? What is the legal consequence for Trump's violations of the Emoluments Clause? These are some of the crucial questions that the next Supreme Court Justice may decide. The man whose legal and political jeopardy is at stake should not be the one to select that Justice.

America is great because we are a nation of laws, not a vassal of organized crime. Even Republicans who support the President's most questionable policies ought to agree that law and order require postponing confirmation of the next Justice until after the mid-term elections, when the Will of the People can guide their representative Senators.


Presidential power must be checked now, to prevent our democracy from becoming his autocracy.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Escaping Albany

by William Marvel

Most of my life has been lived less than 250 miles from Albany, N.Y., but until last month I had never been there. Heretofore I knew the city only through the novels of Albany native William Kennedy, whose nostalgic portrait infected me with a vicarious affection for it, but a few hours there cured me of that. Trash and derelicts littered South Pearl Street at 5:45 a.m., but a left turn on Madison Avenue soon produced a vast concrete and faux-marble capital complex that had settled like a spaceship over the center of the city, turning the principal thoroughfares into tunnels. Guarded or barricaded at every entrance, the towering, vaulted walls of the Empire State fortress brought to mind the Forbidden City of another empire.

It was nearly 8:00 before I found a place that served a real breakfast, and even there one had to stand in line with the Starbucks generation until the food emerged. I managed to juggle plate, coffee, and satchel

toward a table, and there lay a copy of the Albany Times Union. Because I was in New York I was not surprised by a blatantly liberal slant to the letters and columns, but I read them through anyway. Few things are more infuriating than the dogmatism that dominates most op-ed pages, but I'm always hoping for evidence that independent thought still survives somewhere, so wherever I travel I scour the local newspaper's editorial section.

For a few moments in Albany I thought I had stumbled onto such evidence in a commentary by Sister Honora Kenney, a retired history professor. She began with Martin Luther King's call for "a radical revolution of values," and his denunciation of the materialism that sustains the oppressive triad of "racism, militarism, and economic exploitation." She added that "our thing-oriented society has spawned a fourth evil giant—ecological devastation."

She certainly had my attention that far. I blame our environmental crisis on a surfeit of people as much as on avarice, but the insatiable con-

sumption to which she alluded is destructive enough by itself. Partly in recognition of that evil, our household is not very acquisitive—which is a good thing, considering the pitiful remuneration of the vocations we've chosen. In fact, my wife has just returned from a conference that focused on living simply and rejecting society's emphasis on money; my only objection was that she had to pay \$90 to hear how it's done.

Sister Honora only started losing me when she seemed to mobilize such broad truths for the benefit of specific, partisan constituencies, and to contradict her own apparent advocacy for egalitarian, ascetic humanism. She touted "women's and gender equality," for example, without recognizing that the less militant majority of her readers might find that oxymoronic. For most people, "gender equality" would mean equality between the genders, and the addition of "women's equality" suggests an Orwellian world in which one gender is more equal than the other. Since political campaigns allegedly devoted to equality

often simply reverse inequality in the end, rather than eliminating it, her unintended interpretation may be at least as likely as the utopia she probably envisions.

In the midst of her commentary she seemed to abandon her own aversion to "our thing-oriented society." Citing statistics about poor and low-income Americans, she implicitly advocated a direct redistribution of wealth—beginning perhaps with a \$15 minimum wage, which her order supports. My income has long qualified as "low," but I would expect a significant increase in the minimum wage to worsen my condition rather than improve it, since it would eventually increase the price of nearly everything I have to buy. Better to establish single-payer health care for the benefit of all, I thought, than to penalize everyone so those at the bottom will have the ability to buy more "things."

Still, it was not so much her objectives that closed the book on Sister Honora for me as her means. After quoting an appeal at the 2016 Democratic National Convention to

"shock this nation with the power of love" she went on (with an irony that was not likely deliberate) to praise an announced plan for nationwide civil disobedience on behalf of the poor. She wasn't talking about the symbolic, truly nonviolent form of protests undertaken by the Berrigan brothers, who turned their punishments into a continuation of their protests. Instead, she seemed to favor an anonymous, disruptive variety that is usually consequence-free, at least for the protestor. Blocking traffic on the highways would cause a desirable amount of "disarray," she suggested. I understand why she and other intellectually cloistered radicals can't see the violence in that, but how do they expect it to engender love?

The Times Union did nothing for my faith in individual reason, but it gave me fair warning. Rather than dawdle around after my work was done, I made sure to get out of Albany before Sister Honora's mendicant mob made it to the freeway.

—==—

from page five

Addressing Serious Problems

To the Editor:

The "progress" man has made has led to serious problems such as global warming, nuclear proliferation, over-population, pollution, disparity of wealth and power, terrorism, exhausting of natural resources, devastating warfare, millions of displaced persons, shortage of potable water, psychological stress, etc. We need to find ways to deal with these problems before they become too big to handle, if they are not already so.

They primary way we have approached these problems has been through governments and inter-governmental organizations, such as the UN. Unfortunately, political

processes have limited the resources devoted to solving them. Contributing to that barrier has been attitudes such as that of Ronald Reagan, who said that government cannot solve our problems, it is the problem. It has certainly been a problem for money-grubbers who want nothing to stand in their way of making more money and getting more political power, no matter how much damage they do.

The present administration is dismantling the measures taken over the years to prevent harm and to provide a safety net for those rav-

aged by the system. The issue now is whether our democracy is strong enough to reverse the trend and to provide for a better future for all Americans.

Milt Lauenstein
Exeter, N.H.

—==—

Governance by Chaos, Whim, and Tweet

To the Editor:

With no warning or planning this Administration's "zero tolerance" policy was hastily implemented last April. Over 650 children, 102 of them under age five, were separated

from their parents. The court-ordered attempt to reunite families revealed chaos and government dysfunction. Health and Human Services doesn't know which children are involved or who or where their parents are. Records were either not properly kept or deleted. Some parents were deported without their children. Was this an inability to foresee predictable consequences, administrative incompetence, or simply lack of concern for the welfare of children?

I submit that it is part of an ongoing pattern of governance by cha-

os, whim and tweet. There was the chaos at ports of entry due to the first immigration ban subsequently found unconstitutional. Business and economists have warned that tariffs and a trade war will lose more jobs than it will produce and hamper their ability to plan. Appointing "all the best people" has resulted in a chaotic White House with the biggest turnover in the shortest time in history and one scandal after another.

Our Negotiator-in-Chief is meeting with two of the shrewdest and most corrupt dictators in the world while dismissing any need for state department briefings, advice from experienced negotiators and allies, or overall strategy. Intuition,

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Delivering the news to the New York Times

by Jim Hightower

Before major news organizations pronounce someone dead, they ought to check the person's pulse. Take, for example, a recent New York Times screed prematurely pronouncing the Our Revolution political organization—launched only two years ago by Sen. Bernie Sanders—a moribund failure. “The group has repeatedly picked fights with the Democratic establishment

in primary elections, losing nearly every time,” the paper barked. But, lo and behold, the very next day, Our Revolution's endorsed candidate for governor in the Maryland primary, Ben Jealous, handily defeated the party establishment's favorite. Also, in New York a 28-year-old Our Revolution activist, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, shocked the national party's entire corporate hierarchy with her resounding grassroots victory over Rep. Joe Crowley, the

fourth highest ranking Democrat in the US House. These big scores followed OR's earlier outsider victories over monied insiders in the Georgia and Texas gubernatorial primaries. Also, the insurgent group, which the Times ridiculed as “failing,” has been winning dozens of upset victories in down-ballot primary elections from coast to coast, electing 45 percent of its candidates. Just as significant, these Sand-

ers-inspired progressive rebels have now defined the Democratic Party's agenda. Plus they've enlivened both its supporters and many of its previously-lethargic office holders by backing such populist (and popular) proposals as Medicare For All and debt-free higher education. Apparently, it's hard to see America's grassroots reality through the dusty-distant office windows of the New York Times. So, before the editors and writers do another hit piece

on the people and candidates of Our Revolution, maybe they could come out of their journalistic cubicles ... and at least visit the countryside. —==—

Populist author, public speaker, and radio commentator Jim Hightower writes The Hightower Lowdown, a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America's ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at HightowerLowdown.org.

—==—

charm or bullying, and the art of the deal has worked so well for Trump that he has gone bankrupt six times. He or his company have been involved in over 3,500 legal cases and were the defendants in over 1,450 of them.

The framers of the Constitution envisioned three equal branches of government to provide balance and restraint. The Republicans in Congress have abdicated their responsibilities and abandoned all principles in their pursuit of tax cuts and deregulation.

How are you sleeping at night with this person at the helm with no adults setting limits on his reckless behavior?

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.
*Cynthia:
Sleep?
The Editor*

—==—

What Does Putin Have On Trump?

To the Editor:

Many of us in America suspect the reason Trump meets autocrats alone like Kim Jung-un and Vladimir Putin is because he is being controlled. The Trump meeting with Kim Jung-un in Singapore delivered a concession to North Korea; Trump agreed to end military exercises with South Korea. On the world stage, in my opinion and many others, Trump is dividing America by only sending dog whistles to his base, combined with insulting allies of the United States of America. It is my notion, the firing of James Comey, the former FBI Director, the pulling out of the Climate Change agreement, ending the Iran Nuclear agreement,



the decision to move the Embassy to Jerusalem to declare Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and now the tariff against our allies, are all on Vladimir Putin's wish list to make trouble for our allies and America.

What does Vladimir Putin have on Donald Trump to have him under his control? Could it be funds were given to Trump from Russia during a bankruptcy? Or could it be the suspected pee-pee tapes? Anyhow, if all the above has some truth, we have a treasonous President in open sight under a majority Republican-controlled Congress.

Alfred Waddell
Marstons Mills, Mass.
*Alfred:
A pretty picture, ain't it?
The Editor*

—==—

Fox News Didn't Go Along

To the Editor:

It is encouraging that for once Fox News didn't go along with Trump. In his obsequious fawning over Putin and his disavowal of American intelligence agencies, Trump went too far even for Fox. Trump will no doubt walk back his sell-out. So the real question is whether his newfound critics in the Republican Party and at Fox will accept the next set of lies claiming “I didn't really mean it.”

Trump keeps doing the heavy lifting for Putin's Russia. Why? Why his efforts to destabilize NATO and the EU? Why the vicious criticism of our allies? There has been

much speculation that the Russians have compromising tapes they are threatening Trump with to control him. They may, but neither you nor I know for sure.

What is almost 100 percent certain, however, is that Trump's businesses are kept afloat by laundering money for the Russian mafia, oligarchs, and other crooks. This has been going on for years. Many have traced the threads. Check out Google, “Trump and Money Laundering.” The Russians are able to control Trump either by threatening to cut off the source of funds that keep him afloat or by threatening to provide the proof of Trump's law breaking activities.

Follow the money. This is exactly what the Republican “investigative” committees did not do. This is exactly what the Mueller investigation is doing.

We have a President who has sold out the country. Now that it is so blatant, what will the Republicans do about it?

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.
*Michael:
We believe you're absolutely right.
The Editor*

—==—

No Collusion?

To the Editor:

Donald Trump is constantly saying “no collusion” with Russia during the campaign. That is odd as there has been so much collusion since he

took office.

He has left embassies without ambassadors and staff. He has tried to destroy NATO. He calls European countries our foe. He has imposed tariffs on countries that came to our assistance in Afghanistan and Iraq while saying he can think of nothing Russia has done that is a problem. He is trying to wreck the Iran nuclear agreement, freeing Iran to restart their bomb-making program without any inspectors on the ground.

He says the FBI, CIA and NSA's intelligence cannot be trusted. He offered to send the agents who tracked down the Russian hackers to Russia so Russia can find out how we traced their hackers' activity.

Finally, he held a meeting with Vladimir Putin with no witnesses except an interpreter. One wonders if Putin awarded Trump a medal for service to the motherland.

It is time for Congress to aiding and abetting his assault on our country and support our allies while we still have them.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.
*Walter:
Don't hold your breath.
The Editor*

—==—

District of Columbia v. Heller

To the Editor:

No, absolutely, you are not incorrect that in the *District of Columbia vs. Heller* decision it was demonstrated that an individual has a right

to possess firearms unconnected with service in a militia.

That decision however, in no way negates the fact that states can (and do) pass various laws imposing a variety of restrictions regarding firearms.

Remember, Heller was a five-four decision so there was a lot of bluster and grandiloquence in both the majority opinion (written by Scalia) and the two separate dissenting opinions (written by Stevens and Breyer).

Consider too, the Second Amendment consists of a prefatory clause (a well-regulated militia is necessary to the condition of a free state) followed by an operative clause (the right of the people to keep and bear arms). The authors of the Second Amendment could not possibly have foreseen the debate we're having in the 21st Century.

With this reasoning, Scalia simply retreated to what he believed the root of the Second Amendment that (“the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed”) is controlling and a decade ago he had the number (five) to back him up.

It is most unfortunate that today (in the 21st Century), unlike in the 18th, correctly interpreting the spirit and intent of one of the greatest documents ever produced by man (The U.S. Constitution), and serving the greater good, is of no more value to the Judicial Branch than to the Executive and Legislative branches of our government.

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.

—==—

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