

*The Fortnightly Rant***The Department of What, Exactly?**

Einstein predicted them a century ago. On Wednesday, we got our first look.

Fifty-five million light-years away, at the center of the galaxy Messier 87, looking something like an orange bagel, is a black hole—one of the densest things in the universe. Whatever strays within its gravitational field is ripped apart, reduced to its sub-atomic components, and, passing through what's called an event horizon, is devoured completely, never to be seen again.

What does that reminds us of? Something weird, with a yam-like complexion and a round black hole in the middle, incredibly dense... what could it be? Oh, well....

Moving on to other news, Donald Trump has just demonstrated that he's actually capable of doing something besides accidentally getting elected President while merely trying to "add value" to his cheesy "brand." That something is running the HR Department from Hell. Who but Trump could have succeeded in hiring the re-animated corpse of Roy Cohn as U.S. Attorney General?

Now that he's in, William Barr is giving it everything he's got. Like some 18-year-old snowboarder leaping from a helicopter to the peak of Mount Everest, he doesn't seem to give a damn whether or not what he's trying is possible—he's just going for it.

Where does he get such courage? He's got God on his side. A devout Catholic, Barr wants public schools to teach morality—and wants the Federal government to issue vouchers so parents can send their kids to parochial schools and let atheists pick up the tab.

"Over the past three decades," he

told an audience in Milwaukee in 1991, the last time he was A.G., "the ability of public schools to exercise any moral influence has been steadily weakened.

"Because of legal decisions and misguided public policy, the range of schools' disciplinary powers has been vastly circumscribed.

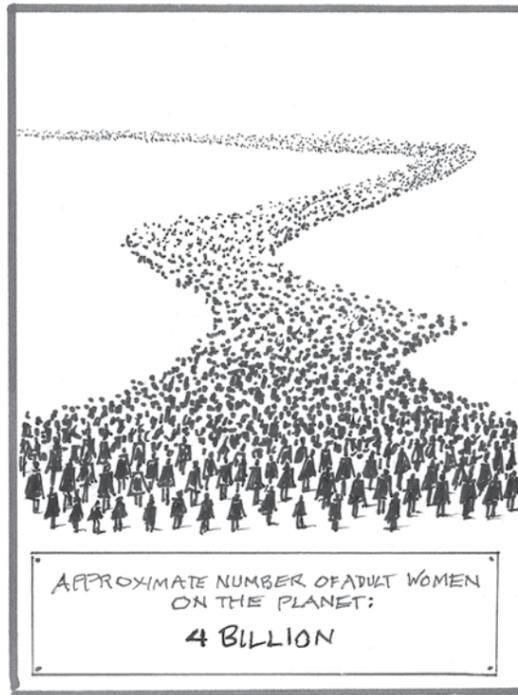
"Moreover, there has been an effort—largely successful—to drive out of schools and public education any kind of moral perspective or moral content.

"This moral lobotomy of public schools has been based on *extremist notions of separation of church and state* or on theories of moral relativism which reject the notion that there are standards of right and wrong to which the community can demand adherence. [*Emphasis added.*]"

Pardon us, but we're confused. The nation's top law man, who used to be deeply concerned about kids chewing gum in school and talking sass to their teachers, is now proudly serving a guy who lied about paying porn stars to keep their mouths shut about having sex with him while his third wife was minding his new child? Not to mention bragging about pussy grabbing.

It's enough to make you wonder. We have never seen any credible evidence suggesting that Barr spends his spare time doling out Benjamins in sleazy strip clubs. If Barr actually believes all that pious palaver, though, how can he work for such an amoral monster?

There appear to be two possible explanations; we're not sure which is worse. One is that he's as deranged as his boss—which, upon further consideration, seems like a bit of stretch, because...well, we've all seen



him in action.

The other possibility is that the value of the opportunity to hold and exert the authority of Attorney General outweighs the moral stain of advancing the agenda of a real-life Jabba the Hutt. In other words, he's engaging in moral relativism.

Then again, perhaps it's both. You can't fulfill an agenda like Barr's by taking half measures.

A lesser zealot might have settled for saying, "never mind what you heard Donald Trump tell Lester Holt, Bob Mueller looked but he couldn't find any evidence that the President obstructed justice."

Granted, that was a pretty good day's work. Not only did it cement in the minds of Trump's base the unlikely notion that he did nothing wrong, it kept everyone else in a discombobulated, gaslit state. That can be pretty disconcerting, but don't worry. Homeland Security is on the job. Once they get the neuralyzers calibrated, men in black suits will come by for a short visit, and you'll

say to yourself, "This is fine."

Defending the President is only half the job, though—Barr had to go Full Hannity, which is tantamount to saying, full kindergarten: "I know you are but what am I," "I'm rubber, you're glue," &c.

That means stamping the imprimatur of the Justice Department on a crackpot theory imported directly from Fox "News"—a theory long ago discredited, according to sane folk—claiming that there's cause to investigate whether the Obama Administration had "spies" skulking around the Trump campaign. Here's some career advice for future FBI agents: if you're following a Russian spy, and he starts talking with Jared, or Ivanka, or Eric, or Don Jr., back off and give them their privacy. Whatever they're talking about is none of your business.

Never mind Roy Cohn—this guy's the most effective Attorney General since John Mitchell, aka Federal Prisoner #24171-157.

Finally this fortnight, we an-

nounce the *Gazette* Prize. A successor of the Orteig Prize, which Lindberg won by flying the Atlantic, and the Ansari Prize, which Burt Rutan won by building the first private, manned, re-useable spacecraft, the *Gazette* Prize will stimulate similar research and development by offering a lifetime subscription of this newspaper to whoever manages to send the current Administration, or at least its leader, along with the corporate charter of Fox "News," and the perverse philosophy which has dominated the Republican Party since the Speakership of Newt Gingrich, a minimum of 55 million light years into space, in the general direction of Messier 87.

Fox "News" Answers Its Own Question*The Alleged News®***Death, Taxes, and Unequal Treatment Before the Law**

The weather this weekend is expected to be nice, perhaps even better than the last. Which is kind of a shame, because a lot of people are going to spend much of it indoors, shuffling papers on their kitchen tables, scrambling to get their taxes completed in time to file on Monday, April 15th.

Residents of Maine, though, are an exception. Due to an historical quirk, they'll receive a small, special mercy from the IRS. Because the Pine Tree State celebrates Patriot's Day on the third Monday in April—a legacy of its having been a part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from the Revolution until 1820—all Mainiacs will get one extra day to struggle.

But wait—there's more! Washington, D.C. observes Emancipation Day on April 16th, commemorating the day in 1862 when Abraham Lincoln signed the Compensated Emancipation Act. That Act freed

all the enslaved people in the District of Columbia, and paid their enslavers as much as \$300 for each person whose human rights they stopped denying. It also offered each of the formerly enslaved the sum of \$100—a whopping \$2,486 in today's money—if they would kindly agree to leave our fair shores and go to Haiti or Liberia, where they obviously belonged. In honor of all that generosity, the IRS will be closed on Tuesday, thus giving those lucky Mainiacs yet *another* extra day to sweat and curse over ambiguous questions and incomprehensible forms.

Special Treatment

Don't be jealous of Maine, though, at least, not Piscataquis and Washington Counties. Their residents may need those extra days to double-check their figures.

The IRS finds returns from those two counties more interesting than those from, say, York County. At

least, they audit a higher percentage of them.

It's almost as if the IRS never heard of Willy Sutton, one of the pre-eminent men in his field during the mid-20th century. Sutton is said to have replied, when asked why he robbed banks, "Because that's where the money is."

The money in Maine is in York County. According to the most recent figures readily available, 2010, per capita income in York County was \$27,137. That is 39 percent higher than Washington County's per capita income, which was \$19,401.

For reasons known only to the IRS, though, Washington County taxpayers' chances of being audited are 16 percent higher than those who live in York County.

A taxpayer in York County will have more income, owe more taxes, and be more motivated to take a chance on paying less than what is

owed, but it's the taxpayer in Washington County who's more likely to get audited.

That's not the worst of it, though. **White Privilege? What White Privilege?** "Nothing can be said to be certain save death and taxes," Ben Franklin famously said. As a man of his time, he can perhaps be forgiven for leaving out something equally ineradicable: the structural racism of the nation he helped create.

Humphreys County is in the Mississippi Delta. Despite the grandeur of its self-proclaimed title, "Catfish Capital of the World," its per capita income in 2010 was a [cough] rather modest \$10,926. Its population is 71 percent African American.

Yet, despite having a per capita income 43.7 percent lower than Washington County, Maine, a higher percentage of its taxpayers are audited than anywhere else in the country, ProPublica reports.

No Free Filing for You—or For Anyone!

In other tax news, there's bipartisan support in both houses of Congress for an act which would have a major impact on the way we all file our taxes. The effort provides a familiar object lesson for anyone longing for the good old days of bipartisanship—be careful what you wish for.

Among the myriad provisions of the Taxpayer First Act is one that prohibits the IRS from creating its own system of online filing. If this provision looks exactly like something H&R Block and Intuit, owner of TurboTax, would ask for, that's because it is.

Want a little salt for what wound? Previously-obscure Rep. Richard Neal [D-Mass.], who became an instant hero to many recently by vowing to wrest President Trump's tax returns from the IRS, is among the sponsors.

The Alleged News®

from page one

Hegseth Named Blue Falcon of the Year Granted, it's only April 12th, but the judges have made their ruling: Pete Hegseth is 2019's Blue Falcon of the Year.

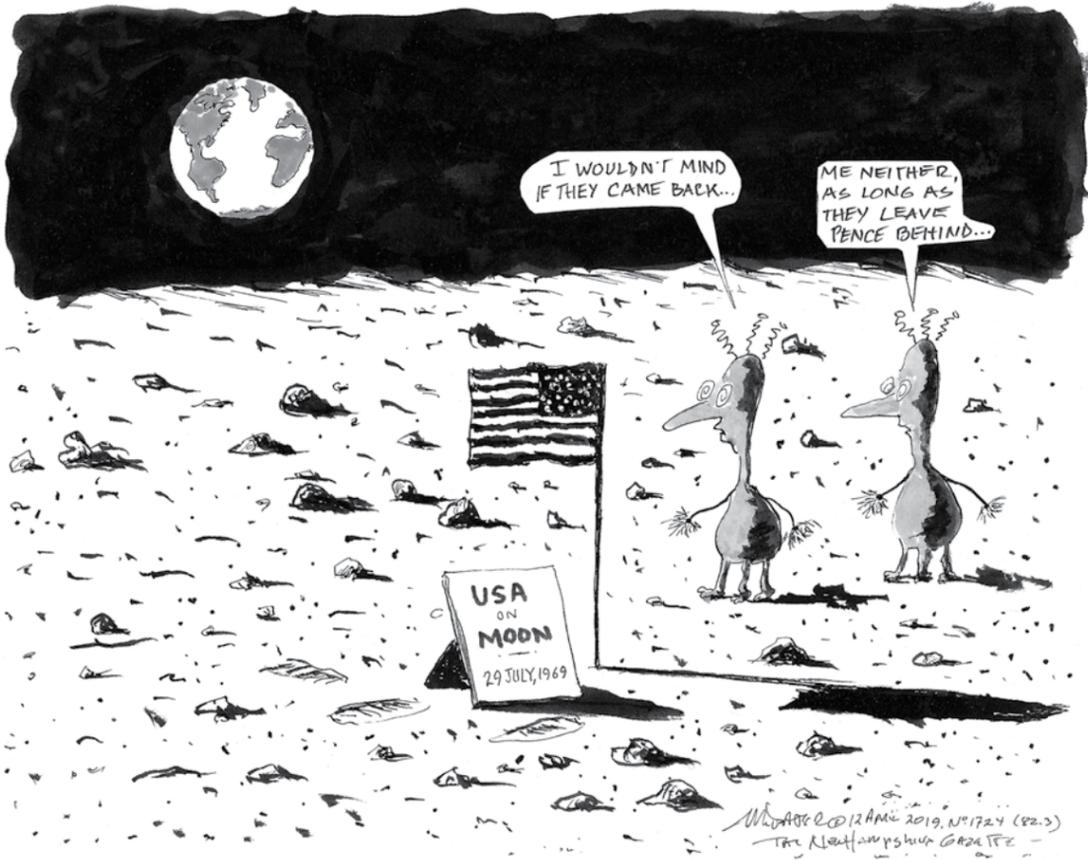
"Blue Falcon" is a euphemism commonly used by enlisted military personnel as a substitute for the less polite but more straightforward term "buddy f_cker." Though it is sometimes applied to slackers who don't pull their own weight, it is primarily and more pointedly used to denounce individuals who one way or another betray their fellow lower-ranking troops to the arbitrary "justice" of higher-ranking, and thus presumably dimmer-witted authorities.

Hegseth earned this highly-undesireable distinction during an April 5th appearance on the Fox "News" channel, his natural habitat. The hosts of "Fox & Friends"

were expressing their prudent and responsible dismay over the size of the budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Perhaps next year's Census will include a question to determine how many flat-screen TVs were destroyed by veterans screaming about Fox's blind support of the invasion of Iraq in search of mythical Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Noted public policy experts Brian Kilmeade, Steve Doocy, and Ainsley Earhardt seemed to be in agreement: a large part of the nation's fiscal problems are due to veterans who have the gall to actually use the benefits to which they are entitled. Criticizing such veterans for their "dependence on the government," the three bandied about terms such as "milking the system" and "lack of personal integrity."

Hegseth—the former front man for Conservative Veterans for America [CV4A], a Koch-funded astroturf veterans organization,



The Flag Police, dismayed by the apparent incorrigibility of a certain enterprise in downtown Portsmouth, feel compelled to provide it with some sense of perspective. A class action lawsuit settled last year established that the corporation's Penny Arcade coin machines had short-changed customers to the tune of 26 cents per \$100 for a period of seven years. At that rate, by our calculations, every \$19,192.30 that went through its machines would have covered the cost of a high-quality 3 x 5 foot Poly-Max™ flag, "extremely durable and ideal for commercial applications and high wind areas," readily available from the High-Flying Flag Co. in Greenland for \$49.90 in U.S. currency (\$66.44 Canadian).

the purpose of which appears to be promoting the privatization of the Veterans Affairs Department in keeping with Libertarian/Republican dogma—was present during the discussion and apparently awake.

This would have been the perfect opportunity for Hegseth to point out that, unlike "job creators," who get their generous tax credits up front, then, likely as not, forget to create jobs, veterans earn their benefits up front, by getting shot, blown up, and exposed to the unspeakable. As often as not, they first have to overcome their own considerable reluctance to ask for help, then find the patience to navigate the nation's second-largest bureaucracy, &c., &c. And we wonder—well, some people wonder—why the suicide rate among veterans is so high.

Instead, Hegseth merrily agreed with and elaborated upon the misguided pronouncements of President Trump's favorite troika of on-air-heads.

This failure to engage the enemy did not endear Hegseth to his fellow veterans. *VoteVets.org*, a PAC which claims the support of half a million progressive veterans, tweeted a clip from the show, and the battle was on.

"Watch, and enjoy!" Hegseth replied, "Truth can be a difficult thing for some folks—especially leftists. I standby [sic] everything I said. @votevets is a left-wing, socialist hack group, and always will be." Thus did the floodgates open.

"#BlueFalcon of the year goes to @PeteHegseth," tweeted Navy vet @BNovacane.

@DarthWhitey2010, aka Pablo Casablanca, replied, "Seriously? You gonna go full blue falcon on this? Really? We all ate in communal mess halls, slept in communal barracks, used communal showers and latrines, but socialism is bad? Who the f_ck you think paid our paychecks, dingus? #BlueFalcon"

Despite his apparent antipathy

towards veterans—or, let's face it, because of that antipathy—Hegseth was a front-runner for the post of Secretary of Veterans Affairs in early 2017. He was passed over in favor of current Secretary David Shulkin.

Not being entirely incompetent or anti-veteran, Shulkin soon lost favor with President Trump. An article in the March 15, 2018 *Washington Post* said Hegseth had "emerged as a leading candidate to replace [the] embattled... Shulkin, who has fallen from favor with the Trump administration."

Hegseth the Victim of a Double Standard? Correlation is not necessarily causation, but Hegseth's resurgence as a potential Cabinet officer appears to have faded shortly after American Public Media published a revealing report on his background.

The APM story went into great detail about Hegseth's marital infidelity, hypocrisy, and nepotistic hiring practices. A fair-minded person might ask, so what? Since when is a

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long history of moral failings a bar to service in the Trump Administration? Aren't those qualifications?

We can only imagine the problem was something Hegseth once said, on tape, about dogs:

"But dogs, they love you no matter what. You can kick 'em and they'll come back to you and lick you anyway, and be like, 'I love you, I love you, I love you!'"

Death Strikes From Out of the Blue

A passenger in a pickup truck was killed in Florida last Thursday by a crashing helicopter.

Bryan Messick, an experienced pilot, was flying a Robinson R44 over the town of Palm River on April 4th, when the engine began to malfunction. He tried to autorotate but was unable to land safely. Meanwhile Ryan Anthony Persaud, 35, was driving with his father, Guyanese immigrant Deodat Persaud Gangapersaud, 72, in a Chevrolet Silverado on 50th Street, about four miles southeast of Tampa.

Security videotape shows Mes-

sick's machine traveling parallel to the busy street, at an altitude of perhaps forty feet and descending. Another tape from a different angle shows it landing hard, then sliding forward rapidly on its skids. The helicopter came to a stop when it slammed into a telephone pole. Its rotors cut the pole in two, sending shards flying. "It was like an explosion," according to one eye witness.

The impact broke a rotor blade, part of which flew hundreds of feet. News video shows a football-sized hole in the windshield of Ryan Persaud's truck. His father, struck by the blade, was pronounced dead at the scene.

"For all of us, it's just very surreal," Sharita Persaud, Gangapersaud's daughter, told the Guyanese newspaper *Kaiteur News*, "It's so out of the blue, so sudden."

Messick and a passenger were not seriously injured. The machine had "also encountered mechanical problems four days before the crash," according to the local ABC TV news affiliate.



Narrow Escape from Fiery Death

Another Robinson helicopter crashed Saturday in Clover, Va., the pilot barely escaping with his life. The R22 took off from a private airstrip around 10:08 p.m. on April 8th, according to local CBS affiliate WDBJ. Unable to gain altitude, the helicopter clipped some treetops, hit the ground, and burst into flames. The pilot managed to escape the ensuing inferno, but was taken to the hospital with serious injuries.

A third Robinson, an R44, crashed seconds after takeoff in Taunton, Mass. on April 2nd, according to Boston's WHDH TV. The two men aboard escaped injury, but the cabin and rotors were significantly damaged. The pilot told CBS Boston that the machine was just a foot off the ground when a gust of wind knocked it over.

High-Water Mark

What could be more timely? Next Friday, 3S Artspace will present an

exhibit in the Gallery focusing on rising sea levels, storm surge flooding, and the projected displacement of people who live in the New Hampshire and Maine sea coast region.

"High-Water Mark," a multimedia, regionally specific installation by Boston-based artist Yu-Wen Wu, uses video and a large-scale wall drawing to represent the wanderings of someone new to the region, a visitor surveying the landscape, city, and its surroundings with fresh eyes.

Wu, the proverbial migrant, makes connections between natural and built environments, and sees relationships between past and present that will help us navigate an unfamiliar ecosystem and an environment in flux. Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Wu's family immigrated to the United States soon after the enactment of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. Her experiences as an immigrant have shaped the themes of her work: examining

issues of displacement, movement, assimilation, culture and identity.

While relying on hard data and scientific research practices, Wu's visualization of data—video, maps, and graphs—is a metaphorical reading of a changing environment, incorporating filmed scenes of the tidal waters of the Piscataqua River, sites along the North and South Mill Ponds, coastal wetlands, and sky, emphasizing the aesthetic experience over narrative characteristics. Viewers will come away with an impression and awareness of the impact of rising sea levels on the Portsmouth region.

"High-Water Mark" opens April 19th with an Artist Opening Reception held the same day, from 5:00 to 8 p.m. The exhibit will continue through May 26. Exhibits at 3S Artspace are free and open to the public.

For more information see www.3sarts.org/gallery/high-water-mark.



Last weekend came and went like a sweet, perfectly-timed mirage—perhaps even an hallucination. After a long spell of unpleasantly high winds, and preceeding a patch of near-freezing rain, April 6th and 7th gave us two days of delightfully sunny, calm, mild weather. The effect was sufficiently disorienting to fool our Wandering Photographer into thinking this statue in Market Square actually moved. The jury is still out on that question, but John Breneman, whose award-winning writing used to make the local daily worth reading, is clearly alive and well.

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The McIntyre: This Changes Everything
To the Editor:

On Sunday, March 31st, the *Portsmouth Herald* published a story that included two remarkable bits of information on the McIntyre project: 1 – The Park Service has no objection if the area is developed as park. 2 – If the City buys the property, avoiding the complex rules of the “public benefit transfer,” we could do away with the McIntyre building completely. In both cases this is quite different from what we have been told by the City.

These two bits really change everything. If you don't have to rehabilitate the McIntyre Building, there's no need to construct all of those other buildings in the project to pay for the rehab work. We could end up with the three things people consistently asked for at the beginning of the “process”—a downtown Post Office, underground parking, and a park. The revenue from the parking could offset some of the other costs. The whole project could be a much simpler, less expensive proposition.

It also turns out that most of the other “facts” we were told about this project were not true. Apparently there never was a “deadline” on the application to the Park Service. (Remember all that intense pressure over the “deadline” last spring?) And there is no legal obligation to Redgate Kane. That was just confirmed by the City Attorney. So we have the time to think about this, and seriously consider some better alternatives.

Apparently all of the decision-making at City Hall has been based on a single criterion—money. If good public policy was really that simple, we could just leave all of our decisions up to the bean-counters. You can always make more money by filling every available space with the largest possible buildings—that option is always there. But sometimes it's wiser to look beyond the short-term, bottom-line considerations. George H.W. Bush called it “the vision thing.” Think about the choices they made when they created Central Park, or Boston Common, or our own Prescott Park. None of those would exist today if

the planners had opted for the “quick buck.” I hoped we could expect some of this wise, forward-looking thinking from our civic leaders. Apparently not. (And by the way, it looks like the financial side of this deal is not so great for the City, either.)

Most people are concerned about the lack of the Post Office, and they understand the problem with the inadequate parking, but few are aware of the problem with truck access. For most of the stores and offices in that project, the only access for trucks—for deliveries, maintenance trucks, moving trucks, and fire trucks—is through the “public open space” in the center of the project. (To understand why this is important, just take a look at the row of delivery trucks parked along the right side of Congress Street all day, every day.) So how are those trucks going to co-exist with the people trying to enjoy that “public” space? The developer gave us his casual assurance that “all truck traffic and deliveries would occur after midnight.” Is the Post Office going to accept that? Are the retail stores going to be able to convince UPS and Fedex not to show up until the middle of the night? Really? This is just one aspect that shows why the current plan is totally unrealistic.

The real problem is that the developer is trying to pack far too much “stuff” onto this property. If you start with the remarkable premise that the City will get this property for “free,” and then have someone else develop it, also for “free,” this is the result. It's obvious that the planners at City Hall really, really want this project, so they're willing to overlook all sorts of major flaws. In a way, the “free” financing arrangement is a clever plan, but perhaps the City planners have been blinded by their own cleverness.

Fifty years ago the G.S.A. made a tragic mistake. They wiped out two whole city blocks of functional, historic buildings, and put up this huge, intrusive “thing” right in the center of town. Today we have a chance to correct that mistake, or we can compound the error and just fill up the whole space with more buildings.

Apparently some of the folks in city



government plan to write up the application and hustle this proposal off the D.C. before anyone has time to object. They know that there is substantial opposition in the city, but I guess they are going to attempt this anyway. But consider this—if you were a bureaucrat at the Park Service, how would you react if you saw this issue coming your way? At last count there were 1,019 names on the petition at Revisit McIntyre. You can assume that any application to the Park Service will be followed immediately by at least 1,019 letters of protest. Do you really think the Park Service will want to become involved in a project that will be mired in years of controversy and protest? The “powers that be” may discover that, on an issue like this, the public really does have a sort of “people's veto.”

We have a chance to stop, take a breath, and come up with something that is so much better. It's true that the process would take some time, some courage, and yes—some modest input of money by the City. Whatever we do with that property, people are going to be living with the result 25 and 50 and 100 years into the future. A century from now, you can assume that Portsmouth will be a much larger, busier place. Any calm, open space in the center of town will be even more precious than it is today. We still have a chance to create that space. Think of it as a gift from us, in 2019, to the future.

John Stephenson
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:

Thank you for corralling the many components of this issue, straining out the dross, and putting the most relevant in a comprehensible relationship. Some say because this process has taken so long, everyone should get out of the way and let those driving the process keep their foot on the gas.

Nothing could be more short-sighted.
The Editor

The Pot and the Kettle

To the Editor:

Yes, Donald Trump was a chickenhawk like so many others who now that they are out of harm's way have become armchair warriors and heroes in their own mind. And, I'm sure that by now Trump's bone spurs have mysteriously disappeared.

And, yes John McCain flew combat missions over Viet Nam, but not for long. After being captured he was more like Tokyo Rose than any Naval Hero. He collaborated with the enemy and received favorable treatment.

It seems the apple did not fall far from the tree as his father, Admiral John McCain, did his best to cover up the Israeli attack on the *U.S.S. Liberty* and to deny justice to those who died and to the survivors who to this day cry out to be heard. Admiral McCain demanded silence under the threat of Courts-Martial for those who spoke out.

I'm sure that all the politicians will be out this Memorial Day, as they are every year, for their photo opportunity. Yet, just a few days later, on June 8th, the *Liberty* and her crew will not be remembered for their acts of heroism. This treatment remains a national disgrace and a disgrace to the Navy.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.

John:

Far be it from us to characterize, one way or the other, McCain's behavior as a prisoner of the people on whom he'd been dropping bombs. Even among his fellow prisoners, the verdict was mixed. It does seem quite clear that throughout his career McCain fils continued the cover-up which his father began.

It's not easy to praise a man whose thirst for power induced him to try to put Sarah Palin a heartbeat from the Presidency. If we were engaged, though, in a

barroom brawl, we'd rather have McCain on our side than golf's most notorious cheat.

The Editor

Stochastic Terrorism Defined

To the Editor:

All Americans should find it astonishing that current presidential administration officials would have felt compelled to make the rounds on Sunday Morning talk shows in an attempt to explain to the nation the “absurdity” of how anyone could perceive a connection between the countless derogatory remarks about immigration by POTUS #45 and the actions of the admitted white supremacist terrorist responsible for the massacre of Muslim Worshipers in New Zealand. Would it not be twice as “absurd” to not be able to recognize a potential connection considering that the perpetrator created a lengthy manifesto that referred to immigrants as “invaders within our lands” and called POTUS #45 “a symbol of renewed white identity and common purpose”?

Besides, the New Zealand Terrorist wasn't the first of his ilk to have mentioned POTUS #45 prior to carrying out or plotting an atrocity. A pattern had already been established with the mail bomber, the Pittsburg synagogue shooter, and the Coast Guard White Supremacist, all citing #45 as an inspiration for their intended malice.

Furthermore, Muslims and immigrants aren't the only targets of #45's inflammatory remarks as he has demonstrated a propensity for going after anyone who even slightly opposes him. He very recently asserted to Breitbart, “I can tell you I have the support of the police, the support of the military, the support of the bikers for Trump—I have the tough people,

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WOW! PILE AND HUMOR



but they don't play it tough—until they go to a certain point, and then it would be very bad, very bad."

I'd been searching for quite some time for the perfect term to describe the relationship between #45 and his loyal base and found it when a friend offered one that she had found in a glossary of counterterrorism terms: "Stochastic Terrorism," which is "the use of mass communications to incite lone wolves to carry out unpredictable violent acts." The glossary explains that this form of terrorism is practiced by a "Stochastic Terrorist," "someone who is certain that their inflammatory rhetoric will stir up violence but does not know exactly what will happen or who will do it, or where or when."

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:
It's a sign of the times—very bad, very bad—that this term seems so useful.

The Editor

====

End Repayment Program #5379

Dear Editor:

Six years ago (June 19, 2013 to be exact), Paul Singer, a reporter for *USA Today*, revealed the "Student Loan Repayment Program #5379." Unknown to most Americans until that date (and forgotten by most Americans now) this program is available to federal agencies and the U.S. Congress. It was established in 1990 under the George H.W. Bush administration. It lay dormant for about a decade and was not implemented until 2000 when first employed by federal agencies. The U.S. Senate started using it in 2002 and the House in 2003 and its been a carefully guarded government entitlement ever since.

[*"The ... program permits agencies to repay Federally insured student loans as*

a recruitment or retention incentive for candidates or current employees of the agency. [It] implements 5 U.S.C. 5379, which authorizes agencies to set up their own student loan repayment programs to attract or retain highly qualified employees."—U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM).]

Taking the bull by the horns I spent the better part of July 2013 calling the Washington offices of all 100 U.S. Senators (except one office of a Senator who had died). A few allowed no option except voice mail but of the approximately 95 staff persons I spoke with, 18 said, "Yes," their senator does use the program (nine Democrats—nine Republicans) and six said, "No," (three and three). That answered two questions, the program exists and it's undeniably used by both parties equally.

Neither of North Carolina's two Senators (where I presently reside) would speak with me about this issue. I don't blame them for being embarrassed; the staff of the majority of North Carolina's U.S. House delegation plus the majority of the senatorial and house staffs of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont wouldn't respond to my questions about the program either.

The student loan debt at that time was increasing rapidly and was (in 2013) approaching a trillion dollars. Today (published in *In These Times*, April 2019) the total student loan debt, held by 45 million Americans, stands at \$1,570,000,000,000.00. Yup, that's \$1.5 trillion. The average student loan debt in 2016 was \$37,000, up from \$20,000 in 2005; the average monthly payment in 2016 was \$393, up from \$227 in 2005. We all read about these rising figures frequently.

My Friend Bernie Sanders over in your neighboring state of Vermont

frequently laments the rising college costs and rails against the student debt. But on the repayment program his staff enjoys he's silent as a church mouse. I spoke with his staff at 3:46 p.m. on July 11, 2013 and that person kept dancing around the issue, stating over and over, "it's a Senate-wide program." I cannot tell you to this day whether his staff uses it or not.

Interestingly enough, after calling all those Senatorial and House offices, I called *USA Today* reporter, Paul Singer, and told him of my discoveries. Singer asked me if I'd be willing to write an op-ed piece for *USA Today* and of course I said, yes, how soon do you want it? He said, "12 hours." I had it written (750 words), typed, and in his office in three hours. Singer called me back the next day and said, "I'm sorry, Mr. Snell, *USA Today* will not be printing your piece." To my knowledge, *USA Today* has never mentioned Program 5379 since June of 2013.

This government perk (like so many others) is an insulting, shameless, offensive act knowingly perpetrated on every American citizen and taxpayer. The men and women we think we are electing to represent our common interests and mutual welfare act primarily to serve and advance themselves and their own ambitions.

You should be outraged that during a time of continuing deficits, a burgeoning national debt and the trillion and a half dollars your children and grandchildren owe for their education, that our so-called "representatives" continue the unconscionable funding of this program.

David L. Snell
Franklin, NC

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Barr is Just Another Word for Obstruction

To the Editor:

We on the Portland [Oregon] Peace Team were invited out the other day to provide some nonviolent public safety for the local demonstration of perhaps

250 people calling for the unredacted release of the Mueller Report to Congress and to the American people. There were dozens such demonstrations across the U.S., some larger, some smaller.

Of course there were a couple pro-Trump counter-demonstrators, one of whom was a fairly gnarly bruiser who began yelling, interfering with everyone else's right to hold a peaceful demonstration and actually listen to the scheduled speakers.

This is when the Peace Team will approach the disruptor and offer to listen but a few feet away to avoid the competing speaking. No dice. The fellow ranted on and on about how the demonstrators were sore losers and couldn't accept the fact that Trump had been cleared. I offered no argument—that is not our role on the Peace Team. We try to de-escalate and arguments often escalate. Our role became to calm people from the peaceful demonstration who were getting understandably annoyed with the loudmouth. We did so successfully, avoiding violence for the day.

Still, it was stunning to watch this fellow look at the signage, all of which simply called for the release of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report. No one was making any big claims other than the perfectly legitimate insistence that the report should be available, not the tiny interpretation summary put out by the Attorney General, a man handpicked, apparently, by Trump to cover up the actual report. Cover-up? Well, if it waddles like a cover-up, if it quacks like a cover-up, then without the release of the report it surely is logical to call it a cover-up.

William Barr wrote an unsolicited legal memo criticizing the Mueller investigation long before it concluded. This was in effect his application for Attorney General of the United States and Trump duly nominated him and the Republican-controlled Senate duly installed him. He is doing now precisely what the grotesquely corrupt Trump regime intended, a serious red line for anyone interested in preserving the democracy Trump has been unable to destroy so far in his many machi-

nations.

What did Mueller find? We do not know. Congress does not know. Certainly the pro-Trump Senators and Congress members who are blustering about the Democrats' calls for transparency being mere partisan politics do not know. Trump doesn't know, despite his braying claims to the contrary.

It is obvious that the Trumpeters simply lack basic reasoning skills when they yell that Trump is completely and totally exonerated (Trump tweets made this false claim as soon as Barr put out his dissembling four-pager that actually did not exonerate Trump. At all.) Let's see the report. Let Congress have it completely unredacted and let them have all the evidence Mueller gathered.

Russia gave the 2016 election to Trump. Thanks Julian Assange and Wikileaks. Thanks Russian intelligence hackers and trolls. Thanks, credulous Trump supporters. Was there collusion between the Russians and the Trump campaign? There were certainly a number of meetings between Trump campaign officials and Russians (more than 100 actually, most of them before the 2016 election), both in and out of government—though the nongovernmental Russians were oligarchs with close ties to Vladimir Putin, so one seems to quite naturally shade into the other. The circumstantial evidence seems overwhelming.

But we have a Barr to our ability to learn for ourselves and we will see if the American people are interested enough in democracy to remove that Barr, that obstruction.

Tom H. Hastings
Portland, Ore.

Hastings is Director of *peacevoice.info*

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Nuke War Worse than Climate Change

To the Editor:

When it comes to threats to our environment, the consequences of increased greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change has received most of our attention. However, many

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"Remember that all through history, there have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they seem invincible. But in the end, they always fall. Always."
Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

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What do we choose to remember with memorial markers, buildings and community projects?

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"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."
John Muir (1838 - 1914) Scottish-American geologist, botanist, and author, founder of the Sierra Club
john@wordpraxis.com

Sometimes Old is Good
The Fechheimer Building, one of the finest examples of a cast-iron facade in Portland, Oregon, was built in 1885. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it was restored in 1981 by Russell Fellows Properties, the principals of which enjoy a subscription to this newspaper.

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Panderathon 2020

by William Marvel

With vocations that yield rewards more personal than pecuniary, my wife and I are too busy trying to keep pace with inflation and increasingly burdensome property taxes to pay much attention to presidential politics. No Republicans are running, and the innumerable Democrats seem utterly unimaginative.

Since 2016, Democrats have been unable to distinguish themselves except as determined opponents of Donald Trump, whatever the cost to national interests. By virtually inviting illegal immigration and opposing border control, they have carried their opposition to the brink of sedition. Flagrant pandering to potential new voting blocs—these future “dreamers,” for example—has dominated Democratic planning for years now, and it permeates the campaign.

Lowering the voting age again marks the latest gambit for another easily manipulated constituency. Here, too, party ambition overcomes public

interest, as those too immature to drink or smoke are enlisted to decide national issues while they still think everything is free. The partisan trajectory of this topic dictates that some Democratic hopeful will propose it.

The first campaign idea this year involved reparations for slavery. To Democrats, taking money from people who never owned slaves and giving it to people who never endured slavery might seem logical. On the campaign trail, five generations after the end of slavery, it's nothing but bribery.

Andrew Yang, whom I never heard of before, endorses a \$12,000-a-year stipend just for being an American citizen. He seemed to be the worst of the panders, and so discouraged had they all left me that I decided to go register my disapprobation when he came within my orbit.

Yang surprised me. He lacked the bluster of the Democratic herd, and would pass the tone-of-voice test by which my wife dismisses almost all politicians. Refreshingly, he rejected the usual array of self-defensive

Democratic excuses for Trump's election.

In a conversational manner he persuasively predicted that automation will inexorably ravage the job market. The beneficiaries of that revolution are paying nothing in taxes, so he proposes a 10-percent value-added tax to pay for the \$1.3 trillion cost he calculates for his \$12,000 “Freedom Dividend.” That instantly reduces the value of the stipend to \$10,800, unless most of it goes for something like property taxes—which isn't unthinkable, in Conway. In fact, our school board might covet that influx of cash as an incentive to spend even more. The greatest contributors to the VAT, meanwhile, would be the corporations involved in importing, manufacturing, selling, and delivering all the taxed goods.

Instead of revealing my impatience with Democrats who indulge their constituents on other people's money, I took Yang's book home. On the subject of universal basic income, he had a valid answer for every question and criticism I raised

except, perhaps, the inflationary impact of that government handout. He claims inflation has been low in recent years, but clearly he hasn't been shopping at my grocery store.

Unlike many recent Democratic proposals, Yang's basic stipend would exert a unifying effect by offering a benefit to every adult American citizen, regardless of race or gender or income. It may well “give all citizens an honest stake in society,” as he anticipates.

He also expects it to “stimulate” the consumer economy, and I'm afraid he's right about that, too. Consumerism is the key component in the tidal wave of refuse under which our planet is suffocating. Yang expresses the usual hope of addressing climate change, but his ambition to reverse the diminishing American life span may counteract any efforts in that arena. The fewer the people, the lower the emissions.

Frankly, though, I was surprised at how much thought lay behind Yang's pitch. He puts to shame the platforms of those professional politicians who seem to think they have

a divine right to a turn as president. It was nice to hear a candidate finally delivering his own ideas, instead of regurgitating someone else's.

Admittedly, there's a lot of the Santa Claus Democrat about him. He, too, supports Medicare for all, and free or nearly-free tuition at least at community colleges. He favors paid family leave and free early-childhood education. Like all Democrats, he specifically pushes better pay for teachers, as though those unionized hordes were more deserving than the rest of us. Any one or two of those benefits would seem to be all the market could bear.

I didn't care for his suggestion of forgiving student debt, either. I know too many deadbeats who never expected to have to pay it back, and didn't really intend to. Plenty of others simply wasted the investment by never putting their degrees to work. I don't want to pay for their bad decisions, especially when that extra \$12,000 catapults me into a higher tax bracket. They can spend their own stipends on that; it shouldn't be subject to the VAT.

from page five

of us still clearly remember the Cold War between the superpowers and living under the constant threat of a nuclear war. That real threat still exists today.

Both the U.S. and Russia have over a thousand nuclear-armed missiles on hair-trigger alert threatening population centers of our planet with consequences that are both more rapid and longer-lasting than the challenges posed by climate change. A nuclear war may not be intentional, but could be triggered by unexpected accidents or misinterpretations, occurrences that have happened in the past but were luckily defused before situations got out of hand. While both of these na-

tions have abundant conventional weapons to protect their respective countries, nuclear weapons represent to them objects of respect and fear. In fact, as recently as last year, verbal exchanges between Russia and the U.S. have heated up with both sides threatening to upgrade and increase their nuclear arsenals.

Money for such efforts would be unnecessary and a huge waste of taxpayer money and could be put to better use improving the lives of the residents of their countries, e.g. addressing our global climate change challenges.

I would like to congratulate the

Portsmouth City Council for their support of a recent resolution to ask the U.S. government to renounce the “First-Use” of nuclear weapons, increase safety measures surrounding our current nuclear weapons, and cancel all nuclear weapons upgrades which would cost taxpayers approximately \$2.7 trillion without increasing our security or providing more protection.

Such a resolution is also in line with the membership of the Portsmouth Mayor in the international organization “Mayors for Peace.”

Peter Somssich, State Represent-

tative / District 27
34 Swett Ave.
Portsmouth, N.H. 03801
Tel. 436-5221

—==—

A Noble and Courageous Proposal

Dear *New Hampshire Gazette*:

I have a noble and courageous proposal for you, and since you are very noble and courageous reporters, I am confident that this letter will not be wasted on closed minds.

The individual pay raises of each and every elected official, from the lowly local officials on up to and including both houses of Congress, President and Vice President,

should be voted on by the voters. They should not have to vote on the amount of the raise, only which elected representatives should or should not receive one. Furthermore, to avoid adding even more stress to the highly stressed-out voters during the general elections, the question of pay raises should appear on the ballot halfway into their terms, *i.e.* a year into a one-year term, two years into a four-year term, &c.

The idea that someone, especially a public servant, is allowed to and expected to decide his or her pay raises without question is wrong. It is wrong because it makes the statement that they work for themselves and not for the people who elected them into office and that they feel as though they should not be financial-



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Free the free press from Wall Street plunderers

by Jim Hightower

The core idea of the “civic commons” is that we can be a self-governing people. A noble aspiration!

But achieving it requires a basic level of community-wide communication—a reliable resource that digs out truths so people know enough about what’s going on to be self-governing. This is the role long-

played by newspapers—papers that are not merely in our communities, but of, by, and for them.

Of course, since they’re mostly establishment, profit-seeking entities, papers have commonly (and often infamously) fallen far short of their noble democratic purpose. Overall, though, a town’s daily makes for a more robust civic life by investing large and essential sums of journalistic resources in truth-telling.

However, who owns it matters, as some 1,500 of our towns have learned in recent years after Wall Street’s corporate demigods of greed have swept in without warning to seize their paper, gut its journalistic mission, and devour its assets. For example, Digital First Media, a huge private-equity profiteer, snatched the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and, demanding a ridiculous 25 percent profit margin from its purchase,

stripped the newsroom staff from a high of 225 journalists to 25!

Robert Kuttner reported last December in *The American Prospect* that these tyrannical private equity firms are just paper constructs, producing nothing but profits for absentee speculators. The firms pull off their heist by exploiting three loopholes: (1) an exemption from disclosing their financing; (2) an unlimited tax deduction for the money they bor-

row to take over newspapers; and (3) a perversion of bankruptcy law that lets them escape the debt they rack up.

Our right to a free press is meaningless if Wall Street thieves can destroy our presses. For more information, go to dfmworkers.org.

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from page six

ly beholden to the voters (their bosses) beyond the campaign season.

What is right is for those who hired/voted them into office be allowed to decide if the person should be awarded a larger (lifetime) salary for exceptional public service performed during the term in question on the ballot. Allowing the voters to determine which of their elected officials should or should not be awarded a pay raise would provide them a tool by which to put on notice those who are either just meeting expectations or failing to meet expectations. If they continue not to improve their job performance, they can and should expect to be voted out in the following election.

I wish that I could include members of the U.S. Supreme Court as well as the Cabinet Members in this idea but as of the typing of this letter they are not elected to their offices, a topic that is best reserved for another discussion. However if this idea and the idea of electing every member of the U.S. Supreme Court (with term limits) and/or the members of the Cabinet were to happen, they they too should be included in this idea.

Jennifer M. Montgomery
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Seniors Fail to Protect Own Interests To the Editor:

Senior citizens make up a huge voting block. Their votes determine elections. So we may ask “How well are their interests served by those whom they elect?”

Considering the meager social security cost of living raises there have been, including some years when

there was no raise at all, they have not been doing very well.

Hey young people do you really want a bunch of gullible old folks who cannot even get a fair raise on their Social Security incomes deciding who runs the world you live in?

Thomas Laperriere
Milton, N.H.

Refusing to Label Keeps Us Out of War By Patrick T. Hiller

A “Twitter-stamp” by Secretary of State Pompeo made it official. Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is now designated as a foreign terrorist organization. “We must help the people of Iran get back their freedom” is a diplomatic tweet of an alternative reality. ISIS, Boko Haram, and Iran, all in one place.

This move is not a measured foreign policy decision that should be up for debate between more diplomacy-minded versus more hawkish policy-makers. This move is a step toward war that should be condemned by all sides. Whether we like it or not, the IRGC is much more than a branch of the Iranian armed forces. It has also been a part of the Iranian governmental, industrial, economic, and social system ever since the 1979 Iranian Revolution with now potentially 11 million affiliated people.

Fact: Labeling the IRGC as a terrorist organization is dangerous and leads us on a path to war.

When we allow the IRGC to be viewed as a terrorist organization, we allow for the commonly known

steps of dealing with terrorists to follow: Terrorists are not within our scope of morality. We don’t negotiate with them, we fight them, we destroy them until there aren’t any left. And since 9/11, the U.S. has been in an endless global war on terror (with changing names), fought by the U.S. military on foreign soils.

Seriously and it bears grim repetition: the terrorist designation of the IRGC is a long step toward war with Iran.

By refusing to label Iran’s Revolutionary Guard as a terror organization we are refusing to create an enemy image of Iranians as a whole. Holly Dages, editor of the Atlantic Council’s *IranSource* blog, stated on the “BBC Newshour” that designating the IRGC as a terrorist organization is problematic because of the complexity of an entity with which 11 million out of 80 million people in Iran are to some extent affiliated with. Making general claims about an entity and its affiliates as a terror organization suggests that we are threatened by “the other” and allows us to easier legitimize violence against “them.” That’s the nature of dehumanization and it is one of the most common forms of propaganda before and during warfare. Combining this psychology with the politics of a global war on terror is worse than unnecessary; it is a classic lose-lose slip that will cost us all.

Targeting the Revolutionary Guard is nothing new. In October 2017, the U.S. Treasury already sanctioned the IRGC under terror-

ism authority and as Barbara Slavin, director of the Atlantic Council’s Future of Iran Initiative notes, this new designation as a terror organization is gratuitous and provocative. We are in an extremely dangerous moment of the U.S.-Iran conflict. Trump’s unwarranted pulling out of the Iran Nuclear Deal and the additional sanctions already increased the tensions. This step is yet another escalation moving us closer to a war that the U.S. should not risk and that has no upside.

Critics rightfully point to the role the IRGC’s reprehensible actions at home and abroad. They are indeed involved in human rights abuses against their own people as well as supporting violent conflict abroad. Designating them as a terror organization, however, plays into their hands.

I’ve been to Iran. One thing that the highly educated Iranian people know for sure is that Donald Trump, Mike Pompeo, and John Bolton don’t care about their freedom or suffering. Instead, this designation will more likely lead Iranians to rally around the flag against the American government which once again has shown it cannot be trusted. As Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif told our delegation, Iran’s biggest crime in relation to the U.S. was its decision to be independent.

It is not necessary to get fully caught up in the highly complex conflicts of the Middle East and the U.S. role in those to advocate for a different approach with Iran. For now, one thing we can do prevent

another war is to push back against the creation of enemy images for propaganda purposes. Iranian people have every right to determine their own path. The Revolutionary Guard, for better or for worse is part of it. Iranians have national pride that goes beyond the religious regime.

Iranians generally hold complex views, unhelped by the U.S. government telling them what to believe. Michael Axworthy, author of *Revolutionary Iran*, tells us that Iranians still regard the IRGC as heroes of the Iran-Iraq war and guarantors of independence, but also as repressive and corrupt. Iranians are highly educated, proud, warm, and welcoming people who are very aware of their own government’s often bad behavior. The last thing they want is the help of the U.S. to “get back their freedom.” I know, because I just returned from Iran where I was part of a citizen peace delegation.

The actions by the Trump administration are arguably an attack on Iran’s sovereignty and independence as a nation and will be seen that way. Iranians know their history and the role of outsiders in trying to determine their path for them. The best thing Americans can do for the freedoms of Iranian people is to prevent Trump, Pompeo and Bolton from their ham-handed meddling. The latter comes with war, and I have 80 million reasons there, and 328 million reasons here, not to go to war with the Iranian people.

Patrick T. Hiller, Ph.D., syndicated by *PeaceVoice*, served on the *Governing Council of the International Peace Research Association (2012-2016)* and is *Director of the War Prevention Initiative of the Jubitz Family Foundation*.



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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

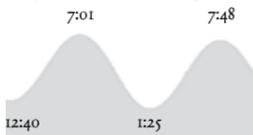
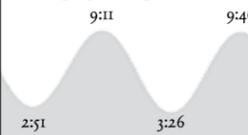
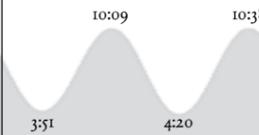
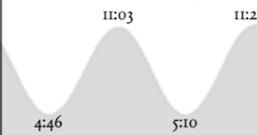
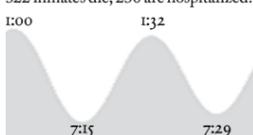
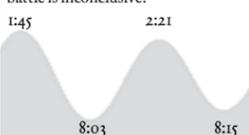
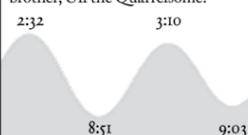
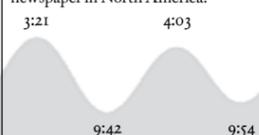
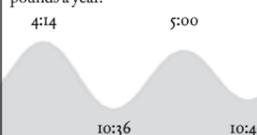
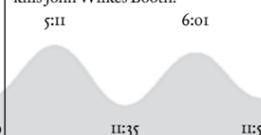
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, APRIL 14	MONDAY, APRIL 15	TUESDAY, APRIL 16	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17	THURSDAY, APRIL 18	FRIDAY, APRIL 19	SATURDAY, APRIL 20
<p>2006—Six retired generals sign an Op-Ed calling on Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to resign.</p> <p>2004—Attorney General John Ashcroft blames Bill Clinton for terrorist attacks that took place seven months after Clinton left office.</p> <p>1999—Dan Quayle throws his pro-panther beanie into the ring.</p> <p>1994—Over Iraq, U.S. fighter jets shoot down two U.S. helicopters.</p> <p>1988—An Iranian mine nearly sinks the missile frigate <i>U.S.S. Roberts</i>.</p> <p>1975—Bunker Hill Mining Company in Idaho says all female workers at its smelter must be sterilized.</p> <p>1945—Misuse of a new high-pressure head floods the <i>U-1206</i> on its first patrol. Commander K.A. Schlitt scuttles the boat; four crewmen die, the rest are captured.</p> <p>1939—John Steinbeck's <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> is published.</p> <p>1935—A windstorm carries away vast amounts of Great Plains topsoil.</p> <p>1910—Taft becomes first President to throw out the first ball.</p> <p>1865—J.W. Booth shoots A. Lincoln.</p> <p>1861—As cannons salute the lowering flag at Fort Sumter, one explodes. Private Daniel Hough becomes the first casualty of the Civil War.</p> <p>1860—First Pony Express rider arrives in San Francisco.</p> <p>1772—In South Weare, N.H. the County Sheriff tries to collect fines from sawmill owners for stealing the King's trees. They beat him up.</p>	<p>2015—Retired postal worker Doug Hughes lands a gyrocopter on the White House lawn with 535 letters to Congress: overturn <i>Citizens United</i>.</p> <p>2015—In Zimbabwe, big-game hunter and Texan Ian Gibson is crushed to death by an elephant.</p> <p>2013—Two bombs explode near the finish line of the Boston Marathon.</p> <p>2003—George W.[MD] Bush installs Gen. Jay Garner to administer Iraq "until an Iraqi government can be formed." He lasts less than a month.</p> <p>1994—Dick "Dick" Cheney tells C-SPAN G.H.[H.J.W. Bush didn't topple Saddam because that would have created a "quagmire" in Iraq.</p> <p>1992—Leona Helmsley takes up residence at a federally-owned Crowbar Hilton in Lexington, Ky.</p> <p>1987—The <i>Washington Post</i> reveals that, though Nancy had the sign changed to 668, the official number of the Reagans' Bel Air mansion is 666.</p> <p>1974—Press baron Wm. R. Hearst's gun-totin' granddaughter Patty helps the Symbionese Liberation Army rob a San Francisco bank.</p> <p>1970—Rep. Gerald Ford calls for the impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.</p> <p>1967—In N.Y.C. and San Francisco, hundreds of thousands, including vets, march against the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1961—The CIA's ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion begins as three flights of falsely-marked American B-26s bomb and strafe Cuban airfields.</p>	<p>1992—The House Ethics Committee—no laughing, please—releases the names of 303 check-kiting Reps.</p> <p>1992—Afghanistan's President Najibullah, a Commie, resigns, making way for a more enlightened government.</p> <p>1969—Billy Graham advises Richard Nixon to bomb North Vietnam's dikes—estimated casualties: 1 million.</p> <p>1963—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., writes "Letter From Birmingham Jail," defending the civil rights movement.</p> <p>1954—"There is no reason why French forces should not remain in Indo-China and win," says Richard Nixon, three weeks before the Viet Minh overrun Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p>1953—Ike says militarism hangs humanity "from a cross of iron."</p> <p>1951—Shigeaki Tanaka, Hiroshima survivor, wins the Boston Marathon.</p> <p>1951—Use nuke waste to create an "Atomic Death Belt" across Korea, says Rep. Albert Gore [D-Tenn.].</p> <p>1947—In Texas City, Texas, a load of fertilizer aboard the French vessel <i>SS Grandcamp</i> explodes, killing 581 in a 3-kiloton explosion.</p> <p>1848—In Washington, D.C., 77 blacks board the <i>Pearl</i> to flee north. Ill winds and a betrayal foil the largest escape attempt in U.S. history. Opponents of abolition celebrate by rioting.</p> <p>1788—A medical student imprudently waves a detached human arm out the window of a medical school, sparking a riot in New York City; at least six people end up dead.</p>	<p>2013—A fertilizer plant located next to a middle school in West, Texas, uninspected since 1985, blows up. Fifteen are killed, mostly volunteer firemen, 250 others are injured.</p> <p>2002—G.W.[MD] Bush flip-flops again, vowing to rebuild Afghanistan.</p> <p>1986—Peace is declared between the Netherlands and the Isles of Scilly, ending a bloodless 335-year war.</p> <p>1981—The Supreme Court rules a law banning religious use of peyote is just fine. What First Amendment?</p> <p>1970—<i>Apollo 13</i> makes it home.</p> <p>1967—"The defeat of the Communists forces in South Vietnam is inevitable," says ex-Vep Richard Nixon. "The only question is, how soon?"</p> <p>1966—Timothy Leary is busted for pot possession by G. Gordon Liddy.</p> <p>1965—In New York City, 25,000 march against the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1961—The CIA escorts 1,511 Cuban exiles to the Bay of Pigs for slaughter.</p> <p>1959—In Times Square, 22 weirdos are arrested for declining to participate in an air-raid drill.</p> <p>1954—Affable old Ike threatens to nuke Red China.</p> <p>1935—Sun Myung Moon has a revelation: Jesus Christ asks him to complete His mission.</p> <p>1905—The Supreme Court says New York has no right to limit how many hours bakers must work in a week.</p> <p>1850—In the U.S. Senate, Henry S. Foote (D-Miss.) pulls a pistol on Thomas Hart Benton (D-Mo.).</p>	<p>2002—Four Canadian soldiers are KIA and eight are WIA after a U.S. F-16 pilot on "go pills" drops a 500-pounder on Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry regiment.</p> <p>1986—"When you meet the President," says Henry Kissinger, "you ask yourself, 'How did it ever occur to anybody that he should be Governor, much less President?'"</p> <p>1977—The federal frame-up of Leonard Peltier succeeds.</p> <p>1974—As Professor Irwin Corey accepts Thomas Pynchon's National Book Award for <i>Gravity's Rainbow</i>, a streaker runs across the stage.</p> <p>1968—The Army admits nerve gas from Dugway Proving Grounds killed 6,400 Idaho sheep.</p> <p>1942—Eighty men in 16 B-25s, led by Jimmy Doolittle, take off from the <i>U.S.S. Hornet</i>, bomb Tokyo, and ditch their planes in China; 90 percent survive.</p> <p>1930—The BBC newscast reports "there is no news," then plays music.</p> <p>1906—An earthquake and fire destroy much of San Francisco, killing 500 to 700 people.</p> <p>1891—A fast mail train and the Toledo Express collide in Kipton, Ohio. Eight people die because of a four-minute watch error.</p> <p>1844—Believers in William Miller's Doomsday prediction are disappointed—for the second time.</p> <p>1689—A mob of Bostonians overthrow Sir Edmund Andros, Governor of the Dominion of New England.</p>	<p>2004—A government spokesman reveals that NORAD had run a training exercise based on a hijacked airliner crashing into a building.</p> <p>1995—A Right Wing "militiaman" murders 168 souls in Oklahoma City.</p> <p>1993—For the good of the children, who end up among the 80 dead, the FBI attacks David Koresh's compound at Waco, Texas.</p> <p>1989—The <i>U.S.S. Iowa's</i> Gun Turret Two explodes, killing 47. After trying to blame an innocent sailor rather than ancient powder, malfunctioning equipment, or unauthorized experiments, the Navy says it can't say why.</p> <p>1971—Officials at Arlington National Cemetery turn away Gold Star Mothers and Vietnam veterans.</p> <p>1951—General Douglas "Dugout Doug" MacArthur tells Congress, "Old soldiers never die." Left unspoken is the obvious corollary, "that's what the young ones are for."</p> <p>1948—Costa Rica disbands its army.</p> <p>1939—After some study, Connecticut OKs the Bill of Rights.</p> <p>1861—The Union Army loses its first soldiers to hostile action; four are stoned to death by a Baltimore mob.</p> <p>1775—Minutemen and British soldiers battle in Lexington and Concord. The first published report comes two days later in the <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i>. Its probable author is eyewitness Isaiah Thomas, a former apprentice of Zachariah Fowle, Daniel Fowle's peculiar brother.</p>	<p>2010—<i>Deepwater Horizon</i> explodes and burns; 11 die and the world's largest oil spill ensues. Wrists are slapped.</p> <p>2008—The <i>New York Times</i> reveals that many "independent military analysts" appearing on TV are really Pentagon puppets.</p> <p>2001—The Peruvian Air Force, with some help from CIA "contract workers," fires on a plane they think is full of dope. Nope. It's full of proselytizing American Baptists. Two die.</p> <p>1989—A Robinson R22 crashes into a Stockton, Calif., building at 5:00 a.m. The pilot (blood alcohol 0.17 pct., enhanced with a little cocaine) and his passenger die in the flames.</p> <p>1979—While canoeing near Plains, Ga., Pres. Jimmy Carter successfully defends himself from a deranged swamp rabbit.</p> <p>1973—The U.S. Supreme Court says New Hampshireites can cover up "Live Free or Die" on their license plates.</p> <p>1971—Mistaking the National Mall for their lawn, Supreme Court Justices tell Vietnam Veterans Against the War to get off it.</p> <p>1971—Maryland building contractor Lester Matz pays a \$2,500 bribe to Vice President and freelance media critic Spiro "Ted" Agnew.</p> <p>1914—Miners striking in Ludlow, Colo. are machine gunned by National Guardsmen employed by John D. Rockefeller; later their tent camp is burned. At least 19 die, including 11 children burned to death.</p>
<p>7:01 7:48</p>  <p>12:40 1:25</p>	<p>8:08 8:50</p>  <p>1:47 2:28</p>	<p>9:11 9:46</p>  <p>2:51 3:26</p>	<p>10:09 10:38</p>  <p>3:51 4:20</p>	<p>11:03 11:27</p>  <p>4:46 5:10</p>	<p>11:55</p>  <p>5:37 5:57</p>	<p>12:14 12:44</p>  <p>6:27 6:43</p>
SUNDAY, APRIL 21	MONDAY, APRIL 22	TUESDAY, APRIL 23	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24	THURSDAY, APRIL 25	FRIDAY, APRIL 26	SATURDAY, APRIL 27
<p>1999—To honor those killed at Columbine the day before, NRA president Charlton Heston says the gun lobby will cut short its Denver convention by one day.</p> <p>1992—At about 3:00 a.m., Robert Alton Harris is strapped into San Quentin's gas chamber. Twelve minutes later amid legal wrangling, he's taken back out. At 6:00 a.m., he's put back in and successfully gassed.</p> <p>1989—Chinese students demonstrate in Tiananmen Square.</p> <p>1986—On live TV, Geraldo Rivera opens Al Capone's vault, containing naught save his own credentials.</p> <p>1980—<i>Newsweek</i> quotes R. Reagan inaccurately saying that Vietnam vets aren't eligible for the GI Bill because their war wasn't declared.</p> <p>1975—After ten years of misrule Nguyen Van Thieu, last president of South Vietnam, throws in the towel and bugs out of Saigon.</p> <p>1972—In El Paso, Texas, former commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam General William Westmoreland is pelted with tomatoes.</p> <p>1971—In Washington, D.C., Vietnam Veterans Against the War defy the Supreme Court by staying on the National Mall. Park police decline to arrest. Tomorrow's headline: "Vets Overrule Supreme Court."</p> <p>1930—National Guardsmen with machine guns and bayonets prevent escape as the Ohio State Pen burns; 322 inmates die, 230 are hospitalized.</p>	<p>2004—U.S. Army Spec. and ex-NFL star Pat Tillman is shot by his own side in Afghanistan; a cover-up ensues.</p> <p>2002—Dick "Dick" Cheney, fundraising in Florida, says "The Taliban is out of business permanently."</p> <p>1992—A Robinson R22 helicopter falls 400 feet and lands on a multi-family home in Atlanta. The pilot says he lost control due to a gust of wind. His passenger dies.</p> <p>1987—Just because the death penalty is being applied in a racial biased manner, the Supreme Court rules in <i>McCleskey vs. Kemp</i>, that's no reason for states to stop killing black convicts.</p> <p>1983—The first two jolts from Alabama's electric chair set John Louis Evans on fire. It takes a third to stop his heart from beating, though.</p> <p>1971—Capitol police arrest 110 Vietnam veterans for serenading the Supreme Court with <i>God Bless America</i>.</p> <p>1963—South Vietnam is "steadily moving toward a constitutional system resting upon popular consent," says Secretary of State Dean Rusk.</p> <p>1952—America's TV audience gets its first broadcast nuke blast.</p> <p>1922—Henry Pitcairn lands an Autogiro on the White House lawn.</p> <p>1915—The German 4th Army attacks French Territorial soldiers with chlorine gas as the 2nd Battle of Ypres begins; four future Nobel winners supervise the gas release. Despite 117,000 casualties, the month-long battle is inconclusive.</p>	<p>2017—Proud papa Dennis Dickey, a U.S. Border Patrol agent in Arizona, reveals the gender of his pending progeny by firing a gun at an explosive target surrounded by dry grass. The resultant fire burns 70 square miles.</p> <p>1993—RIP Cesar Chavez.</p> <p>1971—National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, on the phone with Allen Ginsberg, agrees to a personal meeting, but draws the line at doing so naked on television.</p> <p>1971—In D.C., Vietnam Veterans Against the War return their medals to Congress by heaving them over a fence in front of the Capitol, as Operation Dewey Canyon III concludes.</p> <p>1968—Anti-war students, including 'Nam vets, occupy Columbia.</p> <p>1956—The USSR announces it's got an H-bomb.</p> <p>1952—"Do you know who's being discriminated against?" asks Rep. John E. Rankin [D-Miss.]. "The white Christian people of America, the ones who created this nation."</p> <p>1860—Birth of Charles H. Kerr, founder of a radical publishing cooperative that's still in business.</p> <p>1734—The King's Surveyor General visits Exeter, N.H. with a team of men, looking for misappropriated timber. Locals beat them mercilessly.</p> <p>1014—The Irish under High King Brian Boru defeat the Vikings at Clontarf. Boru is slain by Brodir, who in turn is disembowelled by Brian's brother, Ulf the Quarrelsome.</p>	<p>1980—In Operation Eagle Claw, eight Americans die and five are wounded trying to get American hostages out of Teheran.</p> <p>1967—"The military situation [in South Vietnam] is favorable," says Gen. Wm. C. Westmoreland, but protests at home might lose the war.</p> <p>1967—Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov dies when <i>Soyuz 1's</i> crashes, after its chutes fail. Misfiring retro-rockets incinerate his remains.</p> <p>1959—Michigan native Capt. John S. Lappo, piloting a six-engine RB-47, flies under the Mackinac Bridge at 425 mph; clearance: 155 feet.</p> <p>1953—A B-29 test flight—F-84s are bolted to each wingtip—goes awry over Long Island Sound. The B-29 and one F-84 crash with no survivors.</p> <p>1943—The <i>El Estero</i>, loaded with high explosives, catches fire in New York Harbor. Coast Guardsmen board the ship to put out the fire.</p> <p>1916—The Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood proclaim the Irish Republic, and the Easter Rising begins.</p> <p>1877—Federal troops leave Louisiana; Reconstruction's over—good luck, all you black folks.</p> <p>1778—<i>Ranger</i>, under John Paul Jones, captures <i>HMS Drake</i>—the first U.S. naval victory over a British ship in British waters.</p> <p>1704—John Campbell begins <i>The Boston News-Letter</i>, first successful newspaper in North America.</p>	<p>2005—Charles Duelfer, the CIA's man in charge of finding WMDs in Iraq, says there are none.</p> <p>2003—Secretary of the Army Thomas White gets fired for saying we need more troops in Iraq.</p> <p>2002—At his Texas "ranch," George W.[MD] Bush plays kissy-face with Saudi Prince Abdullah.</p> <p>1984—Asked if he's ever been to a communist country, James A. Baker III replies, "Well, I've been to Massachusetts."</p> <p>1964—The "Little Mermaid" in Copenhagen harbor is decapitated.</p> <p>1962—Test-ban negotiations having failed, the U.S. says it will resume atmospheric nuclear tests.</p> <p>1959—A mob, assisted by a deputy sheriff, drags Mack Charles Parker, accused of raping a white woman, out of the Pearl River County Courthouse in Mississippi and lynches him.</p> <p>1944—RIP George Herriman.</p> <p>1915—Australian and New Zealand troops under British command attack Turks at Gallipoli. They die in droves.</p> <p>1898—The U.S. obliges W.R. Hearst by declaring war on Spain.</p> <p>1847—The remnants of the Donner Party make it out of the wilderness.</p> <p>1846—Obliging Mexican troops attack a U.S. "scouting party"; Congress has an excuse to declare war.</p> <p>1523—Henry VIII of England forbids private ownership of guns by anyone with an income of less than 100 pounds a year.</p>	<p>2000—As an instructor and a student discuss who's in control, a Robinson R22 rolls over and crashes. Only the student survives the ensuing inferno.</p> <p>1986—A meltdown at Chernobyl lowers Ukrainian real estate values, contaminates much of the northern hemisphere to some degree, and condemns thousands to death.</p> <p>1953—Radioactive rain falls on Troy and Albany, N.Y.</p> <p>1952—The captain of the <i>U.S.S. Hobson</i>, disregarding an underling's advice, takes his destroyer across the bow of the <i>U.S.S. Wasp</i>. Cut in half, the <i>Hobson</i> sinks with more than half its crew, captain included.</p> <p>1946—Edna Rose Ritchings, 21, a Caucasian-Canadian, marries Father Divine, 65, an African-American religious figure.</p> <p>1944—The U.S. takes over Montgomery-Ward after it defies the National Labor Relations Board.</p> <p>1937—German and Italian planes destroy Guernica, Spain.</p> <p>1931—Lou Gehrig hits a home run but is called out for passing another runner on the basepath.</p> <p>1901—"I'll be in Hell before you start breakfast!" says train-robber Tom "Black Jack" Ketchum, whose head flies off after the hangman drops him.</p> <p>1865—Boston Corbett, a hater-turned-cavalryman who had earlier castrated himself with scissors to better resist prostitutes, shoots and kills John Wilkes Booth.</p>	<p>2017—"This is more work than my previous life," says President Donald Trump. "I thought it would be easier."</p> <p>2016—Calling Sen. Ted Cruz "Lucifer in the flesh," former Speaker John Boehner tells Stanford students he "never worked with a more miserable son-of-a-bitch in my life."</p> <p>2011—On the worst day of the largest tornado outbreak in history, 324 people are killed from Texas to Ontario.</p> <p>1994—In South Africa, ex-prisoner Nelson Mandela is elected President.</p> <p>1978—A scaffold fails inside a nuke plant under construction in West Virginia; 51 workers die.</p> <p>1974—Ten thousand people march in Washington, D.C. for the impeachment of Richard Nixon.</p> <p>1937—The first Social Security check is mailed to Ida May Fuller: \$22.54.</p> <p>1932—Saying "Goodbye, everybody," Hart Crane, 32, leaps from the <i>Orizaba</i> into the Gulf of Mexico. His body is never found.</p> <p>1930—A boy and girl burn to death within sight of their mothers after a sightseeing plane crashes in Greenland, N.H. Burned in futile attempts to save them was pilot Clyde Robinson.</p> <p>1865—The steamboat <i>Sultana</i> explodes on the Mississippi; among 1,800 dead are 1,450 just-freed Union POWs.</p> <p>1861—Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of <i>habeas corpus</i>.</p> <p>1773—The British Parliament passes the Tea Act. Oops.</p>
<p>1:00 1:32</p>  <p>7:15 7:29</p>	<p>1:45 2:21</p>  <p>8:03 8:15</p>	<p>2:32 3:10</p>  <p>8:51 9:03</p>	<p>3:21 4:03</p>  <p>9:42 9:54</p>	<p>4:14 5:00</p>  <p>10:36 10:49</p>	<p>5:11 6:01</p>  <p>11:35 11:51</p>	<p>6:14 7:03</p>  <p>12:36</p>



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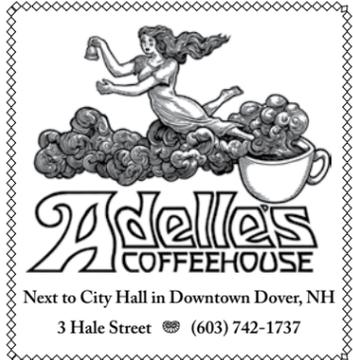
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