The Fortnightly Rant

The Cruellest Campaign Ad Ever

A lot of people are saying that the climate of our political life has been going downhill. It's easy to make claims about such a nebulous subject, but they're difficult to prove. Perhaps it's the Zeitgeist—our Meter, we're stuck with subjectivity.

A more solid case could probably be made in a narrower sense—that our political discourse has coarsened since the most recent Inauguration. Even that case would likely be disputed, but let's try it anyway.

While many people remember the bleaker passages of the famous “American Carnage” speech—“no work and children trapped in poverty in our inner cities,” “rusted-out factories scattered like tombstones across the landscape,” they tend to have forgotten the brighter vision which followed:

“We do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it stand as an example for everyone to follow. [Note how the implied “or else” is diplomatically left unspoken.]

“We will reinforce old alliances and form new ones—and unite the civilized world against Radical Islamic Terrorism, which we will eradicate completely from the face of the Earth.”

Granted, that last bit was perhaps a little more belligerent than was strictly necessary. But look what follows:

“When you open your heart to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice.

“The Bible tells us, how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.

“That's all very soothing. You could even say it's suggestive of a calm, even temperament.

“Contrast that with Sunday morning's epistles from the Oval Office:"

The Alleged News®

Hey, What's That Sound…? Silence—Blessed Silence!

Since April, just out of curiosity we've kept track of weekend weather. As one would expect this time of year in New England, there have been a few washouts. In general, though, we've been fortunate. On at least four occasions, the weather on both days has been splendid, with temperature and humidity well within tolerable bounds; altogether, the sort of conditions which don't just encourage, but practically demand that one savor the sky's seemingly endless infinite shades of blue.

But it won't; local authorities—the best people—of being racist. That’s certainly been the case here in Portsmouth, where citizens expressed opposition to such flights before they became routine. About a hundred people attended a hearing in August of 2013, as the Pease Development Authority (PDA) “considered” Seacoast Helicopters’ application to operate. By our rough guess, 90 percent were opposed.

Not that it mattered. FAA regulations allowed the PDA only Holobon’s choice; in the absence of any glaring deficiencies in Sea- coast Helicopters’ application, the board could either rubber-stamp its approval, or pay back millions in federal funding it’s received over the years. Five years of unmitigated “blade-vortex interaction” ensued.

People complained to the PDA. The PDA said, in essence, we are powerless.

People tried to complain to the FAA, but “for the Federal Aviation Administration, the focus is on safety, not noise,” at KCET’s North-Hager wrote.

“They do not regulate commercial noise,” said an FAA official. “The FAA does not regulate noise regulations, they’re in place on or after June 7, 2016: Republicans had control of the House, Paul Ryan was the Speaker, and two weeks earlier the Republican nomination had been secured by Donald J. Trump.

On Tuesday, once again, the Republican penchant for long-range strategic planning paid off. As House Democrats struggled to make a choice: go with her mother, or her father. Some people will probably call that cruel. Really, it's just a campaign ad.

* We refer specifically to April 6th & 7th, May 16th & 17th, June 22nd & 23rd, and last weekend.

The New Hampshire Gazette

Grab Me! I’m Free!

The Nation’s Oldest Newspaper™ • Editor: Steven Fowle • Founded 1756 by Daniel Fowle

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way than by watching out for news stories about them crashing?
We’ve probably run a couple of dozen of these by now; we haven’t kept a precise tally. We’re not particularly proud of having done so. We know it’s a bit unseemly. In our own defense, we have to say that at least we don’t grab random strangers on the sidewalk by the collar, force them to listen as we read these stories to them at the top of our lungs, all the while expecting to make a profit.

The National Transportation Safety Board [NTSB] maintains a database of all aviation accidents. On Tuesday, we asked it for a list of all fatal accidents involving Robinson helicopters—the type flown by Seacoast Helicopters—going back to January 1, 2014, their first year of operation.

The query returned a list of 88 fatal crashes (23 R22s, 58 R44s, and 7 R66s), which took a total of 162 lives. A few of the dead weren’t even aboard the machines. They died on the street (Rosario, Brazil, April 1, 2018), in their home (Williamsburg, Va., July 8, 2018), and in their vehicle (Kailua, Hawaii, April 29, 2019). Another 21 people suffered serious injuries.

Gravity Never Sleeps Databases, of course, require perpetual revision. We’ve seen news reports of two fatal Robinson crashes which have yet to be entered.

On Monday, a flight instructor was killed and his student critically injured when an R44 crashed in California. They had been practicing hovering at the Hayward Executive Airport, according to KPIX TV, when the machine suddenly crashed upside down.

The day before, Igor Nikitin and Oleg Chernigui died when their Robinsons, (its model unreported) crashed near the village of Barkoe, “in the Moscow region.” Nikitin was the head of Russia’s United Federation of Ultralight Aviation. Both men, according to Pravda, had taught Russian President Vladimir Putin how to fly a mono-hang glider. Putin was photographed flying a glider near a flock of Siberian Cranes in September, 2012.

“Most likely,” Pravda added schoolmarmishly, “the helicopter crash [sic] because of violation of traffic safety rules.”

“If Too Quiet Out There? Hell, No!” Too Quiet Out There? Hell, No! It’s a subjective judgment, but it seems to us that beautiful days are best enjoyed by living a little louder than normal.

The flag of Russia is the most economical advertising medium on the Seacoast. This space is available for just twenty dollars. To learn more, call (603) 433-9898, or e-mail editors@nhgazette.com.

The Alleged News® from page one

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on any given Friday morning, from 2014 through 2018, and especially during the summer, one might have expected to see a flurry of activity at Pease—which seems unlikely. Those three used Robinsons are worth about a cool million. Interest on that would run about $200 a day—expensive, for paperweights.

What does all this mean? Damned if we know. We took a run out to Pease last Friday, just to see what we could see. It wasn’t much, as the photo below shows.

“Although we may never know from unnecessary desecration.”

Under Flag Police doctrine, the flaw in Justice Stevens’ argument lies in that penultimate word, unnecessary.

“Unnecessary according to whom? Even the Flag Police—who have never, to their knowledge, been accused of lacking confidence—shrink from the task of determining what a free citizen might consider necessary.”

Considering Justice Stevens’ career as a whole, however—particularly in the context of the last 20 years—disagreement on that single point shrinks to a mere quibble.

“Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of this year’s presidential election, the identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the nation’s confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law.”—Associate Justice John Paul Stevens, dissenting in Bush v. Gore, December 12, 2000.

How Politics Works* In Three Tweets

1) Chris Hayes @chris Hayes: “So even thought [sic] the House Democrats went along with the McConnell funding bill in the Senate, Pence is still running around blaming ‘Democrats in Congress’ for not adequately funding their detention camps.”

2) Kelsey D. Atherton @AthertonKD Rentweeted Chris Hayes “[T]he insane part of ‘we’ll treat truth and justice to the loser is perfectly clear. It is the nation’s confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law.”—Associate Justice John Paul Stevens, dissenting in Bush v. Gore, December 12, 2000.

3) Susan of Texas @SusannofTexas Rentweeted Kelsey D. Atherton: “How else are you to ensure incremental gains that are constantly overwhelmed by losses?”

*By which we mean, of course, don’t work.

Rain Check? Denouement? Anything?
The Tuesday before our July 5th paper went to press, New Hampshire was expecting a visit from Mike Pence.

“As an audience waited for the Vice President at an opioid recovery facility in Manchester, a person from Pence’s office stepped forward and announced that ‘Air Force 2 was heading this way, but there’s been an emergency callback; the vice president has been asked to return to Washington.”

A short while later, Alyssa Farah, a Pence spokeswoman, tweeted that no, Pence had not left Washington, and there was no ‘emergency callback.’

“Something came up” was as close as she came to explaining the change in plans. Simultaneous with this footfall, the Pease Air National Guard base was locked down due to a report of gunshots—said report being made by a person who had never heard a gun fired.

"I suggest putting a teacher in every gun store."

— Jef Johnson

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

We are pleased to announce that, thanks to volunteer distributors, this newspaper can now be found at the following locations:

Concord: The State House Visitor’s Center, Gibson’s Book Store, 45 S. Main St.

Concord COOP Grocery Store, 24 S. Main St.

Concord Public Library, 45 Green St.

Franklin Pierce Law School, 2 White St.

Hanover:

Hanover Public Library, 13 South St.

Keene: Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.

Lanathanon: Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.
A World of Garbage

To the Editor:
The island of plastic waste floating in the Pacific Ocean has grown to twice the size of the state of Texas (Jennifer Earl, Fox News, reporting on March 23, 2018). American explorer Victor Vescovo discovered, upon descending nearly 11 km (seven miles) into the Mariana Trench, the deepest place in that body of water, as well as sea creatures a plastic bag and sweets rappers (Rebecca Morelle, Science Correspondent, BBC News, reporting on May 13, 2019), and it is anticipated that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans (Sarah Kaplan, The Washington Post, January 20, 2016, among others).

Meanwhile, China, which imported and processed the bulk of the worlds “recyclables,” decided it would no longer be the West’s “dump.” So what response might be made to these circumstances?

Matthew DiLallo, The Motley Fool, in a June 15, 2019 article titled “Is It Time to Make Even More of the Stuff?” (4) says that chemical plants that burn fossil fuels to turn plastics into the building blocks of new petrochemicals was mainly due to the completion of a June 15, 2019 article titled “Is It Time to Make Even More of the Stuff?” (4) says that chemical plants that burn fossil fuels to turn plastics into the building blocks of new petrochemicals was mainly due to the completion of the West’s “dump.” So what response might be made to these circumstances?

A friend of mine made an excellent point this past Fourth of July regarding the importance of reminding everyone that calling out our leaders’ lies and hypocrisy is about the most American thing one can do to observe Independence Day. I am furthermore a strong supporter to the philosophy of the late Professor Howard Zinn, who once said that, “dissent is the highest form of patriotism.”

I’ve personally made a point of re-reading the Declaration of Independence as part of my observance of Independence Day for the last couple of decades, and usually follow that practice up by listening to the personal stories of American GIs. The experience of National Public Radio takes me reading the founding document out loud for reinforcement of what I had read.

Having thought hard enough about this time around, I could see where some might get confused and think that the NPR broadcasters are referring to the time, again, about POTUS #45 while they read off their notes. We can sit and bemoan our fate, or we can distract ourselves from our own personal doom—which is coming anyway, eventually, regardless of Earth fate—by fighting the good fight.

Easy choice.

The Editor

The Most American Thing One Can Do

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Trump’s Popularity

The headline read: “Trump Sees Popularity Rise After ‘Go-back’ Attack.” For those of us who find this news disturbing, consider the possiblity that Trump is on the right track with his directive to “go back.” Following his own advice, Trump would find himself transported to the heart of Germany dressed in a kilt. While there, he might rediscover that true Scotsman value frugality over opulence, excess, and waste. He might also note that his current leadership style ended badly for his German forebears. For Trump, “going back” might be good advice.

Unfortunately, Democrat unity continues to be sullied by a disturbing rift between AOC and Nancy Pelosi. AOC, America’s caretaker-in-chief, wants to shut Trump off and send him home in a taxi. Majority Leader Pelosi wants to let him continue imbibing on power until he keels over and falls off his stool. Perhaps the young barrister knows something Ms. Pelosi has yet to learn.

Meanwhile, Trump’s popularity continues to rise, a positive indicator of why we are “building... new petrochemical plants that burn fossil fuels to make even more” plastic to throw in the oceans.

For your Civil Rights!

The Editor

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Here’s a Way You Can Help Veterans Stay Housed

The Veterans Affairs Support- ed Housing (VASH) program provides permanent housing and on-going case management treatment services for homeless veterans who would not be able to live independently without the support of case management. VASH cannot provide furniture, household appliances, pots and pans or other personal items. VASH can accept these items, and distribute them to veterans who need them.

Call or e-mail Tracey Noonan, VASH Program Manager, at (603) 657-5612 or email tracey.noonan@va.gov.
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might be a losing proposition and would likely cause the need for an income tax, sales tax, or both. Call the Governor 271-2121 and tell him "No" to commuter rail expan-
sion. Jane Aitken Bedford, N.H.
Jane: You have accomplished something we had not thought possible: induced us to defend Dan Innis. First you claim Innis was projecting a ridership of 670,000 per year. Your claim seems to raise two possibilities. One: you believe the average person’s reading com-
prehension is so poor you can fool them. Two: it’s not their reading comprehension that’s at issue, but yours. Then you take the position that re-
maining ignorant is preferable to un-
derstanding what the people want. You certainly have a right to that opinion. Pardon us if we raise an eyebrow at your willingness to have it known. Finally, we can’t help but be amused by your professed concern for the 99 percent who might bear the expense of a commut-
er rail system. This is yet another example of the corrosive neoliberal doctrine which has been poising our political discourse for half a century. Shifting our trans-
portation system towards commuter rail would benefit 100 percent of humans on Earth by moving us away from two-ton, oil-burning catastrophes on four wheels.

To the Editor: [Mr. Folmar refers to the final entry in his June 16 Union Leader opinion piece insisting on “strong support” for commuter rail expansion, based on the false assumption that “75 percent of all New Hampshire wants it.”

Worse yet, no one has pointed out the error of his outrageous assertion of a projected “weekday ridership of nearly 670,000.”

The correct numbers are 66,000 riders per year, not 670,000 per week-
day. Innis conveniently exaggerated by a factor of 365 to one!

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Inequality is as dear to the American heart as liberty itself.
— William Dean Howells, author; novelist, literary critic, and playwright

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Gift Of: (Where Applicable)
A few years ago I discovered a monument in the Grafton Center Cemetery to "Maj. Gen. David F. Cole," who died in 1865 in his late 20s. He was a captain and a Civil War general at least once—even especially every major general—and I had never heard of that one. There was no David F. Cole in Ezra Dear- man's Generals in Blue, in Mark Boat- man's Civil War Dictionary, or in the Official Records. I thought he might have been a junior officer who had been "brevetted" all the way up to major general under the old system of honorary promotions for battle- field valor, but there was no trace of any New Hampshire resident named David F. Cole in the entire Union Army. I began to suspect some sort of grim hoax, but the 1860 census of Grafton did list Richard and Sylvia Cole with six children, the oldest of whom was 24-year-old David F. Cole. According to that record, he was still working as a farm laborer at the time. Such a metoric rise to military service did not seem likely for so proletarian a citizen.

Finally I found him in the U.S. Army Register, listed as a Vermont- er. Service records confirmed that he was the same person, but the highest rank he ever attained was major, rather than major general. Perhaps his parents or siblings did not know the difference between the two grades, or gave him their own series of brevet promotions. Such things happen. Toward the end of World War II, through a combina- tion of misunderstanding and misinformation, my grandmother told neighbors that my uncle was second-in-command of naval forces on Saipan, although he was only a lieutenant j.g.

David Cole had moved to Ver- mont to attend college by the sum- mer of 1862, when he raised the better part of a company for one of Vermont’s nine-month militia regi- ments. The men he had recruited elected him captain of the compa- ny, which became part of the 12th Vermont. That regiment missed ev- ery battle during its term of service, spending the winter at and around Washington, league away from the fighting armies. For not holding guard mount on Christmas Day, Captain Cole was arrested on the orders of Brigadier General Edward Stoughton, another Vermonter and West Point graduate who was even younger than Cole. Stoughton him- self had issued orders to disperse with all unnecessary duties that day, so the charges filed against Cole were quickly dropped. Stoughton retaliated by ordering Cole before an examining board, claiming that he was unfit for his commission, but the board returned him to duty with a highly complimentary report.

Cole had the last laugh a few months later. Late on the night of March 8, 1863, John Singleton Mosby, the "Grey Ghost of the Confederacy," snuck into Stough- ton's headquarters with a raiding party and awakened the young general with a smack on the rump, appointing him as a prision- er. That was the end of Stoughton’s army career. The 12th Vermont and four other

time-month regiments in the Sec- ond Vermont Brigade joined the Army of the Potomac on its march to Gettysburg. Three of those regi- ments helped repel Pickett's Charge on July 3, but Captain Cole and the 12th remained behind at Westmin- ster, Md., guarding their wagon train. A week later, with their en- listments expired, all five regiments went home.

The next year, Cole secured a com- mission as major of the 107th U.S. Colored Infantry, and he reported for duty at Louisville, Ky. on July 1, 1864. Four months later the regi- ment moved to Virginia, spending a few weeks in the trenches around Petersburg, but in December Ma- jor Cole came down with typhoid fever. While his regiment sailed off for the attack on Fort Fisher, N.C., he remained behind at the officers' hospital at Point of Rocks, Md. There he died on January 7th, a casualty without ever having seen a battle.

His father had the family tomb- stone inscribed with the remark that his boy was buried at Point of Rocks. That was true only until 1866, when the Quartermaster Department collected the bodies from that graveyard and reburied them in the new national cemetery at Arlington. Major Cole ended up in what be- came Section 26, grave 5209, with an irregular headstone (pictured) supplied by his parents. This stone correctly identified him as a major, but for the folks back in Grafton he would always be a major general.

We'll say this for these horrifying times: they've challenged us all to truly

Do keep having fun in horrifying times—helps me get out of bed.

Lauren Sherman
South Royalton, Vt.

We'll say this for these horrifying times—they're challenging us all to truly think about what the bleep is actual- ly going on. Thanks for reading—and

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The other Mexican migration
by Jim Hightower

You probably haven’t heard about it, but there’s another mass migration coming across the U.S.-Mexico border. However, these are not Central American families fleeing horrific conditions back home—at least not to be separated, incarcerated, and traumatized, and demonized by the Trump Gang for seeking humanitarian asylum in our country.

Rather, these migrants are going in the other way, from the U.S. into Mexican border towns, where they’re welcomed with open arms instead of armed guards. They are mostly working-class people seeking relief from our nation’s unaffordable, no-care healthcare system. As many as 6,000 a day travel to towns like Los Algodones, across from Yuma, Arizona, to get medical services and prescription drugs that are priced out of their reach here in the U.S. Nicknamed “Molar City,” Los Algodones has more dentists per capita than anywhere else in the world—quality dental work in Mexico averages two-thirds less than it costs here.

This is because the health system there prioritizes care over profits. Start with professional education, which is tuition-free in Mexico, meaning dentists and other health-care providers don’t have to jack-up prices to cover a crushing load of student debt. Also, Mexico’s universal, tax-paid healthcare system doesn’t saddle patients with exorbitantly-expensive, insurance bureau-redus.

It’s a system that’s open, affordable, and accessible to all—the opposite of ours, which is why hordes of U.S. working-class people go south to find care. As a Truthout article reports, “U.S. citizens seeking healthcare can park in Yuma for $5, walk across the border, get the help they need and come back for dinner.”

Instead of building a senseless border wall to keep people out of the U.S., our leaders ought to be looking across the border for ideas on how to build a better healthcare system. Copyright 2017 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact laura@jhightower.com for more information.

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**Admiral Fowle’s Piscataqua River Tidal Guide (Not for Navigational Purposes)**

**Sunday, July 21**

- **12:05** - The House Judiciary Committee votes to impeach the current. It weighs several tons, including its inventor.
- **1998** - Iraq invades Kuwait.
- **1975** - Seven localities by which the Huangshui, a river and an armored car, is caused, by the means of a high-pressure water gun by two men. The car, with a crew of ten, is destroyed.
- **1964** - A religious dispute precipitates a war between the Free Masons and the Druids in the English Channel.
- **1877** - The freshly-killed head of legendary bandit Joaquin Murietta is put on display for the first time.
- **1968** - Sixteen men are unexpectedly beheaded by the French police in Paris.
- **1931** - The control stick of a Robin-Drohne helicopter breaks, killing all three aboard.
- **1954** - Cold War ends.
- **1947** - The United States becomes a nuclear power.
- **1934** - Hitler orders that the film *Reichskanzler* be distributed.
- **1918** - World War I ends.
- **1907** - The House Judiciary Committee begins its investigation of President Roosevelt.
- **1906** - The House Judiciary Committee begins its investigation of President Taft.
- **1903** - The House Judiciary Committee begins its investigation of President Roosevelt.
- **1902** - The House Judiciary Committee begins its investigation of President Taft.
- **1901** - The House Judiciary Committee begins its investigation of President Roosevelt.
- **1900** - The House Judiciary Committee begins its investigation of President Taft.