

## The Fortnightly Rant

### Is It Too Late For Remedial Education?

Foreign policy can be so confusing. Strategic thinkers are fond of explaining that the enemy of our enemy is supposedly our friend. On Wednesday, our NATO ally Turkey launched an assault against Kurds in Syria—who are also our allies.

If our allies are enemies, how can we tell if we have any friends?

#### Civil War at the Ministry of Truth

How is one to know? Viewers can't even get a straight answer from the Ministry of Truth Fox News, where a civil war seems to have broken out.

Fox News anchor Shepard Smith—who has a passing acquaintance with reality—recently interviewed Andrew Napolitano, an ex-judge billed as the network's "Senior Judicial Analyst," about a piece he'd written for *FoxNews.com*. The judge wrote, the "criminal behavior to which Trump has admitted is much more grave than anything alleged or unearthed by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, and much of what Mueller revealed was impeachable."

That act of heresy seemed to trigger both Fox News commentator Tucker Carlson and his frequent guest, Joseph diGenova, who called Napolitano a "fool." Shep Smith fired back, calling Carlson's failure to defend Napolitano "repugnant."

#### Consider the Source

In defense of Napolitano's critic, diGenova does have some legitimate credentials. He was U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1983 to 1988—coincidentally, about the same time Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese was Attorney General. [See "The Alleged News," below.]

More recently, diGenova, his wife Victoria Toensing, and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani have teamed up to defend Ukrainian oligarch Dmytro Firtash from extradition to the U.S. on corruption charges.

*Foreign Policy* reported October

3rd that the U.S. Justice Department considers the trio's client, Firtash, to be an "upper-echelon [associate] of Russian organized crime." According to *OpenSecrets.org*—a reputable non-profit news organization—he's "notorious within Ukraine for his ties to former Ukrainian presidents, the Russian government and crime boss Semion Mogilevich."

Firtash is also a former business partner of Donald Trump's former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, now serving a 7.5 year sentence for a variety of felonies, most of them involving an apparently pathological inability to tell the truth.

#### How Many Media Do You Need?

If Fox News will no longer let a shady Ukrainian oligarch's lawyer speak without fear of contradiction, what's a President to do?

Fear not, the President has a solution in mind. "We ought to start our own network and put some real news out there..." he said recently in Florida. "We're looking at that. We should do something about it, too. Put some really talented people and get a real voice out there, not a voice that's fake."

That does seem like overkill, though, with *Facebook* already in his pocket.

Last week his re-election campaign began airing a 30-second ad accusing then-Vice President Biden of offering a billion-dollar bribe to Ukraine if it fired the prosecutor investigating a company his son was involved with—a compelling story which carefully implies the opposite of the truth. Continuing that theme of reversal, the ad claims Democrats are trying to impeach Trump because he's rooting out corruption. Consistent to the end, it concludes, "They lost the election. Now they want to steal this one. Don't let them." Things haven't been so upside down since the Post Office put out the Inverted Jenny.



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CNN refused to air the ad, but it has been viewed about five million times on *Facebook*, according to the *New York Times*.

Understandably, the Biden campaign asked *Facebook* to take it down. *Facebook* refused.

"In a letter to the Biden campaign," the *Times* reported, "*Facebook* said the ad... did not violate company policies. Last month, the social network, which has more than two billion users, announced that politicians and their campaigns had nearly free rein over content they post there."

"Even false statements and misleading content in ads, the company has said, are an important part of the political conversation." Right.

The act of "calling the manager" has long been frowned upon, especially since "BBQ Becky" called the cops on a couple of black men for using a grill in an Oakland. In this case, though, it would seem warrant-

ed. So, who's in charge of such things for *Facebook*?

Katie Harbath is "Public Policy Director, Global Elections." According to *Bloomberg*, she is also "a former Republican digital strategist who worked on former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani's 2008 presidential campaign."\*

**With Allies Like Us, Who Need Enemies?** Alas, the poor Kurds: they trusted us again. Is this our third betrayal? Or the fourth? We've lost track.

#### If You Teach Lies, Expect Fools

Contemplation of these sordid events sparked an Insta-Theory: many of our troubles would never have arisen if we had just accepted, generations ago, that the field of endeavor in which we need to be most daring is primary and secondary education.

\* During that campaign, Giuliani visited Federal Cigar in Portsmouth and autographed a photo of himself. On leaving, he pocketed the photo and took it with him.

As it is, the first subject taught in our schools is the importance of obeying authority, *i.e.*, the teacher. That's an understandable expedient, of course. How else can order be maintained in a classroom? At some point, though, those malleable, unformed brains have got to be exposed to the value and the power of critical thinking. Instead we appear to teach blind acceptance of some Disneyfied version of history and civics.

Obviously, before implementing such a high-risk program, a strategic plan would be required. Concepts would have to be introduced in a logical sequence, to give teachers half a chance. Combat pay might be in order.

Alas, having laid out this plan, we now see its fatal flaw: the purpose of school is to prepare students for life; critical thinking is perhaps even more dangerous out in the wild than it is in school.

## The Alleged News®

### Takes One to Know One

President Donald Trump gave former Attorney General Ed Meese the Medal of Freedom in the White House on Tuesday, pretty well summing up the state of things.

The nation's highest civilian award was created by JFK to honor those who have "made an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, or world peace, or cultural or other significant public or private endeavors." It's hard to imagine JFK had Meese in mind.

Previous Trump recipients include Miriam Adelson and Arthur Laffer. She just happened to donate \$100,000 to Trump's Presidential campaign; he handed Republicans a cockamamie idea for justifying tax breaks for the rich which was plausible enough to bamboozle rubes and

the media. Meese, though, the 13th person Trump has so honored, takes the cake.

Edwin "Meese is a Pig" Meese III, to give his full name,\* has a long and sordid career of public disservice; a rare mix of draconian policies and personal sleaze.

It started with a bang—a lot of bangs, actually—in 1969. As Ronald Reagan's Chief of Staff, Meese advised the Governor to ignore the Berkeley City Council and crack down on protestors in Peoples Park. Reagan said, "If there has to be a bloodbath then let's get it over with."

\* Overnight, in mid-December, 1987, hundreds of large posters appeared in Washington, D.C. bearing the message, in foot-high, red and blue lettering, "Meese is a Pig." When they were torn down, a second run appeared, "Experts Agree! Meese is a Pig," which soon appeared on T-shirts, as well.

Sure enough, innocent bystander James Rector died from a load of #00 buck from a cop's shotgun; 128 more Berkeley residents, many also shotgun victims, were treated in area hospitals.

Meese then became the second most infamous Attorney General in the nation's history—up to that time. (John Mitchell, of course, will hold the top spot until the incumbent's rap sheet can be tallied up.) The odor of scandal about him was such that his predecessor, while still in office, asked special prosecutor Jacob A. Stein to investigate. His promotion to Colonel in the Army Reserves violated procedures. He took loans from a tax accountant who later ended up on the Postal Board of Governors. His financial disclosure forms failed to report reimburse-

ments for 30 trips, or an interest-free loan from a man who just happened to land a highly paid government job. Despite it all, Meese squeaked through a harrowing confirmation process.

Meese was investigated throughout much of his tenure. On July 5, 1988, Independent counsel James C. McKay ended a 14-month-long criminal investigation of Meese without issuing an indictment, according to the Associated Press, "but rather a sealed, 830-page report that could lead to a separate, administrative review of his fitness for office." Meese announced he would resign, claiming that the lack of an indictment proved "there is no basis for criminal proceedings."

No wonder Trump thinks so highly of him.

As with the incumbent President, the personal sleaze can distract attention from the poisonous policies. The "unitary executive" theory often attributed to the George W.[MD] Bush administration originated, in fact, under Ronald Reagan—and Meese played a critical role in its development.

Presidential signing statements used to be seen as historical curiosities, recording the chief Executive's opinions for the benefit of historians and biographers. Meese convinced West Publishing—which has a monopoly on printing U.S. law books—to include signing statements along with the relevant legislation.

Given the absurd way our legal system works, that seemingly minor change helped to create our near-Imperial Presidency.

## The Home-Grown Communists of Washington, New Hampshire

It would be hard to find a more iconic New England village than Washington, New Hampshire. Ten miles north of Route 9, on winding Route 31, 1,500 feet up into the hills of Sullivan County, it has been preserved by its remoteness. At its heart one finds the essentials, all in white clapboard: church, school, and town hall, the latter dating from 1789; across the two-lane blacktop sits a little bandstand.

Like many such towns, behind its picture-postcard appearance, Washington has a few surprises tucked away here and there.

Stroll through the Old Cemetery and you may discover a small slate stone bearing the inscription, "Capt. Samuel Jones' leg, which was amputated July 7, 1804." Captain Jones was a tavern-keeper who had been

helping to move a building when his leg was accidentally crushed. Thanks to his day job, whiskey, the anesthetic of choice at the time, was readily available. Naturally he had a few to prepare for the operation. According to legend he and his friends had a few more post-operatively. At some point it was decided that the leg, which had apparently served him well, deserved its own funeral.

The New Cemetery holds a grave perhaps even more surprising. Amid the final resting places of many a deceased, rock-ribbed Republican rises a granite monolith nearly as tall as a man. The front of the stone is laconic, befitting a Yankee of the non-baseball variety. "Chase," it says, and no more—unless you count a familiar but incongruous symbol: a hammer and sickle.



In the hills of Sullivan County sits the quintessential New England town of Washington, New Hampshire. Its church, school, and town hall, shown here on July 6, 2016, remain unchanged since the heyday of the Chases. From the thirties through the fifties they were probably the state's best-known family of home-grown communists. Now they are generally forgotten; but a semi-recent book by a friend of the Chase brothers, giving the most complete account of their lives to date, could reintroduce the Chases to a public whose hostility to leftist ideas may have waned somewhat. This photo, WashingtonNHCenter, by Ken Gallagher, is, appropriately enough, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 Int'.



The back of the stone bears two names and four dates: "Fred B. Chase, 1881–1933; his wife, Elba E. Korb, 1891–1967;" and an inscription: "In memory of a comrade. A courageous and devoted fighter in the class struggle."

Obviously, there are a lot more questions to be answered here. For instance, a "comrade", singular? Who, Fred? Why would he get all the credit, when Elba also ran for Governor? But we get ahead of ourselves.

Until recently the best source of information on this enigmatic artifact was Ronald and Grace Jager's *Portrait of a Hill Town, A History of Washington N.H., 1876–1976*.

The Jagers tell how Fred Chase, raised in Keene, "came to Washington with his wife and family as a farmer and a woodsman and a Socialist in 1915." Aside from a few eccentricities, such as suggesting that the town buy a beach for public use and that the schools should teach

the metric system, Fred was "a normal struggling Washington farmer."

In 1928, Fred and Elba joined the Workers Party. Then, in 1930, Fred ran for Governor—as a Communist. Spoiler alert: he did not win. Undaunted, Fred ran for Senate in 1932. His fellow Communist, Henry Iram, ran for Governor. "Each got three votes in Washington," the Jagers note. Statewide, Fred drew 228 votes.

Spared the duties of office, Fred—and Elba—took part in the National Farmers Relief Conference, down in the other Washington.

The farming, the hard times, and the political work took a toll on Fred. The Jagers quote the Chase's fourth son, Oliver: "He was told by Dr. Bailey to retire from politics and hard work, but he could not accept a life of inactivity. In the fall of 1933, he attended the founding convention of the American League Against War and Facism in New York. Taken ill there, he returned

home, where he died on October 19, 1933. The funeral cortege stretched all the way from the Chase farm to the 'new' cemetery in Washington village. Later a gravestone was erected... donated by a group of granite workers from Concord, who volunteered their weekends to do the work."

Yes, *that* gravestone.

The Jagers continue, "The funeral for Fred Chase, which was in effect a New England Communist rally, impressed the town. Odd to see these hundreds of strangers, lines of cars from ten states, and the graveside crowd singing the 'Internationale' with fists upraised. Eyebrows arched—what manner of man was this that the townspeople had had among them? Was not this just Fred Chase whom everybody knew as the good neighbor with the quaint politics... Indeed he was... and he had exhausted himself in the cause. He saw little fruit upon his tireless labors and he left a widow with five

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### 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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children, teenage and under, upon the mercies of the rural depression he had foreseen and a capitalist economy he believed to be doomed.”

**Elba Korb Chase Nelson**

As it happened, Elba and the children managed well enough—without abandoning their principles. Her neighbors remember her as a warm and gentle person, but her own upbringing had made her strong.

Elba had been born to a poor family in Latvia that managed to immigrate about 1903. She met Fred Chase in Boston, where both were involved in leftist politics. They married in 1912, and moved to Washington a few years later.

After Fred’s death, Elba married Charles Nelson. Like Fred, Charles was a New Hampshire native. Elba’s name changed but her politics didn’t. She became the Communist Party’s Secretary for New Hampshire. She ran for Governor in 1934 and again in 1938. In 1940 she ran again, as a write-in candidate, because, according to the Jagers, “the American Legion successfully protested against having the Communist Party on the ballot.” Elba drew about as many votes as Fred had.

Elba frequently wrote to New Hampshire newspapers, signing in her official capacity as Party Secretary. That was all well and good while the Soviet Union was our ally

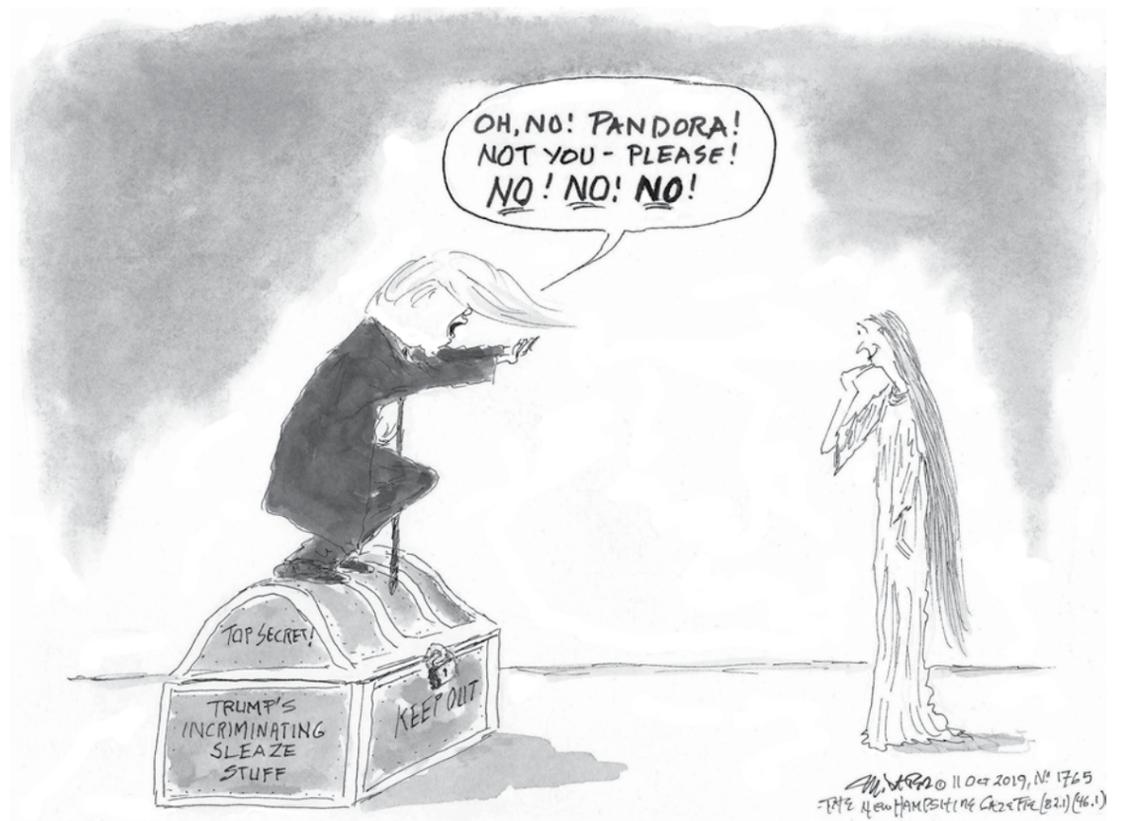
in the fight against the Nazis. It was another matter in the early Fifties, during Joe McCarthy’s Red Scare.

In 1951 and again in 1953, the state legislature authorized the Attorney General to investigate subversion. In January of 1953, Louis C. Wyman was appointed to that position and began combing the state for commies.

It was probably inevitable that Elba would be investigated, but Wyman went after her with a vengeance. For asserting her Constitutional right to remain silent, Wyman had Elba—62 years old, “small [and] bird-like,” according to a neighbor—put in jail overnight. A little good lawyering, and a slightly more cooperative attitude, led to her release; she never named any names, though.\*

In January, 1955, Wyman issued *Subversive Activities in New Hampshire: Report of the Attorney General to The New Hampshire General Court*. This 305-page volume—hardbound, appropriately, in red cloth,

\* Wyman eventually got his comeuppance for being Louis C. Wyman—20 years later, on September 16, 1975. Wyman had been the heavy favorite to replace retiring Sen. Norris Cotton, but he only just squeaked by with a margin of 355 votes. After an epic 315-day struggle involving two recounts, a protracted debate on the floor of the Senate, and another special election, John Durkin prevailed and became perhaps the wittiest Senator New Hampshire ever saw.



included ten detailed pages of Elba’s activities, but was forced to conclude that “Sufficient evidence has not been secured to establish a *prima facie* violation of the Subversive Activities Act of 1951.”

**Not Far From the Tree**

The record, such as it is, seems to suggest that growing up as the child of committed Communists in depression-era rural New Hampshire had no deleterious effects on any of the children. In fact, so far as we know, all of the Chase children went on to become admirable human beings. Two in particular stand out, though: Joe and Homer.

Homer was what the FBI would call a “premature anti-fascist”—he joined the Abraham Lincoln Brigade to fight Franco in the Spanish Civil War. A few years later he became a paratrooper, and fought Nazis in Europe. His older brother Joe also fought in Europe, then became a railroad worker and labor organizer in Boston.

We’ll get to them in a fortnight.

**Hungarian Freedom & Democracy Day, Oct. 23, 2019**

A remembrance of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution will be held in the lobby of the State House in Concord at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, October 22nd. The event will be hosted by the N.H. Friends of Hungary and Rep. Peter Somssich; the public is invited. It will be followed by a reception and social gathering in the cafeteria, where Hungarian pastries and coffee will be served.

“I am hoping to hear many personal stories from those in attendance regarding their connection to Hungary,” said Rep. Somssich, who was one of the 47,000 Hungarian refugees to come to the U.S. after the revolution.

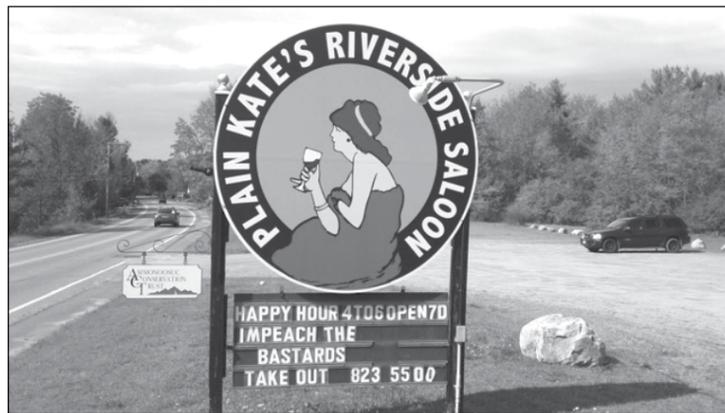
This year marks the 63rd anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, but also the 30th anniversary of the year 1989, that ended with the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of many communist governments, including Hungary’s.

On October 23, 1956, Hungar-

ians revolted against an oppressive government, demanding the withdrawal of Soviet troops and self-determination for Hungarians. The Soviet Union responded with massive military intervention, briefly resisted by the Hungarian Freedom Fighters, before the revolt was subdued.

Thousands of Hungarians were tried, tortured and executed; over 200,000 (two percent of the population) fled the country. The year 1989 saw a reform-minded Hungarian government leading the way to opening the Iron Curtain separating Europeans. “Many observers credit Hungary, working together with Germany, Austria and the Soviet leadership, with triggering the collapse of communism,” Somssich said.

For more information contact Rep. Peter Somssich: email, [staterp27@myfairpoint.net](mailto:staterp27@myfairpoint.net); tel. (603) 436-5382.



Judging from this photo, sent to us by a faithful reader, the proprietors of Plain Kate’s Riverside Saloon in Franconia are not afraid to let folks know where they stand on the issues of the day. If they were a little closer by, we’d drop in and say “Hi.”

**Murph’s Fortnightly Quote**  
 “...we shouldn’t test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed, and love of power.”  
 – P.J. O’Rourke (1947- ) journalist, satirist

“The moment I found out Trump could tweet himself was comparable to the moment in Jurassic Park when Dr. Grant realized that velociraptors could open doors. I was like, ‘Oh no.’”  
 john@wordpraxis.com – Justin McConney, former Trump social media manager

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**Two Errors Authoritatively Corrected**

Dear Editor:

I have for years refrained from sending you corrections to Admiral Fowle's Piscataqua River Tidal Guide, but I just can't restrain myself this time. Your entry for Saturday, October 12th, 1969, is in error on two counts:

The Navy nurse's name is Schnall, not Schnell; A, not E.

And the date of her action was 1968, not 1969.

All of this is fresh in my mind because I was just with Susan on Friday and Saturday (see attached photo. By the way, the shirt I am wearing was given to me at a reunion of my old battalion from Vietnam; the shirt itself was made in Vietnam. You can't make this stuff up. Also, you'll notice my lapel pin: the flag and Great Seal of Vietnam)....



W.D. Ehrhart  
Bryn Mawr, Penn.

Dear Bill,

Thank you for overcoming your inhibitions and submitting the most authoritative correction we have ever received. We have expunged the offending errors, and, on further research, added a bit to that entry. Henceforth it shall read, "Active-duty Navy nurse Susan Schnall, in uniform, drops anti-war leaflets from a plane onto five military bases in San Francisco Bay."

Having more room here, we'll add a bit more: Ms. Schnall is the daughter of a Marine who was killed during the invasion of Guam in 1944.

She told Vietnam News in 2018, "As I cared for the wounded of yet another war, I wondered when this destruction would end. I trained the corpsmen that would be sent overseas with the troops and put in harm's way. I helped heal the wounded so they could be returned to the frontline. I opposed this terrible destruction and

waste and yet I had become a part of it. I knew I could no longer be silent." When posters for a GI and Veterans March for Peace in San Francisco were torn down, she thought, "If the US could drop flyers on the people of Viet Nam, then why couldn't we drop flyers about peace in the US?" Schnall was court-martialed, of course, and discharged from the Navy—freeing her up for a lifetime of activism.

We are always grateful for corrections, but, as with your other writing, you blew the doors off with this one.

[Note: W.D. Ehrhart's Thank You For Your Service: Collected Poems, published by McFarland & Company, is available through your local independent bookstore; actually, it's available just about anywhere, but that's where you should buy it. —The Ed.]

The Editor

**Remember Those Nuclear Weapons**

To the Editor:

Our country and the world face two crucial crises, involving global warming and nuclear weapons. After over twenty years of inexcusable evasion, and due now mostly to the alarms of scientists and young people, the world has awakened to the urgency of a planet heating up. Another urgent issue also faces us: our government's re-kindling of a nuclear arms race by committing nearly two trillion dollars to replace our entire arsenal with enhanced weapons. Former Secretary of Defense, William Perry, has called that "insane."

The Union of Concerned Scientists and others urge five sane steps that the U.S.A. should finally take (in order of urgency):

1. Renounce the first use of nuclear weapons—ours being the only nation to have murdered millions with such hideous devices.
2. End the sole, unchecked authority of any President to launch a nuclear attack.
3. Take nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert.
4. Stop implementing the U.S. plan to beef up our nuclear war-fighting capability, that has initiated another dangerous nuclear arms race, and,
5. Actively pursue a verifiable agree-



ment among nuclear-armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.

We citizens have the responsibility to insist that members of Congress tackle this urgent issue and that presidential and congressional candidates are confronted concerning their intentions. The world cannot afford more nuclear accidents and near-misses. As the planet heats up, we should at least stop the nuclear madness.

Neal W. Ferris  
Durham, N.H.  
Neal:

As we've noted elsewhere, the sparks-flying shenanigans of this administration far too often distract us from matters of real import. Thanks for reminding us of one of the most important—particularly given the mental stability of our current Commander-in-Chief.

The Editor

**Impeachment Needs Moral Courage**

Dear Editor:

We escaped King George-rule through revolutionary war. We adopted rule-by-law for best justice. Surely 20 moral and far-sighted Republican Senators will understand the importance of being rid of the sorry mistake that is Donald J. Trump in our White House—else too much good U.S. progress suffers deep damage. They will join Democrats in impeachment.

Our planet doesn't have time for dithering on this. Our country doesn't have time for careless economic decisions, those costly Trump tariffs. Our states suffer neglected infrastructure needs this late in Trump's one term. Our families didn't get any tax cut unless they are among the 1 percent—so increased poverty looms as the new norm. Again the murder of journalist Kashoggi is raised, and he represents Trump's disdain for the fourth estate, the public press, our idea since 1752—because successful democracy

depends on a public informed of the truth. Donald J. Trump's preparation to be President is so lacking he doesn't understand the role of the media. He's got to go, damage-control making that now, not later.

For goodness' sake—impeachment proceedings will uncover Trump's crimes.

Lynn Rudmin Chong  
Sanbornton, N.H.

**Trump Must Go**

To the Editor:

Even before the Ukrainian extortion and subsequent impeachment investigation, it was crystal clear to any rational person that Donald Trump is unfit to be President of the United States. His administration has been characterized by a chaotic succession of random missteps spawned by his overweening narcissism. He seems to be incapable of formulating coherent policies and long term strategies in response to critical domestic and foreign problems. He spends an inordinate amount of time on Twitter sending angry, incoherent tweets lashing out at opponents. Both his tweets and public conversations call into question his mental balance. As a consequence, little of substance has been accomplished during his administration.

Here is a partial list of Trump's shortcomings as president. He has obstructed a valid investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 elections. He has incited racial and religious hatred by his comments and actions to the point of inspiring violence from his rabid partisans. He has pursued a cruel and unenlightened immigration policy that includes jailing children. His administration is rife with petty corruption while he himself unabashedly pursues profits for his own businesses at government expense. He has

alienated and threatened allies while cozying up to autocrats. His foreign policy is chaotic. His naive and ineffective tariff policy will raise prices in the U.S. and threaten continued economic growth. He falsely claims that he is the reason that the domestic economy is growing yet he inherited a strong economy that was already in a seven year growth cycle when he took office. He claims that the poorly designed 2017 tax cut was a boon to the middle class yet it provided over 80 percent of its benefits to the wealthy and corporations. Rather than re-investing tax windfalls, most corporations engaged in stock buybacks that further enriched wealthy investors and corporate CEOs.

What is frightening about this record is that it was generated not just by incompetence but from a deeply flawed personality. Trump is an extreme narcissist whose only concern is what benefits him. He does not have the best interests of the nation at heart as the current Ukrainian scandal indicates. He is bereft of any moral compass that does not serve his personal needs. When challenged, Trump's narcissism causes him to lash out as if every critique is a personal affront. Bereft of the knowledge and the intelligence to rationally respond to criticism, he relies on lies and imaginary conspiracies originating from a phantasmagorical deep state to obfuscate and dissemble. He demonizes honest critics in the free press as "fake news" while he himself is the prime source of dissimulation and dishonesty. His actions create dangerous divisions in the polity and are a threat to Constitutional principles.

Despite Trump's erratic and ineffective behavior, Republican members of Congress continue to defend him.

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(NHPR, September 19, 2019).

vetoed? He opposed three gun safety measures that would have helped curb gun violence both inside schools, homes, businesses, and public areas. One would have required background checks for commercial firearm sales, a second would have imposed a waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a firearm, and the third would have prohibited firearms on school property.

A majority of gun deaths are suicides. Suicides are often impulsive acts carried out on the spur of the moment. A waiting period allows the impulse to pass, and gives time for parents, friends, and counselors to intervene. New Hampshire is only one of only three states in the nation without any gun protection laws at schools.

Sununu vetoed an increase in the minimum wage. The state presently has no minimum wage and defaults to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. There has been no increase in the minimum wage in New Hampshire since 2009. Is it any wonder that we cannot keep young people in New Hampshire when they cannot make a living here?

Sununu vetoed a bill that would have created an independent commission in New Hampshire to redraw the state's legislative districts in order to prevent gerrymandering, the drawing of district lines to favor one party or the other.

Sununu vetoed expansion of net energy metering for towns and businesses. "The bill would have raised the limit from one megawatt to five, on how much energy large customers can generate themselves and sell back to the grid to lower their energy bills. It was seen partly as a referendum on larger scale solar power in New Hampshire, where the sector has been far slower to grow than the rest of New England."

Had Sununu not vetoed these bills, citizens in New Hampshire would have been better protected against gun violence; have been better able to make a living in the state; have benefited from a cleaner and fairer political system; have supported the rise of renewable energy in New Hampshire and lowered their electric bills; and been better able to care for ailing and hurt members of their families.

Beware the Trojan Horse. Beware Chris Sununu. Vote him out of the governor's office in November, 2020.

Gary Patton  
Hampton, N.H.

Gary:  
*Sununu is lucky Trump is President; providing an excellent distraction from his own execrable reign.*

The Editor

====

**Trump and His Accomplices**

Dear Sir:

"Who gave the whistleblower the information? That's close to a spy. You know what we used to do in the old days when we were smart? Right? The spies and treason, we used to handle it a little differently than we do now."

Those chilling and dangerous words, spoken by Donald Trump, are nothing less than direct intimidation of possible witnesses in his impeachment inquiry, as well as placing the lives of these people and the whistleblower in serious danger. When you allude to people who become whistleblowers to possible corruption, as spies, and traitors, who in the old days would be executed, you are sending a very dangerous message to someone who would act violently against these people because Mr. Trump called them spies and traitors, and in the mind of some deranged supporter, they should

be executed like, as Trump said, when our nation was "smart."

These words alone are additional ground for impeachment, and once again demonstrate how unfit Mr. Trump is to hold his current office. He sounds more like a Mafia boss referring to one of the mob family betraying their code of silence, or Omerta, and, as we all know, those who violated this code were executed to send a clear message to other possible traitors. Mr. Trump does not understand that people in government owe their loyalty and allegiance to the rule of law and the Constitution, not to him.

We should not be surprised by such comments from Mr. Trump. During the 2016 campaign, in reference to Ms. Clinton picking judges if she was elected, he said, "nothing you can do folks." Then adding, "although the Second Amendment people... maybe there is, I don't know." His casual and careless reference to violence against adversaries seems to be a hallmark of Mr. Trump's personality—a personality that has a problem distinguishing what behavior constitutes patriotism and courage versus treason, self interest, and cowardice. The behavior of the whistleblower and those who gave him/her the information on Trump's illegal actions displayed real courage and patriotism. That leaves only Mr. Trump and his accomplices in Congress and the Cabinet, who took oaths to protect and defend the Constitution, not Trump, as the only people responsible for committing acts contrary to our national security, democratic elections, and violated their oaths. What type of punishment do they deserve?

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

====

**The Pot Calling the Kettle Black**

To the Editor:

President Trump is the last person who should talk about corruption and families. During his campaign he talked constantly about China being a currency manipulator. Shortly after the election China granted his daughter Ivanka dozens of copyrights. Suddenly China was no longer a manipulator.

After the election his son-in-law Jared Kushner asked the Russian ambassador to the U.S. to allow him to communicate with the Kremlin without the U.S. being able to listen in. Our security services tried to deny him security clearances. Trump overrode them. Kushner went to Saudi Arabia and suddenly his family's billion-dollar loan they could not refinance was rescued. Kushner's sister went to China and tried to sell U.S. immigration green cards for \$500,000 dollars each.

The President himself is having our troops fly into an airport in Scotland which would otherwise have shut down from lack of traffic because a newer airport replaced it. Trump needs that airport to attract people to one of his money-losing golf club resorts. Some of the troops end up staying at that resort.

This is a President that openly flaunts his family's corruption and yet whines about the son of a Vice President using his father's name to get a high paying job. Maybe he should spend more time concentrating on gun violence, health care, infrastructure, or the opioid crisis and less time on enriching himself, his children and his in-laws at the country's expense.

Walter Hamilton  
Portsmouth N.H.

====

**U.S. Intel Believed Trump the First Time**

To the Editor:

The late Maya Angelou, the iconic American poet and civil rights activist, advised us, "When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time." The U.S. Intelligence Community appears to have had adopted this position towards President Donald Trump before he was even inaugurated.

While it is customary for U.S. Intelligence to collect, analyze, evaluate and disseminate foreign intelligence to assist the President and U.S. Government policymakers in making decisions relating to national security, it suffices to say that it is unprecedented for Intelligence to have found it nec-

*Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.*

to page six

For impeachment to be successful, the support of Senate Republicans is necessary. Why do they continue to act as his enablers? It is certainly not because they share a set of principles with Trump. GOP legislators have long ago given up loyalty to traditional Republican principles such as fiscal responsibility and a respect for Constitutional norms which Trump has consistently trashed. The obvious answer is that the Republicans operate in fear of incurring the wrath of Trump and the consequent loss their elected positions if they criticize his decisions. Their sycophancy is without honor and is entirely transactional. In short, there are no profiles in courage to be found among current Republican legislators. Their support of Trump will only erode when polls indicate that their jobs are in jeopardy. This will occur only when we the public make it clear that we will no longer tolerate the continuous insults to democracy that are being perpetrated by Trump. It is not just up to impeachment proceedings to remove the cancer, it is up to us.

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.

Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

*Thank you. That pretty well sums it up.*

The Editor

====

**The Guv'nor**

To the Editor,

New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu is like a Trojan horse. He presents a pleasing and affable appearance to others, but when out of public view, Sununu supports regressive, damaging policies that are not in the public interest. That is shown clearly by Sununu's vetoes of 55 bills that passed both the State House and State Senate. That is a record-setting number of vetoes.

What are some of the bills Sununu

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The Northcountry Chronicle

# Megalopolis

by William Marvel

Historical research still requires a lot of driving, and I plan most of my trips to avoid holidays and traffic. Holidays are an annoyance because all the libraries I need to visit are closed, forcing me to waste an expensive day on the road without getting any work done. They also tend to create mammoth traffic jams at certain times of day. Most of the repositories I have to visit lie in Megalopolis—that urban nightmare that blights the landscape from the James River to the Merrimack, so even on a normal weekday there's already more traffic than I want to see.

I thought I came up with a slick plan to maximize research time and minimize traffic congestion during my last trip, which ended with a week in the National Archives and Library of Congress. I'm usually standing at the door of one of those institutions by opening time each day. With its endless collection of

private papers and newspapers, the Library of Congress is now my preferred roost as long as it's open, and on three evenings a week they don't close the doors until 9 o'clock. A hearty breakfast beforehand and a midafternoon lunch at the cafeteria keep me from having to leave the building, and I seldom start packing my belongings until five minutes before closing time.

Thirty years ago the Archives remained open until 10 o'clock. Digitization of the census and other records seriously reduced microfilm usage by the genealogists who created the demand for nighttime hours, so the closing time was gradually cut back to 5 o'clock. That sharply increased the hourly cost of doing research, but the reduced workday at least left the guards there less crabby. They've been downright chatty during my last couple of visits.

Despite the shorter hours, the Archives can occasionally produce some fascinating discoveries. This

was one of those occasions, and for the second time in a quarter of a century I turned up a previously unknown document in Abraham Lincoln's own handwriting. If you want to know what it was, you'll have to wait for the book.

That made for a near-perfect trip, and I decided to add another day of research. Usually I'm itching to get home to morning coffee with a familiar face after a couple of weeks away, and this was no exception, but escaping Washington at rush hour on a Friday night presents a daunting challenge. The Metro parking garages don't charge on weekends, so I saved a few bucks and gambled for an easier drive by not starting for home until 6 o'clock on Saturday, September 29th.

These days, I swing wide to the west of the perennial gridlock in Washington and Baltimore. Traffic was moving fast on the Washington Beltway and I-270, but the electronic message machines hanging over

those highways threw a monkey wrench into that. Usually they advertise a 1-800 snitch line, urging suburban lemmings to "say something" if they "see something." That day, however, they announced a "silver alert"—which, as I later learned, involves a search for an older (and therefore presumably incompetent) person. Some bored geezer had decided to ditch his caregivers and go for a jaunt in his grey 1981 Cavalier, and the emergency system of a paranoid society had mobilized to look for him. Because of the paranoia, everyone had to slow down to read the message, because it might have warned of a nuclear attack, so traffic came to a screeching halt a mile before each of those signs. I saw one rear-end accident as a result, and there were probably more. I hope the old guy had a good day at the park, or bar.

A torrential thunderstorm made things hairier still as I approached Harrisburg. A flat tire in that tem-

pest left me riding on the doughnut, and I decided to drive through the night so I could negotiate the dense East Coast cities in lighter traffic. It just wasn't that light, at any hour. Once inside New Hampshire, I faced an endless stream of cars heading back to Massachusetts, and I had to pull over every few miles to let people by who were piling up behind me at 50 miles an hour. In Meredith I came upon a creeping foliage caravan, behind which I and my last crop of followers crawled all the way to West Ossipee.

When I finally turned onto Route 16, I thought I was home free, but the traffic failed to disperse. Conway Village was jammed up like the Beltway, except with fewer lanes. I even followed a pickup truck up Davis Hill Road, and there was a Subaru on my tail. As I pulled into my own driveway, I finally realized that the dreaded Megalopolis has sprawled another couple of hundred miles north. Now I live in it.

from page five

essary to conduct spy operations, for national security reasons, on the POTUS. The most telling moment, for me, of the U.S. House Intelligence Committee hearing on the Ukraine controversy with Director of National Intelligence Joseph McGuire (charged with overseeing and directing the implementation of the National Intelligence Program and acting as the principal adviser to the President and National Security Council) was when DNI McGuire unequivocally asserted that he found absolutely nothing improper about the actions of the whistleblower and Inspector General for Intelligence.

Trump showed U.S. Intelligence exactly who he was by publically encouraging Russia to help find Hillary Clinton's missing e-mails; when he berated U.S. Intelligence

for concluding that Russia had interfered in our 2016 election on behalf of Trump and was going to do the same in 2020; when he told Lester Holt during an interview and the Russian Foreign Minister and Ambassador to the U.S. during their infamous meeting in the Oval Office, that he fired FBI Director James Comey over investigating the "Russia Thing;" when he publically sided with Russian President Vladimir Putin over U.S. Intelligence in Helsinki; and when he informed George Stephanopoulos that he'd be open to receiving future dirt on political opponents from foreign leaders.

Therefore, no one should be shocked that Trump, the most an-

ti-democratic POTUS in modern American history, with the assistance of his usual accomplices, was caught red-handed by a CIA whistleblower pressuring the President of Ukraine to manufacture mud on a political opponent, an egregious abuse of power and impeachable offense.

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:  
*Pardon us if we do not automatically take statements from what's called "the intelligence community" as gospel, merely because those statements are at odds with what Dolt #45 has to say.*

The Editor

—==—



### The American Dream

To the Editor:

The American Dream is about individual freedom, liberty, financial independence and a higher standard of living for all. It is not about socialism.

The American Dream works best under capitalism with win-win transactions, free markets and providing other people with what they want.

The dream is defined by the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution with the individual having undeniable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and government deriving its power from the consent of the governed.

The American Dream became

vulnerable to taxation with the 16th Amendment (direct taxation) passed in 1913. The present income and payroll tax system taxes production (income, savings, and investment) and wealth creation. This undermines capitalism and supports socialism.

It is time to stop taxing the American Dream with the FAIRtax bill HR 25 to repeal the 16th Amendment and move the tax base from production to consumption with a progressive national sales and consumption tax system and only one tax break, a monthly tax refund, called the Prebate (\$239 per adult, \$85 per dependent) that helps the impoverished the most.

Paul Livingston  
Jacksonville, Fla.

Paul,  
*What clause in the Constitution mandates capitalism? If the American*

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## Kroger: Don't Lose Local News

by Jim Hightower

Like most politicians, corporate executives never do anything wrong. If anything wrong does “happen,” it’s always someone else’s fault.

That’s been the gutless ploy of Kroger supermarket honchos who recently yanked all local newsweeklies and community papers out of its stores. When a firestorm of local protests reached all the way to the

mega-chain’s Ohio headquarters, executives quickly named the villain who banished the papers: The papers themselves! They failed to keep up with the digital age, said Kroger bosses, so shoppers no longer pick up the free papers.

**BOVINE EXCREMENT!** While it’s true that chain-owned daily newspapers are losing readers after shriveling their coverage and jacking up their prices, more readers have turned to free local indepen-

dent weeklies to fill the print-news gap. In Lansing, Michigan, for example, media audits show that Kroger shoppers alone have nearly tripled the pickup rate of Lansing’s alternative weekly since 2012.

Kroger’s nationwide edict is a case of corporate conceit at its most stupid. It was issued from Kroger headquarters with no warning and no consultation (much less negotiation) with the papers or communities. It didn’t have to be so inept and

ugly—and now Kroger’s executives have gone into hiding, petulantly refusing to meet or even return phone calls to the people they’re hurting, apparently hoping the furor will just go away.

That’s truly stupid. Indeed, a group of indy papers has now launched a national campaign to call out Kroger’s executives, literally rallying us supporters of independent local news to give them our two-cents-worth. Call toll-free to

1-800-KROGERS (576-4377), then press 3 for “store experience” to speak to a manager—and demand that they restore the free press to all of their stores.

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

from page six

people vote for socialism, it’s socialism they ought to get. Of course, there are a few obstacles, like the Senate and the Electoral College, which were carefully put in place by the top dogs of their day [many of whom were slave-holders] in order that their progeny might more easily stay on top.

Polling has shown that, when they are stripped of the malign language applied to them by well-paid Right Wing propagandists, a lot of programs which could be labeled socialistic are supported by the American people. The Veterans Health Administration [VHA], for example, is overwhelmingly supported by civilians and veterans alike. It’s the high-income crowd that hates the VHA—because they want to own it and profit from it. They underfund it, pay stooges like Pete Hegseth to undermine public confidence in it, then pass legislation to chip away at it.

This is being done by the same crowd that wants to nuke the progressive Income Tax you so despise, and replace it with a regressive sales tax.

We welcome your letters, Paul—keep them coming. They remind us that the greedy never have enough, and are always on the prowl for more.

The Editor

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### Republicans Must Choose

Dear Editor,

We’ve seen Trump’s ploy for three years: he names others with disparaging words that actually pertain to himself. He called Ted Cruz “lying” yet it’s Trump who’s told us more than 12,000 lies while in office. He called Hillary “crooked” yet he’s the one receiving bribes from supplicants patronizing his hotels. Now,



the President who gave classified secrets to the Russian ambassador during his first week in office, the Commander-in-Chief who dismissed our country’s intelligence agencies in favor of publicly defending Putin in Helsinki, has called whistleblowers and the Congressional investigation chairman a “traitor.”

Asking foreign countries to discredit a political opponent illegally corrupts our elections. Conditioning our foreign policy with Ukraine on such political “favors” corrupts our national integrity. Withholding military aid from Ukraine defending itself against Russian incursion actually aids our enemy. That is treason.

Republican Senators must choose: defend the traitor or defend the rule of law.

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

Occasionally we ponder how Republicans must feel, watching their racket coming undone—and we smile.

The Editor

====

### Nature as “Property”

To the Editor:

Mindsets are evolving to understand our place in nature as embraced by the indigenous people of the land we occupy. The catastrophic consequences of nature existing as “property” under the law have propelled communities around the world to take action to assert the rights of the natural world. And the outcry of youth in recent months il-

lustrates the imperative that each of us takes action now.

The Community Rights movement has established the rights of nature from Lake Erie to Nottingham, N.H.’s groundwater, to Colombia’s Atrato River, to New Zealand’s Whanganui River. Uganda, Bolivia and Ecuador have national laws establishing the rights of nature.

Recently dozens of people were arrested in protest of the environmental degradation caused by emissions from the Bow power plant, demanding that it be shut down. Residents of Bow and the towns downstream and downwind from the coal-burning plant have the power to assert the rights of the natural world that sustains them. Those communities could work with the New Hampshire Community Rights Network (NHCRN) to assert the people’s right to clean water, air, and soil and local self-government. By passing rights-based ordinances that recognize, secure, and protect community rights, as a dozen N.H. towns have done, they could prohibit state-sanctioned harms inflicted upon families and natural environments. Communities facing the Granite Bridge Pipeline and storage facility also have cause for considering rights-based ordinances that challenge the legal system which treats nature as property to be exploited at the expense of the survivability of humans and nature.

We need to protect ourselves and

future generations at the local level. Attempts to preserve the environment with state regulations that suppress local solutions have only slowed environmental degradation to the point of unsustainability.

To solve the problems we face, people need to be able to use their local lawmaking process to determine local standards that build upon state standards and reflect the unique views, values and needs of our human and natural communities. Contact NHCRN at [info@nhcommunityrights.org](mailto:info@nhcommunityrights.org) and [nhcommunityrights.org](http://nhcommunityrights.org).

Diane St. Germain  
Barnstead, N.H.  
NHCRN Board Member  
(603) 496-3503

Diane:

At least things are becoming clearer every day. We’re watching a contest between the rights of communities to live, and the rights of capitalists to add more zeroes to their net worth.

The Editor

====

### Ewing Opposes Impeachment

To the Editor:

With respect to the “impeachment inquiry” Democrats are doing what Democrats always do, lie.

This isn’t a “House impeachment inquiry” or a “Democrat [sic, passim] impeachment inquiry;” it’s simply a Democrat leadership inquiry. Democrats didn’t vote for a real impeachment inquiry because that would create a record so Congressmen/Congresswomen can be held accountable, allow Republicans

to subpoena witnesses, and allow White House representatives to be involved and question witnesses, i.e., to identify bias and lies.

What’s occurring is a one-sided public spectacle of unproven and unchallenged allegations encouraged and supported by a dishonest media.

Its leader is Congressman Adam Schiff, a persistent liar. E.g., Schiff falsely claimed to have proof of Trump’s Russian collusion, and he later admitted that he lied when he opened his committee hearing with a fake version of Trump’s conversation with Ukraine President Zelensky and when he claimed in September that he was unaware of the whistleblower complaint. ...

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

Go ahead and pick nits about the nature of the inquiry. Lower a ladle into a sewer and you know what you’re going to find.

Trump claimed the transcript was “an exact word-for-word transcript of the conversation, taken by very talented stenographers.” He contradicted his own White House officials, who said it was “a summary that closely tracked the words the president used.” It can be read in less than half the time the phone call is known to have taken. Besides—his meaning was obvious.

Your characterization of Schiff as a self-confessed liar baffles us. Perhaps we missed his mea culpa. We’re damned if we’re going to track down every one of your mischaracterizations, though.

Sorry we had to cut 278 words from your letter—space constraints, don’tcha know.

The Editor

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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

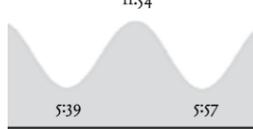
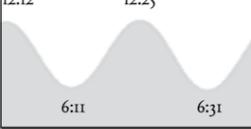
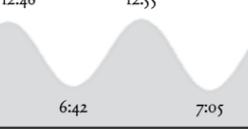
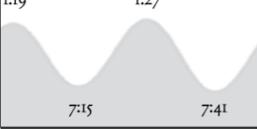
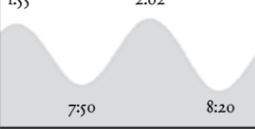
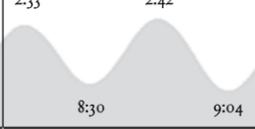
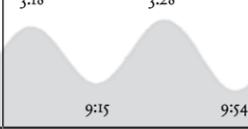
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

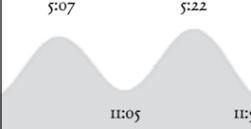
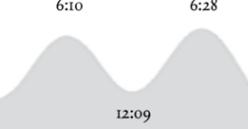
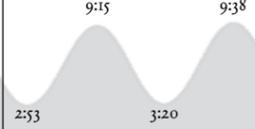
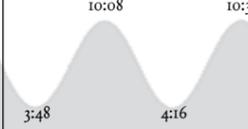
moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

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, OCTOBER 13	MONDAY, OCTOBER 14	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
<p><b>2004</b>—Andrea Mackris sues her ex-boss, Fox's Bill O'Reilly, for making lewd phone calls. Two weeks later O'Reilly pays her \$9M to shut up.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—George W.[MD] Bush claims during a televised debate, "Gosh, I don't think I ever said I'm not worried about Osama bin Laden. That's kind of one of those exaggerations," directly contradicting his own statement of March 3, 2002 that he's "not that much concerned about him."</p> <p><b>1991</b>—A lie detector test suggests Anita Hill is telling the truth about Clarence Thomas.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Experts call the Shroud of Turin a 13th century fake.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Seventy-five years after the land for it was allocated, the Burns Paiute Indian reservation in Oregon is created.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—A plane carrying a Uruguayan rugby team crashes high in the Andes, leading to culinary experimentation.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Two Marines die and 21 are wounded when a Marine pilot accidentally bombs them at Con Thien.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—Birth of Lenny Bruce.</p> <p><b>1812</b>—U.S. Gen. Van Rensselaer sends his regulars across the Canadian border. Those who aren't shot are forced to surrender. A troop of U.S. militia then refuses orders to invade.</p> <p><b>1660</b>—Major General Thomas Harrison goes to his hanging, drawing, and quartering "looking as cheerful as any man could do in that condition," according to diarist Samuel Pepys.</p>	<p><b>2018</b>—RIP, Emilio V. Maddaloni.</p> <p><b>2011</b>—Two weeks after a U.S. drone smites his father, a U.S. citizen, in Yemen, Abdulrahman Anwar al-Awlaki, also a U.S. citizen, meets the same fate in the same country. Neither man gets a trial.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Delta Flight 458 (Atlanta-Newark) is diverted to Charlotte after two praying Orthodox Jews are mistaken for terrorists.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The Pentagon orders 24,000 troops back to Vietnam for an involuntary second tour.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—At the Presidio stockade, 27 soldiers are arrested for mutiny.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—A U-2 flying over Cuba photographs medium-range ballistic missile sites being built.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Broken ribs be damned: Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Prisoners of Sobibor revolt, killing officers and guards. Half the 600 prisoners escape under fire.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Forbidden by their boss to discuss their pay at <i>Vanity Fair</i>, Robert Benchley and Dorothy Parker don signs stating their salaries.</p> <p><b>1914</b>—Its captain ashore being entertained by a whore, its crew below with whores of their own, the Russian cruiser <i>Zhemchug</i> is sunk in Penang harbor by the German cruiser <i>Emden</i>.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—William Schranck shoots Teddy Roosevelt in the chest, later saying "any man looking for a third term ought to be shot." TR, though bleeding, delivers his speech.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—The Dow loses 7.8 percent of its value in its 2nd worst day ever.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Jon Stewart appears on CNN's "Crossfire" and begs Tucker Carlson to "stop hurting America." Less than 90 days later CNN announces the show is over.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—On Nevada's Black Rock Desert, RAF pilot Andy Green breaks the sound barrier in a jet-driven, 110,000 horsepower car.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—In the U.S., two million march in the first Vietnam Moratorium. The Boston demo draws 100,000.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Huey Newton and Bobby Seale form the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—David Miller becomes the first to publicly burn his draft card in Vietnam War protest.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—A nuke-laden B-52 and a fuel-laden KC-135 collide over Kentucky, but America's luck holds.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—The Senate begins investigating Albert Fall, the suddenly-prosperous Interior Secretary. Fall, a Republican, leased the Navy's Teapot Dome oilfield to a friend.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Exotic dancer Mata Hari, convicted of spying for Germany, is shot by a French firing squad.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Melvin Vaniman, aboard the airship <i>America</i>, transmits the first in-flight radio message: "Roy, come and get this goddamn cat."</p> <p><b>1883</b>—The Supreme Court guts the Civil Rights Act of 1875, ushering in the era of the Jim Crow South.</p>	<p><b>1973</b>—Fred and Donald Trump are sued by the Justice Dept. for discriminating against minority renters. Roy Cohn, their lawyer counterparts, claiming the victims are the Trumps.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Henry Kissinger gets the Nobel Peace Prize; Tom Lehrer declares political satire obsolete.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Majority Leader Hale Boggs [D-La.], Rep. Nick Begich [D-Alaska], and others vanish while flying over Alaska.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Tommie Smith and John Carlos raise Black Power salutes at the Mexico Olympics.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—At breakfast, President John F. Kennedy finds he's got a Cuban Missile Crisis on his plate.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—The U.S. Army hangs ten Nazis. The heads of several are bloodied by hitting the trap on their way through. Two choke for 14 minutes before dying; von Ribbentrop for 24.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—In New York, more than 30,000 Great War veterans march to demand a bonus.</p> <p><b>1859</b>—John Brown and 18 others, both black and white, capture the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Va.</p> <p><b>1814</b>—Ruptured vats in a London brewery release 323,346 gallons of beer, drowning seven.</p> <p><b>1715</b>—Daniel Fowle is baptized at First Church of Boston.</p> <p><b>1660</b>—John Cooke, who had prosecuted King Charles I for treason in 1649, is drawn and quartered for the same crime under Charles II.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—In game four of the ALCS, 9th inning, Dave Roberts steals 2nd, then scores on Bill Mueller's single.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—Lissa Roche commits suicide after confessing she had a 19-year affair with her father-in-law, George Roche III, the president of Hillsdale College, "the most conservative college in America."</p> <p><b>1973</b>—OPEC turns off the oil tap.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Lt. Col. Terry Allen Jr. leads two companies of the 28th Infantry, outnumbered 10 to 1, into a VC ambush at Ong Thanh. Casualties exceeded 92 percent, 64 are KIA; the U.S. Army declares it a victory.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—The sit-in movement pays off big: several chain stores with locations in 10 southern states desegregate 150 lunch counters in 112 cities.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—"The only way to win the next World War," says Ike, "is to prevent it."</p> <p><b>1927</b>—Oil mogul Harry F. Sinclair goes on trial over Teapot Dome. Two weeks later it's revealed he's hired detectives to shadow each juror.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—On orders from Ohio National Guard Col. Alonzo B. Coit, Guardsmen fire out, through the closed doors of the Fayette County Court House, at a mob intent on lynching a Black man accused of rape. Five die, 20 are wounded; the bullet-riddled doors remain in place.</p> <p><b>1777</b>—Burgoyne, undone by Benedict Arnold at Bemis Heights, surrenders at Saratoga; the victory inspires the French to back the Americans.</p>	<p><b>2017</b>—U.S. President Donald Trump signs a check for \$35,000 to repay his lawyer for buying the silence of a porn star with whom he had an affair.</p> <p><b>2014</b>—Thousands of college-age cretins, urged on by social media company Finnarage, set fires, throw billiard balls, and overturn cars, putting an end to the Keene Pumpkin Festival.</p> <p><b>2011</b>—Ohioan Terry Thompson releases his menagerie of 56 exotic animals, including lions, leopards, and tigers, then kills himself.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—In game four of the ALCS, 12th inning, Big Papi puts the Yankees out of their misery and brings joy to the World Series.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The president of Bolivia is driven out of office (and country) by disgruntled peasants tired of being sold out to international capitalists.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—"The standard of living of the average American has to decline," says well-fed Fed Chair Paul Volcker.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—The U.S. colonizes Puerto Rico — benevolently, of course.</p> <p><b>1891</b>—On the basis of false rumors and a dubious identification, a mob of 1,000 lynches Joe Coe, a married African-American with two children, as 12 Omaha, Neb. cops just watch.</p> <p><b>1775</b>—Capt. Henry Mowat destroys Falmouth [now Portland, Maine] with an incendiary bombardment. Result: collateral damage to Mowat's career and British hegemony.</p> <p><b>1648</b>—Boston shoemakers form America's first labor organization.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) wins \$853,492 in the Powerball lottery. A dying woman whose real estate deposit he has refused to return receives exactly none of it.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Saddam Hussein goes on trial in Baghdad for crimes against humanity and Bushes.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—George W.[MD] Bush says at the Al Smith Dinner, "This is an impressive crowd, the haves and the have-mores. Some people call you the elite. I call you my base."</p> <p><b>1998</b>—Shortly before his likely re-election, Tennessee Senator Tommy Burks [D] is murdered by his middle-name-changing opponent, Byron Low Tax Looper [R].</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Stock markets crash everywhere, likely because computers went nuts. The Dow drops 22 percent.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Automaker J. DeLorean is arrested with 59 lbs. of coke.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Philippine police shoot and kill Kinshichi Kozuka, Japan's penultimate WW II holdout.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Four years before admitting he'd accepted bribes, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew denounces "an effete corps of impudent snobs who characterize themselves as intellectuals."</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Air Force General Curtis LeMay recommends direct military intervention in Cuba.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Eisenhower embargoes Cuba.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Watertown, Mass. becomes the first town to fingerprint its high school students.</p>
 <p>5:39      5:57</p>	 <p>6:11      6:31</p>	 <p>6:42      7:05</p>	 <p>7:15      7:41</p>	 <p>7:50      8:20</p>	 <p>8:30      9:04</p>	 <p>9:15      9:54</p>

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20	MONDAY, OCTOBER 21	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26
<p><b>2011</b>—Brotherly Leader Muammar Ghaddafi is rather unceremoniously dispatched by Libyan rebels.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) nixes an increase in Federal home heating aid for the poor.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—In 22 cities, Americans protest the impending Gulf War.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—The Feds recognize the Mashantucket Pequot, paving the way for a gargantuan casino.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—After A.G. Eliot Richardson and Deputy A.G. William Ruckelshaus refuse on principle to comply with President Nixon's order to fire Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, Solicitor General Robert Bork, who is not so encumbered, complies.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin shoot 24 feet of film purporting to show a Sasquatch walking along a streambed in northern California.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—HUAC opens hearings on comic influence in Hollywood; two big rats: R. Reagan &amp; W. Disney.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Two natural gas tanks explode in Cleveland with 1/6th of the force of the Hiroshima bomb, killing 130.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—The Red Army's 6,000 mile "Long March" ends.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—William Kogut, while incarcerated on Death Row at San Quentin, kills himself with a pipe bomb made from playing cards.</p> <p><b>1842</b>—Commodore Thomas Jones, USN, attacks Monterey in the mistaken belief that the U.S. is at war with Mexico. He then apologizes.</p>	<p><b>1975</b>—In the 12th inning, New Hampshire's own Carlton Fisk waves the ball fair, and the Red Sox win Game 6 of the World Series.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Yuppies, Diggers, Hippies, &amp;c., fail to levitate the Pentagon.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—A mountain of mine waste collapses onto a school in Wales, killing 28 adults and 116 children.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Lyndon Johnson flashes his gall bladder scar for photographers.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Special Forces Capt. Harry Cramer becomes the first American killed by hostile action in Vietnam. His death is falsely listed as accidental.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Indiana's Boxing Commission says boxers and wrestlers must swear an oath they're not Commies before they can fight in the Hoosier State.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—Birth of Charles Ives.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—Sen. Edward D. Baker (R-Ore.), in his capacity as a Colonel leading a brigade at the Battle of Ball's Bluff, becomes the first and last U.S. Senator killed in battle.</p> <p><b>1837</b>—Under a flag of truce, 75 Seminoles are captured and imprisoned by U.S. troops at Ft. Payton, Fla.</p> <p><b>1835</b>—William Lloyd Garrison is paraded through Boston with a rope around his neck for saying "all men are created equal."</p> <p><b>1797</b>—After two failures, the <i>U.S.S. Constitution</i> is launched in Boston.</p> <p><b>1556</b>—Poet, playwright, satirist, and blackmailer Pietro Aretino—"the Scourge of Princes"—laughs himself to death.</p>	<p><b>1987</b>—At Yoken's, noted buffoon Donald Trump speaks before a credulous Portsmouth Rotary Club.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—The last surviving Kickapoo Indians are given the right to live on their ancestral lands after being kicked off 140 years earlier.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—To improve the odds of his re-election, Richard Nixon tells H.R. Haldeman to "monkeywrench" negotiations to end the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—KGB agent Manfred Ramming steals a Sidewinder missile from Neuburg AFB, takes it off-base in a wheelbarrow, drives away with it sticking out the back of his Mercedes, and mails it, dismantled, to Moscow.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—SAC goes to DEFCON 2 as JFK blockades Cuba.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Despite a confession, a white jury in Mississippi finds five white men not guilty of beating Leon McAttee, who's black, to death.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—"I know of nothing fundamentally wrong with the stock market," says President of New York's National City Bank.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—The <i>Boston Journal</i> reports that a Henniker, N.H. man proposes ending the war by dropping lethal amounts of his new laughing gas on the German trenches.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—A dynamite blast, detonated in violation of safety rules, kills 265 at a Phelps Dodge mine in Dawson, N.M.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—A judge tells striking female garment workers in New York, "You are on strike against God."</p>	<p><b>2015</b>—FBI Director James Comey says a recent rise in violent crime was caused by criticism of the police.</p> <p><b>2015</b>—Sen. Ted Cruz [R-Texas] warns "one more liberal justice and they begin sandblasting and bulldozing veterans memorials."</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisc.) introduces the senseless PATRIOT Act, &amp; Justice official James Yoo writes a memo saying the President need not obey the law.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—Life being sacred, anti-abortion fanatic James C. Kopp murders Dr. Barnett Slepian in Amherst, N.Y.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Robert Bork gets borked.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Suicide bombers kill 241 U.S. Marines and sailors in Lebanon, on Ronald Reagan's watch.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Eight articles of impeachment are introduced in the House against President Nixon.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Fed up with accurate reporting, JFK asks <i>N.Y. Times</i> publisher "Punch" Sulzberger to assign David Halberstam anywhere but Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—With SAC at DEFCON 2, JFK and aides debate whether to bomb Cuban SAM sites if any U.S. planes are shot down.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—In a South Vietnamese referendum with 108% participation, Ngo Dinh Diem wins with 98.9%.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Pres. Eisenhower authorizes direct U.S. aid to South Vietnam, bypassing the French.</p> <p><b>1775</b>—The Continental Congress bars blacks from the Army.</p>	<p><b>2012</b>—George W.[MD] Bush speaks at a Houston fundraiser for troops wounded following his orders. His fee: \$100,000.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—America's markets outperform the rest of the world, having lost only 3.5% of their value in one day.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The U.S. House passes the PATRIOT Act without reading it.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—U.S. military aircraft, using old maps, bomb Richmond Hill Insane Asylum in Grenada, killing 16.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Soviet ships reach the U.S. quarantine line off Cuba. They don't cross it, so we don't nuke the USSR. A Soviet satellite explodes the same day.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—NORAD suspects an ICBM attack; but, again, nobody pushes The Button.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—One wrongly-set switch at the Baikonur Cosmodrome prematurely ignites the second stage of a Soviet R-16 ICBM; 100 die.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—A badly-designed heater sets a DC-6 on fire near Bryce Canyon, Utah. Passengers and crew jettison baggage to no avail; 52 perish.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—The irrational exuberance of the 1920's stock market undergoes a correction on "Black Thursday."</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Soldiers loyal to the Kerensky government attack the Bolsheviks' newspaper office. Lenin flips out.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—Annie Edson Taylor, 63, goes over Niagara Falls in a barrel and lives.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—General "Hell-Roaring" Jake Smith tells Marines at Samar, "burn and kill; the more you burn and kill, the better it will please me."</p>	<p><b>2001</b>—Sen. Russ Feingold votes "nay" on the "PATRIOT" Act.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—U.S. troops protect us (and distract from the loss of 241 Marines in Beirut) by invading Grenada.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Henry Kissinger, Alexander Haig, and other unelected officials raise America's military readiness level to DEF CON 3 as Nixon sleeps.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Nuclear-armed jets scramble from Duluth AFB because a guard, thinking it's an infiltrator, has shot a bear climbing a fence.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Martin Luther King, Jr. gets four months at hard labor in Decatur, Ga. on old traffic charges.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Adm. Sprague's task force "Taffy 3," surprised by a far-larger group of Japanese ships at Samar Island, attacks ferociously, tipping the strategic balance at Leyte Gulf.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—<i>U.S.S. Tang</i>, captained by Dover's Richard H. O'Kane, is sunk by its own malfunctioning torpedo; 74 crewmen perish, 9 survive the sinking and a Japanese prison camp.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Greece's King Alexander of Greece dies, bitten by his pet monkey.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Bolsheviks take over the Winter Palace and Petrograd in general.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—Lord James Cardigan leads a brigade of sword-brandishing light cavalrymen across open ground in a doomed attack against Russian artillery. Somehow, half survive.</p> <p><b>1760</b>—King George II dies on the loo.</p> <p><b>1669</b>—Virginia legalizes the killing of slaves by their masters.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—Bloomberg reports that Donald Trump's grandpa once ran a brothel in British Columbia.</p> <p><b>2010</b>—Arizona kills Jeffrey Landrigan, using drugs imported illegally.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Iraqi resistance fighters nearly get Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz with a rocket in Baghdad.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Four years after helping to scuttle peace talks and get Richard Nixon elected, Henry Kissinger announces that "Peace is at hand."</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Governor Reagan, calling the White House, refers to "those monkeys from those African countries... damn them, they're still uncomfortable wearing shoes," which President Nixon finds hilarious.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Aboard the carrier <i>U.S.S. Oriskany</i> off Vietnam, a sailor throws an accidentally-ignited flare into a locker full of warheads. Explosions ensue, 44 die and 156 are injured.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—As air strikes loom, Kennedy gets a telegram from Khrushchev offering to swap Soviet missiles in Cuba for U.S. missiles in Turkey.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Ngo Dinh Diem proclaims himself president of South Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Allies gain a few hundred yards of mud at Passchendaele at the cost of 12,000 casualties.</p> <p><b>1881</b>—The Clanton brothers shoot it out with the alleged law at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona.</p> <p><b>1806</b>—Lord Timothy Dexter, author of <i>A Penny for the Knowing Ones</i>, dies at 59 in Newburyport, Mass.</p>
 <p>4:09      4:21</p>	 <p>5:07      5:22</p>	 <p>6:10      6:28</p>	 <p>7:15      7:35</p>	 <p>8:17      8:38</p>	 <p>9:15      9:38</p>	 <p>10:08      10:33</p>

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