

The Fortnightly Rant

Round Up the Usual Victims

Colonel Myles B. Caggins III, the spokesperson for Operation Inherent Resolve, announced a little over a week ago that two Coalition F-15Es had just “successfully conducted a pre-planned precision airstrike at the Lafarge Cement Factory to destroy an ammunition cache and reduce the facility’s military usefulness.”

Translating from Caggins’ native Pentagonese into English, and restoring a few slightly awkward details for clarity, what the Colonel said was, “Our pilots just flew our jets over our abandoned ammo dump in northern Syria and dropped our bombs on it to prevent fighters allied with our NATO partner Turkey, or perhaps the Russians, from using those weapons on us.”

This unusual attack on our own asset was a logical consequence of the rapid withdrawal of 1,000 U.S. military forces from northern Syria, which began October 7th: a move so precipitous that it surprised not only the Turks, Kurds, Syrians, and Russians, but also our own Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Chain of Command Revised?

U.S. military strategy has not hitherto been determined by the President of Turkey. This radical change in our military posture, however, appears to have been dictated to President Trump during a phone call with Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

According to a Fox News report which cited “a well-placed senior U.S. military source,” the President “had talking points [in front of him at the time of the call, emphasizing that he should] ‘Tell Erdoğan to stay north of the border,’” but Trump “went off script.” Presto change-o, Inherent Resolve became Acquired Vacillation.

Calling George Orwell...

Erdoğan has said he’s creating “a safe zone” in Syria where he can relocate some three million Syrians displaced

by the civil war. Perhaps Trump, thwarted in his quest for a military parade, found the prospect of a military assault followed by the forced removal of millions of desperate refugees too enticing to interfere.

The official name of the Turkish attack is “Operation Peace Spring.” The area being shelled and bombed is at the same latitude as Washington, D.C.; the autumnal equinox has passed: it is fall, not spring. Whoever dreamed up that name has clearly had American training.

Round Up the Usual Victims

By pulling out of Syria, Trump has given Turkey a green light to go after “terrorists.” That might be tolerable, if by “terrorists,” Erdoğan meant ISIS. Unfortunately, ISIS is almost family to him. His son-in-law has apparently been involved in the sale of stolen Syrian and Iraqi oil, the proceeds of which went to ISIS. Meanwhile, his daughter is alleged to have established medical centers in southeastern Turkey where ISIS soldiers have received medical treatment. And—don’t tell Donald Trump—Turkey’s border with Iraq and Syria is about as tight as the one between Maine and New Hampshire.

Unfortunately, when Erdoğan says “terrorists,” he means our allies, the Kurds, who are already paying dearly for this latest stab in the back. Jon Schwarz did a tally for *The Intercept* headlined, “The U.S. Is Now Betraying the Kurds for the Eighth Time.” It’s worth reading in full, but we’ll give the briefest possible summary: 1923, 1963, 1975, 1985, 1991, 1994, and 2003. It’s a wonder Trump could find a place to stick the knife.

No one should be treated in this way, but especially not the Kurds, considering their literally vital role in the fight against ISIS: we supplied small arms and ammunition; they fought, bled, and died. That wasn’t enough to get credit in a White



House announcement, though: “Turkey will now be responsible for all ISIS fighters in the area captured over the past two years in the wake of the defeat of the territorial ‘Caliphate’ by the United States.” [Emphasis added.]

Sayonara, Rojava

It’s bad enough that the Kurds will suffer; their democratic experiment seems unlikely to survive.

The heart of the Middle East is not a place where you expect to find enlightened government. The autonomous Kurdish territory of Rojava, though, operates under a system it calls democratic confederalism. In practice, as Rahila Gupta put it for *The New Internationalist*, this means “direct democracy, ecological sustainability and ethnic inclusivity, where women have veto powers on new legislation and share all institutional positions with men.”

“Within the short time since forming Rojava’s democratic exper-

iment, child marriage, forced marriage, dowry and polygamy were banned; honour killings, violence and discrimination against women were criminalized. It is the only part of Syria where sharia councils have been abolished and religion has been consigned to the private sphere.”

Watch Out for Broken Arrows

Reputable sources have long maintained that the U.S. keeps about 50 nukes stored in bunkers at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey. For security reasons, that’s never been confirmed—or wasn’t, until last week. Yep, O’ Fish Lips let it slip.

The weapons in question are B61s: in the vernacular, they are dumb, gravity bombs, i.e., they’re unguided. They do have the dial-a-yield feature. Crank the knob up to 11, and you get the explosive force of 340,000 tons of TNT.

If one of these were to get loose and explode over Market Square, the result would be a fireball ex-

tending from Badger’s Island—so long, Memorial Bridge—to Brewster Street—so long, Caffe Kilim; and from the Port of New Hampshire to the South End site where Daniel Fowle established the state’s first print shop. The air blast would knock down most buildings between the Kittery malls to the new Portsmouth Post Office. Fatalities would be widespread within that area, injuries would be universal. Sleep tight.

Catch-2019

Lieutenant Milo Minderbinder, in *Catch-22*, privatized his squadron, which then bombed its own air base under a contract with the Nazis. That was OK, though—everyone who survived made a profit, because everyone owned a share of the enterprise. Those were the good old days.

Now we bomb ourselves, and it’s hard to see how anyone profits—except for the arms manufacturers, of course.

The Alleged News®

So Many Wheels ...

Auto repairmen learned on Wednesday that clown cars have more wheels than you might think, and the best way to count them is to watch as they fall off:

➤ William Taylor, the Ambassador to Ukraine, spent all day Tuesday telling Congress in meticulous detail how President Trump and his merry band of cronies thwarted the will of Congress by withholding appropriated funds in order to extort from a foreign leader an on-camera performance of a script full of lies so as to improve the President’s chances of winning re-election. Even by the remarkably lax ethical standards of late 2019, the course of behavior Taylor described seemed out of line.

➤ The President of the United States, eager to draw attention away from the methodical advance of his

own doom, responded by firing up his Twitterphone and dropping a Race Bomb: “All Republicans must remember what they are witnessing here—a lynching.”

Senator Lindsey Graham agreed, saying “this is a lynching and in every sense this is un-American.” Graham represents South Carolina, a state which has experienced 164 actual lynchings. His grasp of history seems tenuous; he has apparently forgotten that on May 3, 2016, he tweeted, “If we nominate Trump, we will get destroyed...and we will deserve it.”

➤ A mob of Republican Congressmen barged into the Capitol’s Secure Compartmented Information Facility [SCIF], holding unsecure cellphones in lieu of tiki torches. Then they ordered pizza and Chick-

fil-A. This appears to have been accomplished without the assistance of Roger Stone, a pioneer in the development of lawless Republican mobs and architect of the Brooks Brothers Riot, which helped steal the 2000 election. They did, however, meet with the President in the White House the day before, at which time he approved the plan.

➤ Sen. John Cornyn [R-Texas] said Wednesday that “If Turkey was planning on coming into northern Syria and trying to ethnically cleanse the Kurds, and U.S. troops were caught in the middle, I am not completely convinced that it was a bad idea to get them out of harm’s way.”

➤ U.S. Circuit Court Judge Denny Chin asked William Consovoy, a lawyer for the President, “What

if he did pull out a gun and shot someone on 5th Ave? Would police be restrained from disabling such a person? Nothing could be done?” Consovoy replied, “That’s correct.”

➤ The person whom all these people are attempting to protect said at a Pittsburgh rally, “We’re building a wall in Colorado. We’re building a beautiful wall. A big one that really works.” His audience stood and cheered. Colorado is surrounded by seven states; at no point does it border Mexico.

A Minor Irrelevancy

Not that it matters, but, by way of distraction from the dramatic machinations of our political circus, the Peterson Institute for International Economics—a highly-regarded non-profit think tank not associated with national-debt-crank Pete Pe-

terson—has just issued a report on a study which has concluded that at the current rate of deforestation, the Amazonian rain-forest could reach an irreversible tipping point as early as 2021.

As a consequence, the rain-forest would then begin to gradually change into a dry savannah, thus releasing billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. That would, of course, accelerate the warming of the atmosphere.

Apparently there is no need to worry, though—a new Congressional Budget Office report claims that “the effect of climate change on the nation’s economic output, and hence on federal tax revenues, will probably be small over the next 30 years and larger, but still modest, in the following few decades.”

Two Communist Brothers from Washington, New Hampshire and their Fight Against Fascism

In our issue of October 11th we told the stories of Fred and Elba Chase, a somewhat improbable couple who flourished, in their own way, in Washington, New Hampshire during the first half of the 20th century. Fred's ancestor Aquila Chase came to America in 1635, on the eighth ship to land here after the *Mayflower*; Elba was born to poor Jewish parents in Latvia, and probably came in steerage. Their shared egalitarian values allowed them to transcend such differences and share a good, if economically precarious, life in this state—despite being lifelong Communists. Fred and Elba's anomalous politics, their campaigns for elected office, and their shared headstone—bearing the only hammer and sickle in the town of Washington's New Cemetery—have brought them a secure, if obscure, footnote in history. Two of their sons, Joseph and Homer, have long shared a similar level of nearly-complete obscurity.

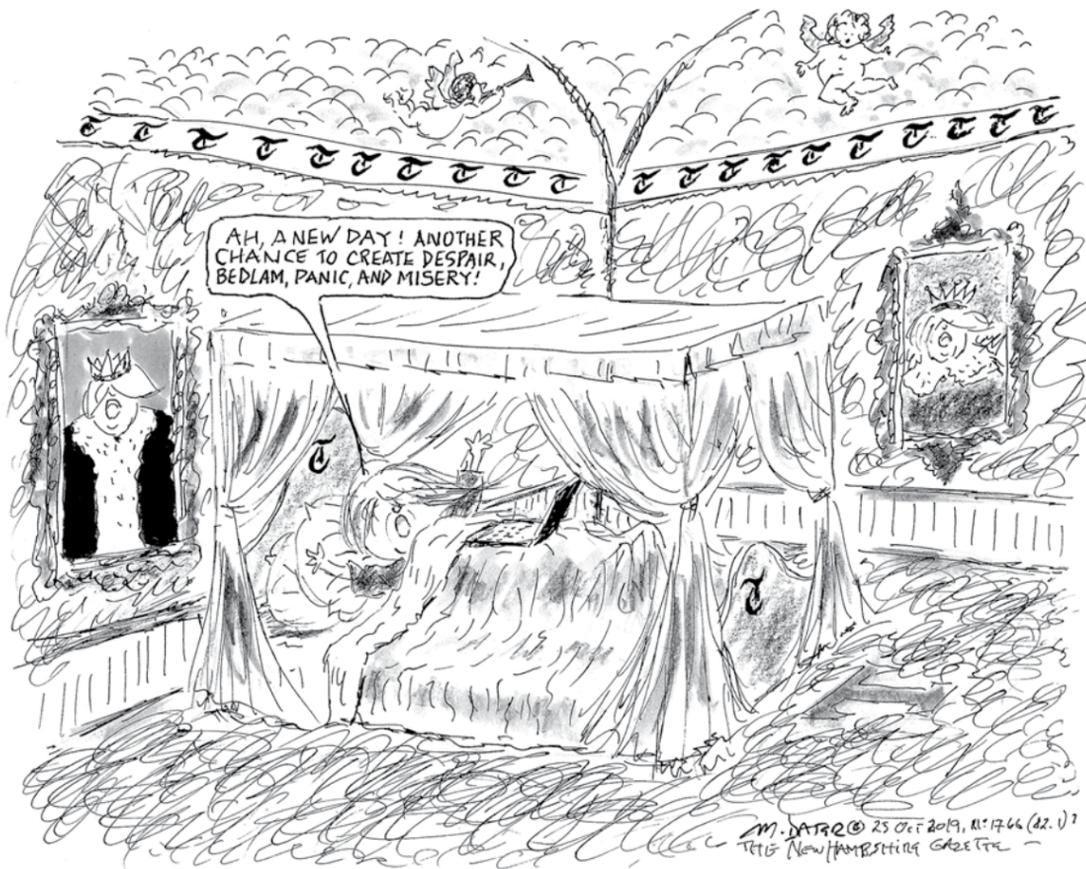
Having enjoyed a lifetime of familiarity with the town of Wash-

ington, and a general awareness of the Chases, the Editor was thrilled to receive, courtesy of its author, Donald H. Forbes, a copy of *Two Communist Brothers from Washington, New Hampshire and their Fight Against Fascism*.

As anyone who regularly reads the *New York Times Review of Books* is aware, ready accessibility to digital technology has produced a flood of self-published books of dubious value. *Two Communist Brothers*, though self-published, is not among them. In fact, it is an example of that type of work which redeems and justifies the technology.

What traditional publisher would take on the challenge of a book written by a man who earned his living hauling freight on the railroad? Yet only such a man would know these stories, understand their value, and care enough to tell them.

Where is the market for stories of this obscure pair of chronic trouble-makers? Any library in New Hampshire that strives to tell this state's whole story.



Every Sunday afternoon, OccupyNHSeacoast holds a spirited rally in Market Square for civil rights, social justice, and economic equality. October 13th was special, though; the usual suspects were joined by fifty or sixty more citizens, demanding the impeachment of President Donald J. Trump. The First Amendment was put to good use. Signs carried messages such as "Make Truth Great Again," "Protect the Freedom of the Press," "Only a Coward Abandons an Ally," and, "Impeach Agolf Twitt[er]."

Having thus neatly disposed of the faintest whiff of impartiality, let us dig in. First a word about the author. We'll let him tell it. . . .

"Born in the worst of the depression. Grew up in Hyde Park, a neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts. Graduated from Hyde Park High in 1951. Thrown out of Boston Latin and left Technical High School voluntarily. Served in the Army like most people of that generation, and railroaded for 45 years: Boston Terminal Co., New Haven Railroad, Penn Central and Conrail.

"I came from three previous generations of railroaders. Enough is enough."

Forbes began working on railroads at the age of 12, tagging along with his father. He first met Joe Chase in 1955, at the New Haven rail yard in Boston. The two became friends, and worked together for thirty years.

Born in 1913, Joe was the oldest of the Chases' five children, and an

adventurous one. While still a teenager, in the depths of the Depression, "he took off for a tramp's tour of the United States."

Elba Chase took in boarders in those days. Occasionally they showed up without notice. One evening "Elba, with old world hospitality, asked [some] uninvited guests to sit down and eat with them. . . . [Joe]...stared at the unexpected guests...with disapproval as they were eating what little food was intended for the regular household." He got over it soon enough, though—a couple of years later, Joe and Anne Movitz, one of those guests, began a long, happy marriage. They had three children by the time World War Two began.

The Army trained Joe to be a railroad blacksmith—and an interpreter. While his unit was stationed in France, the French railroad workers went on strike. Ordered by his captain to find out what the trouble was, Joe spotted a striker with a copy of *Humanité*, a Communist paper, in

his pocket.

"When the negotiations were concluded," Joe's son Fred told Forbes, "the captain had awarded the French workers much more than he realized. The Americans in all the other sectors had to give their workers the same high wage. I don't know how Dad explained this to his captain, but he always said he could usually talk his way out of anything."

Joe brought the same creativity and bold attitude to his work as a shop steward in Boston after the war. Representing the New Haven Railroad's yard men at Dover Street in Boston during the big 1946 strike, he "set up headquarters in a local bar in 'Southie' (South Boston) and had 'runners' (messengers) to keep him informed about scabs, &c."

Joe's yard men won a forty-hour week with overtime pay after eight hours. Road men like Donald, represented by other union officials, were not so fortunate: "I retired 45 years later," he writes, and road men still didn't have a 40-hour week."

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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.

THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE

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 — Joe Keefe

Joe's effectiveness as a union man made him unpopular in certain circles. He "was immediately targeted... as a threat to corporate profits," Forbes writes.

Newton's Third Law states that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. That's physics. In labor/management relations, the reaction is opposite, but it's hardly equal.

"[A] treacherous railroad man in our ranks, [John] "Wacko" Hurley... who now heads the committee to run the Boston Saint Patrick's Day Parade [Hurley died in 2015], and a couple of Hurley's sympathizers, were used to try to fire Joe because he was a Communist. ... We were afraid he would be fired.... Our [union] General Chairman saw the support Joe got from the rank and file, and told the company he wouldn't tolerate Joe being fired. I still believe that the local [company] supervisors, who had come up from the ranks, also supported Joe. They knew him for the straight shooter he was and many of them fought in Europe in the same railroad battalion against the Fascists that they now saw sprouting in their own country. Joe kept his job."

Homer Chase shared his older brother's antipathy towards fascists. Also a man of action, in 1937, at the age of 20, he sailed for Spain to fight with the Loyalists against Franco. Forbes was able to quote Homer about his service in Spain, from a letter he wrote much later to a fellow "premature anti-fascist."

"To the best of my recollection I was first at the Jarama Front... with the English Battalion for about a month. ... I joined Lincoln's [the Abraham Lincoln Brigade] just after 1st [Battle of Belchite] and was in [the] Fuentes de Ebro Battle. After that a fairly long march and capture of a hill somewhere near Teruel (we had severe losses in our company). Then a hellish few days in some bare hills in bitter cold... then rest interrupted by sudden attack by Italians near Belchite—on second day I was separated from outfit and captured.

"I remember being searched by Mussolini's soldiers and then ordered to walk away with hands up—kept waiting for a bullet in the back while yearning for home in N.H. It was sugaring time there."

Spared the bullet, he spent the next seven months in a fascist pris-



on, plagued by lice, surviving on garlic soup and goat meat stew—sometimes with teeth in it. Homer was released in a prisoner exchange. After a thorough delousing he sailed for home on the *Queen Mary*. There, he wrote, he asked himself the question familiar to so many veterans: "What the hell am I now, and what the hell do I do next?"

In 1943, Homer joined the U.S. Army Air Force, and trained to be a navigator. Just before he was to get his commission, though, he was told that, coming from a family of Communists, he wasn't eligible to serve overseas. He resigned, and enlisted again, this time as a paratrooper. After he got his jump wings, an officer gave him the same line—no Com-mies overseas.

"Homer faced him down," Forbes writes, "and told him there was only one man who didn't want him overseas. When asked who that man was, Homer told him, 'Adolf Hitler.'"

Assigned to the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Homer took part in a little skirmish called the Battle of the Bulge. The 513th constituted 18 percent of the 17th Airborne Division, but took 46 percent

of the casualties—never failing to complete its mission. A few months later, Homer was among 16,000 paratroopers in the largest single airborne operation in history: Operation Varsity, on March 24, 1945.

Demobilized again, Homer decided to fight home-grown fascists, becoming a Communist organizer in the Deep South. Leftist politics being notoriously fractious, and McCarthyism at its height, his time there was...eventful.

While Forbes, as a writer, has not enjoyed the advantages which might have accrued from a fellowship at Yaddo or a residency at the McDowell Colony, his years working on the railroad, and his years as a union organizer, combined with his own deep convictions, have given us a rare, clear-eyed, close-up look at the improbable and illuminating experiences of two brothers from a tiny, remote, obscure town in the hills of Sullivan County. In creating this book he has encapsulated a broad swath of mid-20th century American history, and beyond: the Depression, the railroads, labor struggles, politics, and even the Spanish Civil War.

Revisit the Revolution

The Revolutionary era will come to life at the historic Colonel Paul Wentworth House in Rollinsford, N.H. this Saturday and Sunday, October 26th and 27th. This colonial market fair and militia muster will feature 18th century craftspeople at work, and militia training in preparation for joining General Washington's forces against the British.

Artisans in period attire will demonstrate crafts such as joinery, coopering, lacemaking, and blacksmithing. The militia will perform musket firings and military drills, display and explain their equipment, and raise a Liberty Pole and flag. The event will also feature hearth cooking, children's games, and more.

The event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for the general public; free for children and members of the Association for Rollinsford Culture and History (ARCH).

The Wentworth House is on Water Street in Rollinsford. For more information, visit the ARCH website at www.paulwentworthhouse.org.



Elizabeth Persing has begun working on the second of two murals for the Tuscan Market. The first one, though brand new, blends right in as if it had been painted decades ago. How shocking to think that rigid readings of ordinances might have denied the city these delightful works.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
 "...you made a fortune in America... good for you... in part using workers all of us helped pay to educate"
 — Senator Elizabeth Warren (1949-)
 Democratic Debate (10-15-19)

"Only entropy comes easy."
 — Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860–1904) Russian writer, physician
john@wordpraxis.com

"Think'st thou that duty shall have dread to speak when power to flattery bows? To plainness honor's bound when majesty falls to folly."
 — Kent, in King Lear (1.1.164-167)
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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 Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.

Lebanon:
 Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

A Single Phone Call

Dear Sir:

In the course of a single phone call, Donald Trump was able to greatly damage our national security, oppose two allies, create a humanitarian crisis, and further destabilize the Middle East. No, this is not the infamous call with the Ukraine President which may lead to his impeachment, but his call last week with Turkey's President Erdogan. In that call, Mr. Trump agreed that America would pull back American troops working with our Kurdish allies and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). The Kurds have been fighting ISIS for a number of years and currently are holding 20,000 ISIS terrorists. The SDF have been fighting to help overthrow President Assad of Syria.

This decision by Trump was quickly followed by the expected military attack on the Kurds by Turkish forces. As a result, as many as 100,000 Kurds may be displaced, and the possibility of a genocide by the Turks is greatly feared. The abandonment of our faithful Kurdish allies may also result in their inability to continue to detain the 20,000 ISIS terrorists they now control. In addition, the support and effectiveness of the SDF will be greatly diminished.

As a result of this irresponsible decision, the national security of the United States is placed at risk with the potential resurgence of ISIS, the decimation of our loyal Kurdish allies, strengthening President Assad in Syria and giving Putin more influence and power in the region. There is and was absolutely no national security, diplomatic, or any other benefit for America to be gained by this decision. I trust that Mr. Trump's business interests in Turkey, a large Trump Tower, which he professed in 2015 was a "small conflict of interest," had nothing to do with this decision.

In defending this move, Mr. Trump, the self proclaimed "stable genius," with his "great and unmatched wisdom," stated, referring to the Kurds, "they didn't help us in the Second World War, they didn't help us with Normandy." And now that Turkey

has done exactly what they said they would do if we pulled back our forces, Mr. Trump is going to impose economic sanctions on our Turkish ally and NATO partner.

You have to give Trump credit, it is very difficult, and almost impossible to alienate two allies, destabilize a region, create a humanitarian crisis and damage the national security of America with just one phone call.

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAF Ret. Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

This is an excellent summing-up, but you left out—as did we in our Rant on this topic—what could eventually prove to be one of the President's most lasting accomplishments: he's destroying the Republican Party.

Despite its record of post-WW II catastrophes, the GOP has always portrayed itself as the go-to source for foreign policy wisdom—a masquerade which has been enabled by a press too timid to connect the blood-red dots.

Republicans hitched their wagon to an obvious lunatic, and have allowed him to run loose for three years. Now they're scrambling to cut themselves loose—but it's a little late for that.

The Editor

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Bun in the Oven

To the Editor:

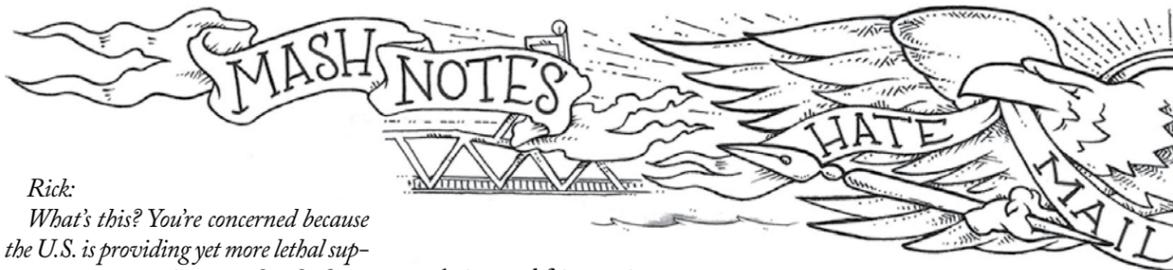
"Too bad for the Kurds," my friend said. "Trump promised to get us out the Middle East and that's exactly what he's doing. Stop criticizing him for keeping his word!"

Really?

This morning I read: "The U.S. will send two fighter squadrons, one Air Expeditionary Wing, two Patriot missile system batteries holding missiles and a launcher, and one Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, chief Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said in a statement."

If pulling 1,000 "advisors" and troops out of Syria and pushing 3,000 heavily mechanized troops into Saudi Arabia is Trump's "withdrawal method," methinks someone's about wind up with a bun in the oven!

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.



Rick:

What's this? You're concerned because the U.S. is providing yet more lethal support to an autocratic monarchy, the fount from which Wahhabism has flowed, the home of almost all of the 9/11 attackers, the murderers of Jamal Kashoggi, &c, &c?

The Editor

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We're Number What?

To the Editor:

Because the U.S. is the world's largest national economy, many Americans believe it is the best country in the world in which to live. Measurement of well-being compared to other industrialized nations by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) tells a different story.

The U.S. has the highest rate of income inequality and the second-highest rate of poverty. While it spends more than double the OECD average on health care it has relatively poor health, ranking 11th in life expectancy and with the highest infant mortality rate.

The U.S. fares about average among OECD countries re: basic literacy and problems solving skills, and below average in advanced literacy and basic numeracy. Early childhood education is attended by only 55 percent of children beginning at age four, compared with the 84 percent beginning at age three of OECD countries.

Current U.S. investment in infrastructure is 75 percent of the average OECD nation, and is second only to Korea in the number of deaths resulting from car accidents.

Last year the wealthiest 400 households in the U.S. paid a lower tax rate than the middle class or the poor. As a nation we seem to have forgotten that the true source of wealth of a country is the well-being, creativity and innovation of its people. Unfettered capitalism promotes greed while sensible

regulation and fair taxation encourage the market to serve society. To quote James Madison, "If men were angels government would not be necessary."

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.

Cynthia:

Do you realize the damage that would be done to our economy—well, to the stock market, anyway—if every American was taught to see through the myriad grifts and flim-flams that keep it afloat? What would become of the billionaires and multi-millionaires who occasionally throw us tasty scraps?

The Editor

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Constitutional Correctness

To the Editor:

As a retired career member of the U.S. Armed Services, I can certainly appreciate the Manchester VA Medical Center's gesture of a "Missing Man Table" to honor POWs and MIAs. Although this welcome practice is customary at many other military and veterans' facilities, it is not customary to permanently display a Christian Bible, or any other holy book, on the table the way it currently is in the U.S. Government-run facility in Manchester.

The First Amendment to the Constitution makes it clear that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Furthermore, I can personally attest that when members of the United States Armed Services (comprised of Americans with a broad range of races, ethnicities, and belief systems) raise their right hands and take the Military Oath of Enlistment, they are "solemnly swearing/affirming" that they "will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic," not a holy book, and that

they "will bear true faith and allegiance to the same."

Despite the clarity of the words in the Separation Clause and the Military Oath of Enlistment, Vice President Mike Pence still weighed in and even attempted to nationalize the controversy at the Manchester VA—an obvious attempt to feed red meat to the large, indispensable White Evangelical portion of Trump's base. Pence announced to an American Legion National Convention crowd: "We will always respect the freedom of religion of every veteran of every faith. And my message to the New Hampshire VA hospital is: The Bible stays."

Thomas Paine, an original founding father who was probably the individual singly most responsible for inspiring the colonies to declare independence from Great Britain and for the addition of the Separation Clause, had proclaimed, in response to the sanctimonious Pences of the world at the time, "All national institutions of churches, whether Jewish, Christian, or Turkish, appear to me no other than human inventions, set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit."

Removal of the Bible from the table is the Constitutionally-correct thing to do.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:

Since we're already talking about religion, let's drag in another taboo topic: race. This VA Bible business seems to illustrate a parallel between the two.

As anyone trying to keep up with the news knows, some white people seem to perceive human rights as a zero-sum game: there's only so much to go around. If one person gets more rights than he used to have, then someone else must now

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have less. By this logic, acknowledging a formerly-oppressed person's rights means taking them away from someone who—whether they're aware of it or not—has actually been enjoying some level of privilege.

In other words, "I'm white. White is the default. Anything else is 'other,' and 'other' is probably less."

Christians, whatever the color of their skins, are the white folks among religious veterans—there are simply more of them. Hence, the presence of a Christian Bible is the norm.

If the VA allows the display of the Bible, by what right could it deny a display of Alastair Crowley's The Book of the Law?

The Editor

====

Trump: Lone Hero of the Common Man

To the Editor:

Donald Trump's greatness, in spite of his shortcomings, can be measured by one fact: He is hated by both Democrats and Republicans because he proved to the people, average Americans, that it is they who are more powerful than the Deep State that controls the population and serves only to benefit itself. He proved this by winning the 2016 presidential election, a choice between Trump and Hillary Clinton, the establishment candidate, who represented the Deep State's agenda of perpetual war and the neoliberal economic policies of socialism for the wealthy in the form of bailouts and quantitative easing, and austerity for the rest in the form of destroying the social safety net and privatizing essential services like utilities. As a result, the Deep State responded by trying to impeach him. That effort continues.

The divisions between Americans are many but the overwhelming one is between the very wealthy and those

of us who are somewhere on a spectrum that runs from total financial and housing insecurity and those who are living from paycheck to paycheck, and who, at any moment, can become homeless and less secure in food and shelter. This situation is ripe for revolution and the Deep State occupants live in mortal fear of this so it uses all its energy to make sure the people are divided along lines of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and other issues that keep them occupied and focused away from their real oppressors. To do this the Deep State—journalists, academics, the CIA, the FBI, the Military-Industrial Complex, the bankers, and Corporations—has its propaganda arm made up of the news media and Hollywood, its intellectual core made up of academics, and its enforcement network made up of the CIA, the FBI, and politicians in both parties who write the laws. This explains how the Democrats would welcome Mike Pence, a lunatic and religious fanatic, who would continue the perpetual wars and the welfare for the wealthy. It also explains why Trump's troop withdrawal from Syria is condemned by both Democrats and Republicans alike.

More Americans should wake up. When the revolution occurs Oprah will be on the same side as Dick Cheney as will the denizens of CNN, Fox News, and CNBC, because the system works for them. No matter what their stated political positions are, their motive is to preserve their status.

What America needs is a return to an industrial economy that provided the good jobs and good wages and the security that this brings. Americans do not need Democratic promises and handouts. They can provide for themselves with good jobs and job security.

Americans do not need the neoliberal, globalist policies that benefit only the one-percent. Americans do not need perpetual wars and austerity for the ninety-nine percent.

With Trump gone both Democrat and Republican politicians can retain their privileged status, and continue to serve the Deep State of which they themselves are members. They can continue to enjoy their gated communities, their private schools and beaches, their personal jets and yachts while the rest of the nation struggles.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.

John:

The single fact you cite to sustain your claim that Trump is great reminds us of the line people use so often about legislation: "if both sides hate it it must be good." That argument is invalid. The fact that "the average person" falls for his inane schtick does not invalidate him, it condemns them. He won in the Electoral College, which, as can easily be seen from its recent record, ought to be expunged from the Constitution.

Clinton was an awful candidate with an awful platform, who won her Party's nomination by awful means. Her unsuitability as Chief Executive has no effect on Trump's toxic resumé.

We wonder what it will take for you to finally cut Trump loose. As we await that discovery, your opinion is redeemed by your focus on inequality as an overwhelmingly important matter.

The Editor

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International Stuttering Awareness Day

To the Editor,

October 22nd is International Stuttering Awareness Day. Stuttering is the only disability people still laugh at but we're working to change that! Just over 70 million people around the world stutter, including more than three million Americans. Most people know someone who stutters, but few understand the condition, what

causes it, and how it is treated. Many famous people, including actors, singers, statesmen and athletes are among those who stutter. One in five children stutter for a time during their development.

For more than 70 years, the Stuttering Foundation has offered trusted information and help for those who stutter. For more information, visit www.StutteringHelp.org or call (800) 992-9392.

Jane Fraser, President, The Stuttering Foundation
Memphis, Tenn.

Jane:

Thank you for letting us know about the Foundation's work.

The Editor

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Community Rights Benefit All

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 illustrates 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.

Attempts to preserve the environment with state regulations that suppress local solutions have only slowed environmental degradation to the point of unsustainability. 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 and www.nhcommunityrights.org.

Diane St. Germain
Barnstead N.H.

Diane:

Please, keep up the good work—part of which, we like to think, is writing to us, so we can pass on to our readers what NHCRN is doing to protect the natural world from corporate predation.

The Editor

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Dangerous Sunrise

Dear Editor,

Do you notice how the rising sun at this time of year shines into the eyes of drivers on our way to work? After the Fall Equinox, September 21st, when daytime and night are equally long, days get shorter. The sun rises later and sets earlier. You drive eastward and **blam!** Bright sunlight startles the eyes. This is dangerous for our children walking to school at the same time.

The problem is about time, Daylight Saving Time. We set clocks ahead in the Spring to give us more usable daytime when the sun rises early and sets late. But we don't revert back to Standard Time until long after days have become short. We should set our clocks back soon after the Equi-

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

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What makes Portsmouth what it is? What do we choose to remember with memorial markers, buildings and community projects?

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Historic City Cemeteries

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Goodbye, Columbus?

by William Marvel

Columbus Day weekend caught me by surprise again this year, as it usually does now that I work exclusively at home. I've been deeply immersed in newspapers from the Civil War, scouring editorials from the spring of 1861 or the summer of 1863, so I tend to forget even what year it is, let alone what month or day. Emerging around noon on Monday from concentration on that project, I wondered where the mail could be. A day earlier I had been reminded that it was a holiday weekend, but my wife was hard at work and so was I, so I had already forgotten.

Then I looked out at the foliage and remembered that it was October. That reminded me of my mother, who was born exactly a century ago, four days after Columbus Day. That circuitous sequence of mnemonic triggers brought me back to the present.

I was never an enthusiastic fan of Columbus, whom I first learned

about in the third grade at Pine Tree School. It wasn't a complicated introduction, either. His reputed arrival on a remote island at the edge of the Western Hemisphere was merely one of the dates we had to memorize, and I never had any trouble stockpiling lists of dates. In a few sentences, I think, we zipped through the Spanish exploitation—euphemistically characterized as “exploration”—before digressing into more leisurely discussion of the French, British, and Dutch invasions (or “settlement,” as we learned to think of it). In our Waspy district, our history naturally leaned heavily on the British colonization.

As most people must know, if they are at least as conscious of modern events as I am, Columbus is now *persona non grata* because of the devastating consequences his arrival brought to the inhabitants of the New World. Memorials to him are being subjected to the same revisionist revenge as Confederate monuments, and the justification for declaring a holiday in his memory is

under serious scrutiny.

Americans of Italian ancestry take particular offense at this, although I'm not sure why: Columbus and his ancestors were only Italian in the sense that the place where they were born later became part of modern Italy. Genoa was then effectively independent, and he would have spoken Ligurian, which amounted to a localized derivation of Vulgar Latin influenced by the Provençal spoken to the west and the Florentine prevailing to the east. He sought his fortune in Portugal and Spain, and apparently corresponded mainly in Spanish. His association with Italy may be stronger than Elizabeth Warren's connection to the Cherokee Nation, but that bar for ethnic identity can't get much lower.

I never really understood why Columbus was such a big deal, either. As a kid I thought the Vikings had preceded him by centuries—largely because I mistook “The Skeleton in Armor” for fact rather than fantasy, although later I learned that Norsemen really were the first Europe-

ans in North America. And even if Columbus had been first, so what? Things appear to have been going a lot better here before he arrived than they have anytime since. How did stumbling into paradise and initiating its destruction merit favorable notice?

Still, the Soviet-like passion for erasing reminders of unpopular episodes in history smacks of the worst that George Orwell and Aldous Huxley predicted for a politically regimented society. Memorials to Columbus are indeed irrelevant and undeserved, but the demands for their obliteration strike a chord that is far more politically chilling. Such monuments, like their Confederate counterparts, reflect beliefs that were once widely held, and they form a pertinent link in the evolving historical narrative. The ideology of those who would demolish them will not be the final interpretation, however myopically they may suppose so, and the ethical course would be to add a reflection of their differing views of the era in question. Future gen-

erations should be able to form their own opinions about the cultural landscape without depriving them of part of the evidence they need to understand the intellectual continuum.

The elimination of Columbus Day would, however, be welcome. It has always seemed inappropriate for a society that pretends to recognize the equality of all citizens to set aside an entire day for the veneration of any individual, regardless of accomplishments. I made that argument during the clamor for a holiday to recognize Martin Luther King.

As other states came to find when they debated dropping Columbus Day, the notion of simply expunging a holiday is politically unacceptable. Workforce entitlement requires a substitute holiday, especially in the public sector and organized labor. The driving force behind our holidays, after all, is no longer to honor groups individuals, or ideas. They exist primarily to give everyone (except the self-employed) another day off with full pay.

from page five

nox (“Fall back”) thereby adjusting the time for sunrise an hour earlier. This will save lives as commuters can better see our children on their way to school.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

We'll see your proposal, and raise you: let's do away with Daylight Saving Time altogether!

The Editor

—==—

A Trumpian Trifecta

Dear Sir:

Last week Donald Trump hit the trifecta for Presidential corruption, callousness, and criminality.

First we had the the disastrous, impulsive decision by Trump to pull

back our troops in northern Syria, allowing for the Turks to move in and gain control over a large section of Syria, and cleansing the Kurds, who had been fighting ISIS on our behalf, from this region. The Kurds lost 11,000 troops in this fight with ISIS, and have been holding thousands of these terrorists. This decision by Trump was described by Sen. Mitt Romney as “a bloodstain in the annals of American history.” Even Sen. Mitch McConnell, a strong Trump supporter, wrote that Trump's decision was a “grave strategic mistake.” The House passed a resolution condemning Trump's action 354-60, with 129 Republi-

cans joining 225 Democrats. And in what Mr. Trump called a victory, Mike Pence and Mike Pompeo, negotiated a five-day halt to fighting to allow for the ethnic cleansing of the Kurds from the region. The agreement lifted all sanctions Trump had imposed after Turkey entered Syria, and does not require Turkey to withdraw from the region. As reported in the *Washington Post*, a Turkish official said that they were surprised and relieved at how easy the negotiations were, adding, “we got everything we wanted.” Our own Sen. Hassan called the agreement “a capitulation to Turkey at the expense of our

Kurdish allies.”

Second, was the open admission by Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney that Mr. Trump held up military aid to the Ukraine to get them to help Mr. Trump with his campaign. When asked by a reporter if this was a “quid pro quo,” Mulvaney responded, “absolutely. No question about that. But that's it. And that is why we held back the money.” With that admission, the Republican defense of Trump's actions on the infamous July 25, 2019 phone call with the Ukrainian President was blown away. This will certainly support at least one article of impeachment.

Third, during the same press con-

ference where Mulvaney admitted the “quid pro quo,” he announced that Mr. Trump has chosen his own personally owned Doral Resort in Miami to host the 2020 G-7 Summit. This is a clear violation of both the Foreign and Domestic Emolument Clauses of the Constitution. The Foreign Emolument Clause prohibits a President from receiving any emolument from a foreign state, unless approved by Congress. The domestic Emolument Clause prohibits the President from receiving any other emolument above his salary from the United States. As a result of intense pressure from Republicans, Trump withdrew the Doral G7 decision, trying to explain away Trump's selection of the Doral, Mulvaney said that Trump was “surprised by the level of push back,”



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Where to get the money to start fixing American inequality

by Jim Hightower

Jesse Jackson ran a strong populist campaign for President in 1988, advocating bold new policies and programs to address inequality. This prompted establishment skeptics to scoff, “Where ‘ya gonna get the money?” Jackson answered directly: “Get it from where it went.”

He meant from corporations and the rich, which had long been rig-

ging the economic system and government policies to shift income and wealth from the workaday majority to themselves. Thirty years later, that shift has become an avalanche: Just three men—Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, and Warren Buffett—now own more of the nation’s wealth than the 165 million Americans who make up the bottom half of our population.

This extreme (and expanding)

separation of the few from the many is why progressive policy makers today are calling—as Jackson had—for big, forward-thinking populist solutions. But again, the smug forces of the status quo scoff, “Where ‘ya gonna get the money?”

The answer is the same one Jackson offered decades ago, but this time two new factors are in play: (1) from Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, we now have specific,

easy-to-understand proposals to tax multimillionaires and billionaires to pay for the structural changes needed to open opportunities for the poor and middle class; and (2) the public now enthusiastically supports such a tax—a recent poll found two-thirds of Americans (including a majority of Republicans) favoring Sen. Warren’s plan for a tax on those who have fortunes above \$50 million.

Inequality will not fix itself. As the American majority has had to do periodically in our history, We The People must intervene to keep greed and wealth concentration from suffocating our society’s essential democratic values of fairness, justice, and opportunity for all. A wealth tax is the place to start.

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from page six

and, in Trump’s defense, stated that Trump “still considers himself in the hospitality business.” The fact that Trump ever considered pulling off such an illegal stunt shows how corrupt he is. Mr. Trump took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, not his hospitality business, which seems to be more important to him. Even considering his reversal of this decision, Trump continues to gain financially, in violation of the emolument clause, with the use of his other properties by government agencies and personnel.

How many Trump trifectas can we afford before we either stop this madness, or we lose our Republic?

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Is It Socialism?

To the Editor:

The big Republican attack on Democrats is that they are socialists. It’s all over Fox News, echoed by Republican candidates, Breitbart, Trump, radio talk show hosts...

The basic definition of socialism is: an economic system advocating that the means of making, moving, and trading wealth should be owned by the government.

Is there a single Democrat advocating this? No!

The Republican fallback position is to call names and make ad-hominem attacks. They don’t seem able to say what is wrong with the Democratic positions, so they call them “socialism,” hoping that is enough for the voters. It is the great socialism smear campaign of 2019-20.

Republicans have their own definition of socialism: any program or



law that does not benefit the wealthy or corporations and takes the common good and human needs into account, now that’s socialism

They called the plan to provide free polio vaccinations to children socialism, medicare was “socialized medicine,” the Affordable Care Act was socialism, Social Security was a socialist program, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, designed to protect citizens from being robbed by banks and other financial institutions, was a socialist plot. But they had no problem with the trillions for the bank bailout—that’s capitalism!

Republicans are labeling support for renewable energy (but not hundred billion dollar subsidies to the oil and gas industry) “socialist.” Any attempt to raise the minimum wage above \$7.25, they scream “socialism.”

Their whole campaign is one big lie!

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

It’s Time for a Change

To the Editor:

This year’s City Council election is very different for me. I know most of the City Councilors personally, and all of them have contributed in different ways to improve the City of Portsmouth and the quality of life for all of us. However, I believe that this election is a time for change.

Many of the Council’s past decisions were ones that I usually agreed with, and even those I disagreed with, I understood their reasoning. However, the decision to support

the Redgate/Kane proposal for the McIntyre project made little sense to me. In my opinion, it showed both a stubbornness to listen to the input from residents and an apparent willingness to allow a division in our city over an issue that was only a development project, which had no real deadlines, and gave ample opportunity to change course. When the proposal by Mr. Binnie, which to me was a better proposal in many ways, e.g. the Post Office can stay, providing a large public park area and provided higher annual revenues to the city, was presented and rejected by the Council, I decided that I could no longer support any incumbent who voted to reject that proposal.

Fortunately for us voters, many new candidates with a variety of talents stepped forward to run for city council seats on November 5th, with most of them opposing the current McIntyre proposal.

That is why I am endorsing the following candidates in this election, and ask everyone to look carefully at all of the them, to see which ones will put residents ahead of developers and the tourism industry: Peter Whelan, Stephen Barndollar, Rick Becksted, Esther Kennedy, Paul Mannle, Deaglan McEachern, Jim Splaine, John Tabor and Paige Trace.

Rep. Peter Somssich / Ward 3
Portsmouth, N.H.

The Game of Musical Chairs

by Vicki Ryder
Just about anyone who’s grown up

in the United States will remember playing Musical Chairs in school. Our teachers would place chairs in a circle—one for each child in the room—and then take one chair away. When the music started, we’d all walk around behind the circle of chairs and, when the music stopped, we’d make a mad dash for a remaining chair. The one left without a seat was sidelined while the others cheered and resumed the game.

One by one the number of losers grew while those who had elbowed their way to a chair remained to play another round. Eventually, one person, usually a boy, and usually the largest or the fastest or the fiercest, was declared the winner for having pushed everyone else out of the way.

I hated that game! I hated the way I felt when I was called ‘out.’ And I hated that the other ‘losers’ like me had to watch from the sidelines while everyone else seemed to be having such a good time. Where was the fun in that for us? And what were we supposed to be learning from this ‘game?’

When I became a teacher, concerned about the kind of world my students one day would be facing, I devised a different kind of Musical Chairs. The setup was the same, but the rules were slightly different. I told my second-graders that “in this game, nobody wins unless everybody wins. In each round, I’m going to take away a chair, and when the music stops, everybody has to have a place to sit.” And then I’d start the music....

When it stopped, the child with-

out a chair was invariably invited to share a chair with another player. And so the game went on. No one got called ‘out,’ since everyone had to have a place to sit or the game would end. As the circle of chairs grew smaller and smaller, the kids grew more and more determined not to let anyone fail, and they became more and more inventive. They moved the remaining chairs closer together. They piled on three- and sometimes four- deep, the biggest laps on the bottom to hold the smaller ones. They clung to each other so no one would fall; they laughed, they squealed, and they made sure that when it was over, everyone was still in the game... and nobody got hurt.

Now I watch my grandchildren growing up in “the richest nation in the world,” a world in which just one percent of our population hoards the majority of the wealth while the other 99 percent are increasingly pushed to the sidelines. While the five richest families in America own fortunes totaling \$426 billion (and growing at a rate of \$4 million every hour), the rest of us, often shamed for being ‘lazy’ or ‘parasites,’ must struggle to make ends meet while earning a meager minimum wage, often without health coverage and with mounting debt. We worry that a single illness might wipe us out while the rich look for ways to cut our hourly wages and our Social Security payments.

I’ve always considered Musical Chairs to be a metaphor for the world we live in. Whether we’re playing on the world stage grabbing at its diminishing resources with bombs and drones, or in a second-grade schoolroom.

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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

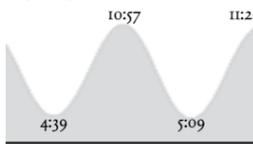
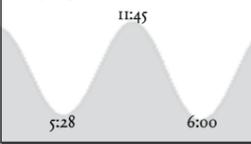
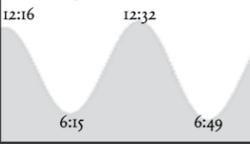
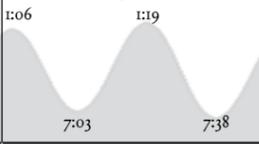
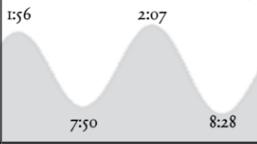
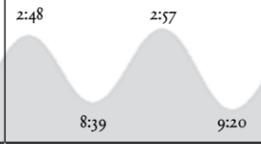
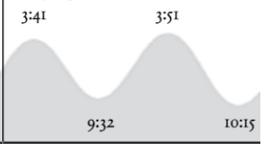
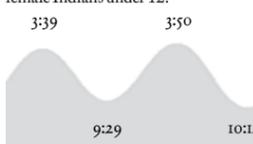
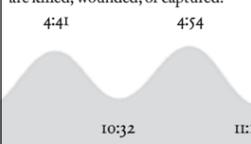
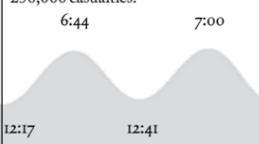
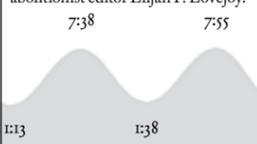
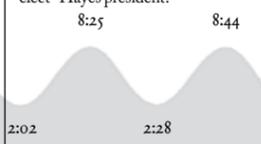
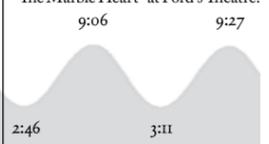
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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 27	MONDAY, OCTOBER 28	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2
<p>2004—The Red Sox take their first Series since 1918 from the Cards.</p> <p>1972—Richard Nixon pocket vetoes a bill to raise the veterans health care budget by \$85 million.</p> <p>1969—To convince the Soviets he's dangerously unstable, Richard Nixon secretly orders eighteen B-52s armed with H-bombs to spend the next three days flying around the North Pole.</p> <p>1967—Rev. Philip Berrigan and three friends pour duck blood on draft records in Baltimore, Md.</p> <p>1965—"We must never forget," says Richard Nixon, "that if the war in Vietnam is lost ... the right of free speech will be extinguished throughout the world."</p> <p>1962—ICBMs go on alert in Montana as Cubans shoot down one U-2 and another strays over the USSR. Meanwhile, aboard Soviet sub <i>B-59</i> near Cuba, Vice Admiral Vasili Arkhipov single-handedly prevents the launch of a nuclear torpedo. Fortunately Bobby Kennedy cuts a deal with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin before the wrong button gets pushed.</p> <p>1951—"There is no question," says Army Chief of Staff J.L. Collins, "that the Communist menace in French Indo-China has been stopped."</p> <p>1948—Thermal inversion over Donora, Pa., begins trapping toxic fumes from a U.S. Steel plant.</p> <p>1947—The House Un-American Activities Committee lives up to its name by grilling the Hollywood Ten.</p>	<p>2016—Disregarding advice from Justice Dept. lawyers, Director James Comey announces that the FBI has re-opened its investigation of the Democratic Presidential candidate 10 days before the election.</p> <p>2007—The Red Sox take the World Series in four from the Rockies—second time in three years.</p> <p>2005—Cheney henchman "Scooter" Libby resigns after he's indicted.</p> <p>2003—"[A]s you know," explains George W.[MD] Bush, "these are open forums, you're able to come and listen to what I have to say."</p> <p>1989—Congress passes a new, improved Flag Protection Act; 227 days later it's struck down by the Court.</p> <p>1984—OPEC decides to produce less oil and make more money.</p> <p>1962—JFK and Khrushchev agree: Soviet nuclear missiles out of Cuba, U.S. nuclear missiles out of Turkey. Two years later, they're gone, too.</p> <p>1922—Benito Mussolini, "sent by divine providence," according to Pope Pius XI, takes over in Rome.</p> <p>1921—Argentine workers revolt under the black flag of anarchism. The army kills 1,500.</p> <p>1906—Ivy Lee issues the world's first press release, deflecting blame from the Pennsylvania Railroad for the deaths of 50 passengers.</p> <p>1793—Eli Whitney applies for a patent for his cotton gin. It will revive chattel slavery in the South and help bring wage slavery to the North.</p>	<p>2004—Osama bin Laden explains: 9/11 was retaliation for the U.S. backing Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.</p> <p>1984—New York City policemen kill African American Eleanor Bumpurs, 66, with two rounds from a 12 gauge. She was behind in her rent.</p> <p>1981—A British Parliamentarian asks Maggie Thatcher whether European governments were "free to veto [a] push on the final button by that incoherent cretin President Reagan?"</p> <p>1979—On Wall Street, 1,000 people are arrested for disrupting business on the 50th Anniversary of the Crash.</p> <p>1969—Chicago 8 defendant Bobby Seale is gagged and bound to a chair.</p> <p>1969—ARPANET goes live—two computers communicate for the first time—10,166 days later SKYNET becomes self-aware.</p> <p>1969—The last train rolls through Peterborough: a runaway freight going 60 mph. It stops when it hits the School District office on Main St.</p> <p>1958—A radioactive cloud drifts over Los Angeles after the explosion of an A-bomb in Nevada.</p> <p>1940—First U.S. peacetime draft.</p> <p>1929—"Black Tuesday"—16 million shares sell on Wall Street, at ever declining prices; \$26 billion evaporates.</p> <p>1827—Congressional Representative Henry W. Conway [D-Ark.] is mortally wounded in a duel with Acting Governor Robert Crittenden, co-founder of the Rose Law Firm, future employer of Hillary Rodham.</p>	<p>2017—President Trump's ex-campaign manager Paul Manafort and his associate Rick Gates are arrested on a slew of charges by the FBI.</p> <p>2012—For the first time since the Ice Age, public access to the sea at Sanders Point in Rye is cut off by would-be Senator Bill Binnie.</p> <p>2005—Pastor Kyle Lake, 33, standing in water to perform a baptism before 800 people at a Waco, Texas Baptist church, reaches for a microphone and is electrocuted.</p> <p>1995—Quebec nearly votes to secede.</p> <p>1990—For the first time since the Ice Age, England and Europe are connected; this time by chunnel.</p> <p>1970—California Governor Ronald Reagan's education advisor says, "We are in danger of producing an educated proletariat. That's dynamite! We have to be selective about who we allow to go through higher education."</p> <p>1967—Martin Luther King, Jr. is arrested in Birmingham, Ala.</p> <p>1961—The Soviet Union air-drops a 58-megaton H-bomb: the largest explosion in human history.</p> <p>1950—Puerto Rican Nationalists begin a rebellion against U.S. rule.</p> <p>1948—Smog deaths in Donora, Pa. reach 20, and 6,000 are sick.</p> <p>1938—CBS Radio broadcasts "War of the Worlds." Irresponsible newspapers spin a few isolated overreactions into a mythical national panic.</p> <p>1831—Rebel slave leader Nat Turner is arrested in Virginia.</p>	<p>1973—Three IRA men make an unauthorized exit from Dublin's Mountjoy Jail on a hijacked helicopter.</p> <p>1968—President Johnson stops the bombing of North Vietnam.</p> <p>1967—Gov. Ronald Reagan denies a "homosexual ring" is operating out of his office in Sacramento.</p> <p>1964—China explodes an A-bomb.</p> <p>1963—"I can safely say," says Gen. Paul Harkin, U.S. commander in South Vietnam, "that the end of the war is in sight."</p> <p>1941—The destroyer <i>U.S.S. Reuben James</i> is sunk by a U-Boat while on convoy duty on the North Atlantic.</p> <p>1939—FDR moves the date of Thanksgiving ahead by one week to boost Christmas retail sales.</p> <p>1938—Convicted murderer John Deering's heart rate is monitored by an EKG as he's executed by a Utah firing squad: 180 beats per minute.</p> <p>1918—In a single week, Spanish Flu kills 21,000 Americans.</p> <p>1893—The World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago closes; Daniel Fowle's printing press, which had been on display, is seen no more.</p> <p>1885—A new Capitol guard in Statuary Hall fires his revolver at ghostly moans. He misses a prank-playing colleague, but leaves scars on the walls.</p> <p>1765—The <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i> is printed "in mourning" for lost liberty, in protest of the Stamp Act, to take effect the following day.</p> <p>1517—Martin Luther does his thing.</p>	<p>2004—Polling places in Franklin Co., Ohio get voting machines delivered; higher-income areas get more of them than lower-income areas.</p> <p>1981—"[T]elevision is just another appliance—it's a toaster with pictures," says FCC Chair Mark Fowler.</p> <p>1972—The Piscataqua Bridge opens.</p> <p>1968—At My Tho, two limpet mines kill 26 aboard the <i>U.S.S. Westchester County</i>—the Navy's deadliest single incident of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1966—Lyndon Johnson, lying, tells U.S. troops in Korea that his great-granddaddy died at the Alamo.</p> <p>1963—Generals in Saigon lay siege to the Presidential Palace—with U.S. government approval, of course.</p> <p>1955—Angry with his mother, who left him in an orphanage, Jack Graham kills her and 43 other people. He's only charged for her murder since it's not yet illegal to blow up airliners.</p> <p>1951—Six thousand soldiers are exposed to an A-bomb explosion in Nevada "for training purposes."</p> <p>1950—Two Puerto Rican nationalists attack Blair House, trying to assassinate Harry S Truman; two Secret Service agents die, two are wounded.</p> <p>1918—A scab motorman causes the Malbone Tunnel disaster in New York City; 97 die, 255 are injured.</p> <p>1789—George Washington attends two church services in Portsmouth.</p> <p>1777—The <i>Ranger</i>, Captain John Paul Jones commanding, leaves Portsmouth for France.</p>	<p>2005—The <i>Washington Post</i> reveals that the CIA is protecting democracy by running a secret gulag.</p> <p>2004—Warren Co., Ohio, officials say a "terrorist threat" is why they're counting votes behind locked doors.</p> <p>2002—"We know he [Saddam Hussein] has chemical weapons," says George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>2000—A Maine TV station reports that George W.[MD] Bush got busted for drunk driving in 1976.</p> <p>1988—A Cornell grad student nukes the 'net by releasing an experimental Morris Worm into MIT computers. MIT grants him tenure 18 years later.</p> <p>1972—The Seafarers International Union [SIU] gives \$100K to Nixon's campaign. The Justice Dept. drops an indictment of the SIU for making illegal campaign contributions.</p> <p>1967—Pres. Johnson and his "Wise Men" decide what the Vietnam War needs is more upbeat coverage.</p> <p>1965—Norman Morrison, a Quaker, 31, immolates himself below Robert McNamara's Pentagon window.</p> <p>1963—The U.S.-ordered coup in Vietnam goes awry: a major and a captain assassinate President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu.</p> <p>1929—"The Wall Street crash," says <i>Business Week</i>, "doesn't mean that there will be any general or serious business depression."</p> <p>1920—Socialist Eugene V. Debs gets 913,693 votes for President, despite being in prison for sedition.</p>
 <p>10:57 11:26 4:39 5:09</p>	 <p>11:45 6:00 5:28</p>	 <p>12:16 12:32 6:49 6:15</p>	 <p>1:06 1:19 7:38 7:03</p>	 <p>1:56 2:07 8:28 7:50</p>	 <p>2:48 2:57 9:20 8:39</p>	 <p>3:41 3:51 10:15 9:32</p>
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9
<p>1998—Charlotte Burks [D] is elected to succeed her late husband, Tennessee Senator Tommy Burks. Without campaigning, she gets 95 percent of the votes cast. Byron Low Tax Loop-er, a Republican who murdered Burks two weeks earlier, gets five percent.</p> <p>1986—A Lebanese newspaper reveals that the U.S. has been selling arms to the Ayatollah's regime in Iran.</p> <p>1979—Communists are fired on by Klansmen and Nazis in Greensboro, N.C. Five die and 11 are wounded, but three trials yield no convictions.</p> <p>1969—Richard Nixon announces "Vietnamization" of Vietnam War.</p> <p>1964—Lyndon Johnson is elected as the peace candidate.</p> <p>1956—Israeli Defence Forces kill 275 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.</p> <p>1948—"Dewey Defeats Truman," according to the <i>Chicago Tribune</i>.</p> <p>1903—The Colombian province of Panama secedes, backed by Teddy Roosevelt, whose Republican party recently received \$60,000 from the New Panama Canal Company.</p> <p>1874—Election Day in Eufala, Ala.: The White League murders seven black Republicans, wounds 70 more, and says the Democrats won.</p> <p>1848—In Revere, Mass, a train full of Whigs collides with a train full of Democrats; six die and 40 are injured.</p> <p>1755—Mass. sets bounties for Indian scalps, ranging from £50 for male Pe-nobscots over 12 years old, to £20 for female Indians under 12.</p>	<p>2008—As America elects Obama, California restricts LGBT rights.</p> <p>1979—Militant Shi'ite Muslims take 66 Americans hostage in Teheran, dooming the Carter administration.</p> <p>1964—Lenny Bruce is found guilty of obscenity in New York City.</p> <p>1960—In Dallas, a vicious "Mink Coat Mob" angrily confronts Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson. Revulsion at its tactics cost Nixon Texas.</p> <p>1958—A U.S. B-47 bomber carrying nuclear nukes crashes near Abilene, Texas. High explosives detonate. Nuclear materials are recovered later.</p> <p>1955—CIA HQ responds to Caracas Station re: report that Adolf Hitler has been seen in Argentina—"we suggest that this matter be dropped."</p> <p>1952—Univac I gives CBS a nearly dead-on prediction: Eisenhower 438, Stevenson 93. The network doesn't air it because it contradicts the polls.</p> <p>1928—Asked who shot him, the dying gangster Arnold Rothstein tells police, "My mudder did it."</p> <p>1924—Wyoming elects Nellie Rayloe Ross, the U.S.'s 1st female Governor.</p> <p>1918—As he helps his men build a raft from duckboards, Lieutenant Wilfred Owen, the British poet, is shot dead. It's a week before the Armistice.</p> <p>1798—Vermont elects Matthew Lyon, in jail for sedition, to Congress.</p> <p>1791—Native Americans destroy one quarter of the U.S. Army in the Battle of the Wabash—896 of 1,000 soldiers are killed, wounded, or captured.</p>	<p>2004—A Franklin Co. Ohio official reports that Pres. Bush's 3,893 vote total in one district is erroneous—only 638 ballots were cast.</p> <p>1986—"Nam vet Ron McIntosh hijacks a helicopter and uses it to free his girlfriend from the Federal prison he escaped six days earlier.</p> <p>1975—Dick "Dick" Cheney becomes White House Chief of Staff, Donald Rumsfeld becomes Secretary of Defense, and George H.[H.]W. Bush becomes Director of the CIA. Gerry Ford is allowed to stay on as President.</p> <p>1974—In New Hampshire, Louis C. Wyman gets 355 more votes than John Durkin. It ain't over yet, though; 317 days later, Durkin's a Senator.</p> <p>1968—George Wallace wins five states in the deep South.</p> <p>1964—A loaded KC-97 crashes on takeoff at Pease: five crewmen die.</p> <p>1949—Deranged WW II veteran and daily churchgoer Howard Unruh (1921—2009) shoots 16 people, killing 13, in Camden, N.J.</p> <p>1916—Vigilantes fire on IWW members in Everett, Wash. They kill two of their own and five Wobblies.</p> <p>1872—Susan B. Anthony and 14 less-notorious women vote in Rochester, N.Y. Nine days later, only Anthony is arrested.</p> <p>1855—Birth of Eugene V. Debs.</p> <p>1765—Two Boston gangs forego their usual Guy Fawkes Day ruckus and join up to demonstrate against the Stamp Act.</p>	<p>2018—Nevada's 36th district elects brothel-owner Dennis Hoff to the State Assembly by a huge margin. He's been dead for three weeks.</p> <p>2016—FBI Director James Comey says never mind about those emails.</p> <p>2012—Trump tweets, "The electoral college is a disaster for a democracy."</p> <p>2000—Saddam Hussein stops accepting dollars for oil, thus undermining U.S. hegemony and possibly shortening his own life.</p> <p>1998—Newt Gingrich says he's resigning as Speaker of the House because he's "not willing to preside over people who are cannibals."</p> <p>1984—Reagan defeats Mondale—it's mourning in America.</p> <p>1977—A dam owned and modified by the Toccoa Falls Bible Institute in Georgia fails, killing 39 people.</p> <p>1971—The AEC detonates a 5-megaton nuke—the largest ever exploded in the U.S.—one mile below Amchitka Island, 87 miles from a Soviet naval base in Siberia.</p> <p>1965—In Times Square, five men burn their draft cards, the first such protest of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1944—The Zionist Stern Gang assassinates Britain's Lord Moyne in Cairo. Israel honors the assassins with a stamp in 1982.</p> <p>1917—After three months of fighting in mud, Canadians take Passchendaele, ending the Third Battle of Ypres; Allies gain five miles at a cost of 250,000 casualties.</p>	<p>2007—Private Jessica Lynch accuses the Pentagon of exploiting her capture for propaganda purposes.</p> <p>2000—The American people go to the polls and vote for a president. The Supreme Court gives them George W.[MD] Bush, instead.</p> <p>1962—Richard Nixon tells the press they won't have him to kick around any more. (It's a lie.)</p> <p>1961—Under Sec. of State George Ball warns JFK, "Within five years, we'll have 300,000 men in the paddies and jungles and you'll never find them again." JFK tells Ball he's "crazier than hell. That just isn't going to happen."</p> <p>1957—Ike tells close aides that in the event of nuclear war, "You might as well go out and shoot everyone you see and then shoot yourself."</p> <p>1940—The mile-long Tacoma Narrows bridge wiggles, wobbles, and then falls down. Washington State can't collect on its insurance, because its agent pocketed the premiums.</p> <p>1931—Fisk U.'s Dean of Women Juliette Derricotte and a student, injured when a white man's car drives hers into a ditch, die after being refused hospital treatment because they're black.</p> <p>1919—3,000 anarchists are held without bail on Ellis Island as the Palmer Raids begin.</p> <p>1874—A Thomas Nast cartoon turns Republicans into elephants and Democrats into donkeys.</p> <p>1837—An Alton, Ill. mob murders abolitionist editor Elijah P. Lovejoy.</p>	<p>2016—Donald J. Trump wins. Everybody else is a loser.</p> <p>2013—The Navy suspends the security clearance of Admiral Ted "Twig" Branch, Director of Naval Intelligence. Though unable to view classified material, he's still in office.</p> <p>2010—George W.[MD] Bush reveals on TV that his mother once showed him a jar containing the fetus of a miscarried sibling and asked him to drive her to the hospital.</p> <p>2000—At 2:16 a.m., Fox News "reporter" John Ellis calls Fla. in favor of his cousin, George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>1994—Serial philanderer Newt Gingrich and the GOP take Congress.</p> <p>1983—Moscow puts its nukes on high alert and flash-telegrams its embassies that a nuclear strike on the USSR may come at any time.</p> <p>1965—Dorothy Kilgallen's investigation into JFK's assassination ends due to an allegedly accidental overdose.</p> <p>1932—Socialist Norman Thomas gets 884,885 votes for President.</p> <p>1923—Disgruntled corporal A. Hitler, with help from disgruntled general E. von Ludendorff, stages the "Beer Hall Putsch" in Munich.</p> <p>1897—Birth of Dorothy Day, anarchist founder of <i>Catholic Worker</i>.</p> <p>1876—The editor of <i>The New York Times</i> and the chairman of the Republican National Committee conspire to bribe election officials in Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana to "elect" Hayes president.</p>	<p>1998—Brokers who rigged the game at NASDAQ are compelled to pay their bilked customers \$1 billion.</p> <p>1989—The Berlin Wall suddenly becomes unexpectedly porous.</p> <p>1979—A computer error leads the U.S. Air Defense Command to believe for six minutes that the USSR is attacking the U.S.</p> <p>1969—Two small groups of Indians make successive landings on Alcatraz Island. The first is removed by the Coast Guard, the second manages to stay overnight.</p> <p>1965—A failed power plant in Ontario puts the Northeast in the dark.</p> <p>1953—Dylan Thomas dies in New York at 39, mostly from bad doctoring.</p> <p>1938—German Nazis demonstrate their racial superiority during Kristallnacht by killing 91 Jews.</p> <p>1932—To restore order, the Swiss Army fires on a crowd of protestors in Geneva, killing 13 anti-fascists.</p> <p>1919—Columbia University President Nicholas M. Butler exhorts veterans to "put forth every energy" to "crush these enemies of our nation," meaning radical leftists.</p> <p>1872—In Boston, 600 buildings burn. The Fire Department is hampered by a lack of horsepower due to an equine virus, aka "the Great Epizootic," and by looters. Portsmouth sends a steamer and 34 men to assist.</p> <p>1863—Abraham Lincoln watches John Wilkes Booth perform in Selby's "The Marble Heart" at Ford's Theatre.</p>
 <p>3:39 3:50 9:29 10:14</p>	 <p>4:41 4:54 10:32 11:16</p>	 <p>5:45 5:59 11:38</p>	 <p>6:44 7:00 12:17 12:41</p>	 <p>7:38 7:55 1:13 1:38</p>	 <p>8:25 8:44 2:02 2:28</p>	 <p>9:06 9:27 2:46 3:11</p>



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