

The Fortnightly Rant

Quid Pro So What?

The Republican chorus had been chanting for months, as relentlessly as Hare Krishnas. Their mantra was, “No *quid pro quo*.” Then came Gordon Sondland.

“Yes,” he said—the formerly obscure *hotelier* who, in exchange for a million-dollar donation to the President’s Inaugural Committee,* was made the U.S. Ambassador to the European Union—“*quid pro quo*.”

And so another worn-out catch phrase gets taken out behind the barn—or deemed “no longer operative,” as they used to say the last time we rid ourselves of a corrupt Republican President.

What new magic phrase will the GOP come up with next? We should know fairly soon; Republicans have a knack for shifting their scripts with lightning speed.

Their previous favorite incantation, “no collusion,”—in constant use for years against the Mueller inquiry—was starting to feel like a permanent part of the landscape. When it no longer suited the President’s defensive needs, though, it unceremoniously vanished.

Certain new circumstances required new jargon: How best to pass off as innocuous and inconsequential a concerted effort by multiple parties to extort false claims from the head of a foreign government with the intention of destroying the

chances of one’s presumed opponent in a fair and unbiased democratic election?

With nearly half a billion in U.S. lethal aid on the table, and Ukraine fighting the Russians, Donald Trump asked Volodymyr Zelensky to do him a favor. Suddenly, like mushrooms after rain, the Latin phrase meaning “this for that” was springing up everywhere.

Now it’s gone. *Sic transit gloria verbiage*.

Head GOP propagandist Frank Luntz is probably in some sound-proof room right now, surrounded by people wearing MAGA hats, sweating bullets as he tries to engineer a replacement.

Crafting such phrases is tricky business. Sometimes they can backfire. Just ask Sen. Lindsey Graham [R-S.C.], who said, on October 20th, “If you could show that Trump was engaging in a *quid pro quo* outside the phone call that would be very disturbing.”

History has shown, though, that there is a certain invulnerability built into every staunchly-held Republican position. Take “support the troops,” for example. Any run-of-the-mill grammarian would assume that imperative statement is absolute. In fact, it’s highly selective.

On Monday the viewing public got a refresher course on just how selective. A lieutenant colonel testified in dress blue uniform and full regalia.† Because he had the temerity, though, to show up in uniform and speak the truth—which just happened to make their home boy

† Lieut. Col. Vindman wore the Combat Infantry Badge, Airborne Badge, Ranger Tab, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Purple Heart ribbon, &c., &c. That may all just be fruit salad in the eyes of the uninitiated, but soldiers know you can’t just buy that stuff at the PX.

*The 2017 Presidential Inauguration Committee is, or has been, under investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, the Southern District of New York, the Eastern District of New York, the Attorneys General of New Jersey and the District of Columbia, and the House Judiciary Committee. Mueller’s investigation led to a guilty plea from W. Samuel Patten for failing to register as a foreign agent. He admitted to laundering a \$50,000 contribution to the Inaugural Committee from Konstantin Kilimnik. According to the Mueller Report, Kilimnik has ties to Russian intelligence agencies, or is himself an agent.

The Alleged News®

Can we somehow convince our billionaires to stave off the climate apocalypse?

Venetians began keeping records of floods in 1872. Since then, flood levels as high as 1.5 meters have been recorded many times, but never more than once a year. Not until this fortnight, anyway, when three 1.5-meter floods hit in a span of five days. Two people died.

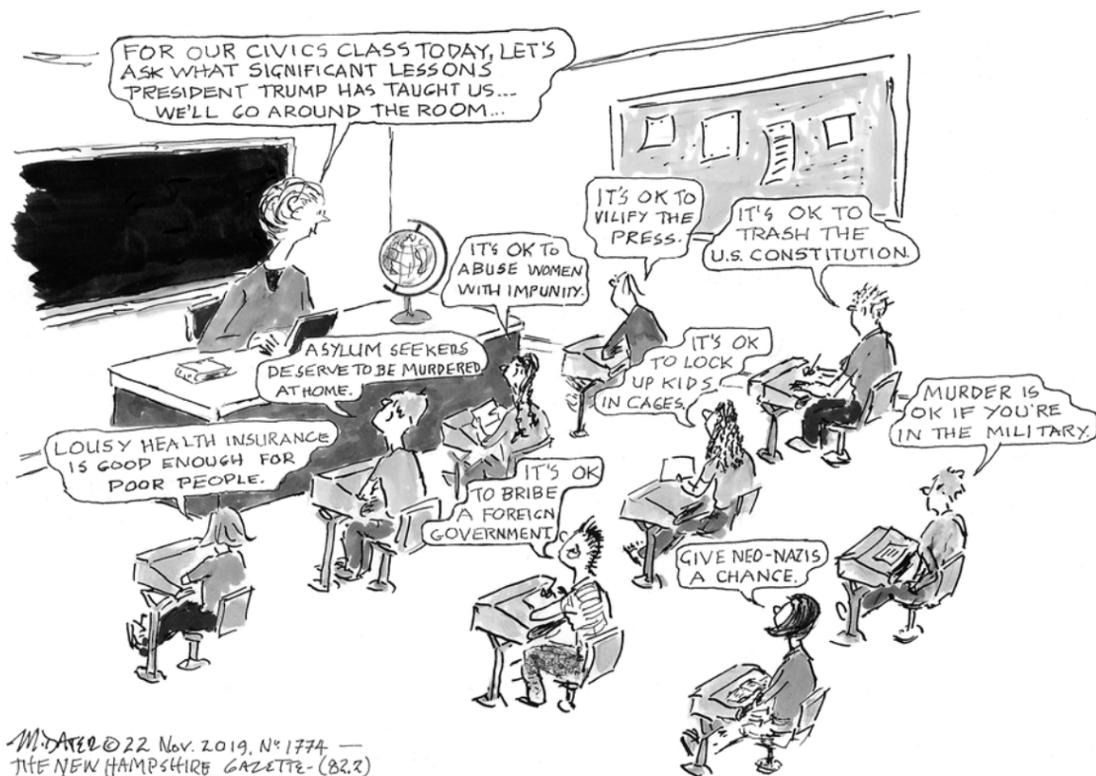
Mayor Luigi Brugnaro estimated the cost of damages in the “hundreds of millions of euros.” The regional governor, according to *The Guardian*, described a scene of “apocalyptic devastation.”

Floods this high submerge as much as 80 percent of the city, the lowest point of which is the Piazza San Marco. Carlo Alberto Tesserin, First Procurator of the Basilica of Saint Mark, which faces the Piazza, told Agence-France Presse the water had surged into the basilica with a force “never seen before, not even in the 1966 flood.”

St. Mark’s is recognized around the world, of course—even by the godless heathens in this newsroom—as a priceless repository of ineffable, irreplaceable beauty.

Its history is, naturally, unique, and worth a brief review. The church was founded in the 9th century, according to *Wikipedia*, “to house the corpse of St. Mark after wily Venetian merchants smuggled it out of Egypt in a barrel of pork fat.” St. Mark is said to have founded the church of Alexandria; presumably the pork fat was intended to deter close inspection by the customs officers of the Abbasid Caliphate.

The original church burned and was rebuilt before burning again during a rebellion in 973, or perhaps 976; accounts disagree. Apparently the Doge at the time, Pietro IV Candiano, had made himself unpopular due to his favoritism



look bad—Republicans treated him like something they were anxious to remove from the soles of their Florshims.

Republicans had no objections, though, in 1987, when Marine Lieutenant Colonel Ollie North testified before Congress in his Service “A” uniform. Not even when he testified that he’d lied to Congress earlier, denying that he’d sold arms to terrorists and given the profits to murderous drug dealers—a little wrinkle North called “a neat idea.”

If anything, Republicans’ admiration has only increased for bad boys in the military—or, to more properly denote their misbehavior, war criminals. The Commander-in-Chief just issued two pardons, and restored lost rank for a third service member, against the wishes of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Each of the pardoned men had been found guilty of killing civilians in violation of the rules of engagement.

POTUS no doubt bought the

pardon idea from Pete Hegseth, who had been selling it on Fox News. Hegseth went to Fox after running an astroturf veterans outfit for the Koch brothers. Now that “the troops” are further imperiled by the erosion of military justice, Hegseth is lobbying on behalf of for-profit colleges which are grasping for more veterans’ GI Bill money.

White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a statement on Saturday that the President had taken advantage of a “free weekend” in Washington to “begin portions of his routine annual physical exam” by visiting Walter Reed. This was immediately interpreted by those familiar with Grisham’s reputation‡ as a sure sign that the Presi-

‡ In the five months since Grisham was named White House Press Secretary and Communications Director, her published salary would indicate that she’s been paid upwards of \$76,000. She has yet to hold a press conference, though. Her resume includes a job writing press releases for AAA Arizona, from which she was fired for cheating on expense reports; a job at

dent is at death’s door.

Our inside sources say it was nothing, really—just a minor flare-up of his bone spurs.

If politics in the U.S. were a poker game—which might be an improvement over our current system—the Republican Party long ago shoved all its chips to the center of the table, betting everything on five cards: T, R, U, M, and P.

This all-in strategy has made for a lively and entertaining few years. Who could ever forget Devin Nunes’ spot-on impression of John Cleese’s Black Knight in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*? One has to wonder, though. How will it end, with so much of our government in the hands of the clearly deranged?

an ad agency, from which she was fired for plagiarizing from AAA Arizona; a stint as spokesperson for the Arizona Attorney General, during which time she falsely asserted that a botched two-hour execution she witnessed had been “quite peaceful.” She also has something in common with former Vice President Dick “Dick” Cheney: two drunk driving convictions.

possible, the emission of greenhouse gasses.

We’d best get a move on, too. A study published last month in *Nature Communications* says rising sea levels threaten more people than had been previously thought—a lot more.

While coastal elevations are known quite accurately in certain places—where the relatively wealthy live, as it turns out—in other parts of the world, the only elevation data available was gathered by radar during a space shuttle mission in 2000. Someone figured out recently that in such places, the radar was reading the tops of trees and houses, rather than the actual shoreline.

Under the earlier calculations, as many as 28 million people were thought to be living on land below the level of high tide. After adjusting for the error, the true number

appears to be more like 110 million.

Ambitious projects have succeeded before: the Manhattan Project, for example, and the Marshall Plan. Both were the result of a focused and determined effort by the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government, though, so we might as well forget about that approach, at least for the time being. As for Congress, well...

As our government is currently constituted, there’s only one force with the power to solve this problem: the plutocracy. If enough of them decided they wanted to implement the Green New Deal—bingo.

So, what can we, the otherwise powerless, offer billionaires to gain their support? Quit bad-mouthing them? Fortnightly Adore-a-Thons? There must be something...

The Alleged News®

from page one

GateHouse and Gannett Merge

Nathan Bomey will go far, under his new corporate overlords.

Bomey, *USA Today's* "biz trends reporter," according to his bio, tweeted on Tuesday, "BREAKING: The Gannett-New Media deal has closed. Here's my interview with the new company's CEOs on what's next." He dressed up his news flash with the photo below:



What's this? Exuberant journalists applauding the merger of Gannett and GateHouse Media? Nope, nothing to do with that at all. It's an old photo of two *USA Today* execs applauding a Pulitzer win in 2018. There are no smiles today in the newsrooms of either outfit.

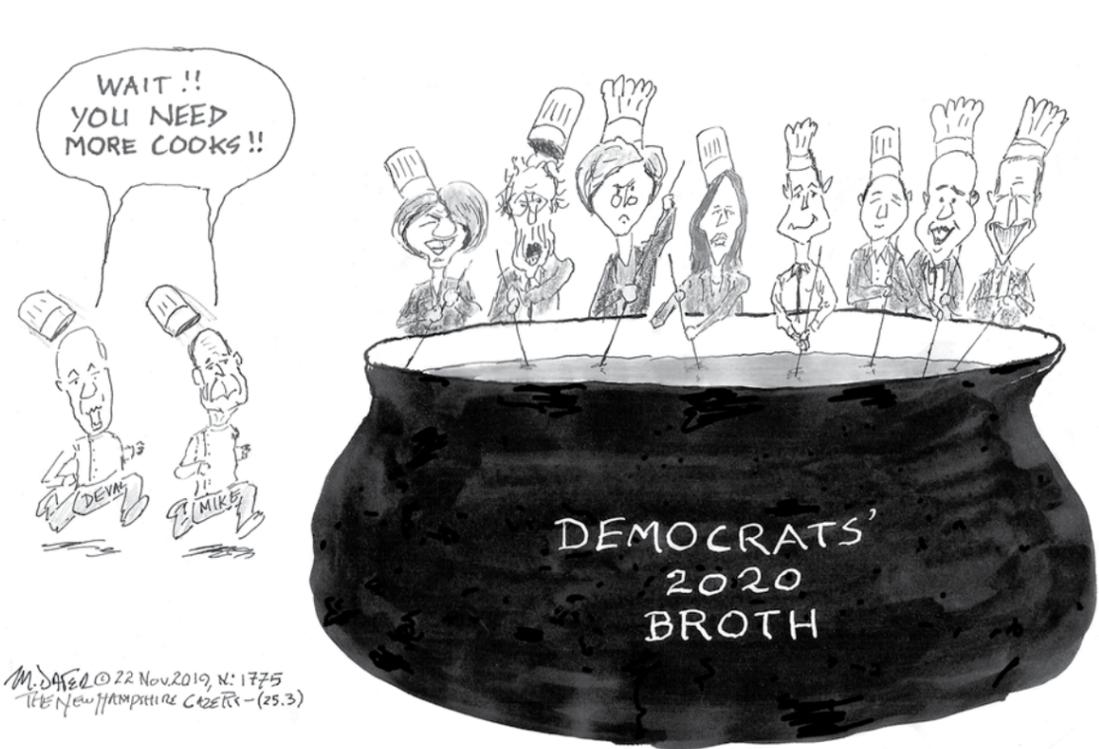
Ken Doctor, at Harvard's Nieman Journalism Lab, has been tracking the merger since July, and wrote

about it again last week: In July, "the estimated annual cost savings—'synergy'—to be derived from a merger was 'something like \$200 million.' By August, it was '\$200 to 300 million.' Then it was '\$275–300 million.' Now, talk has gone to \$400 million and beyond, into the range of *nearly half a billion dollars.*" [*Emphasis in the original.*]

GateHouse is buying Gannett because, though it's the smaller of the two chains, it's got better credit. It talked Apollo Global Management, a private equity fund, into lending it \$1.8 billion—at 11.5 percent interest. The new company will go by the name Gannett, apparently because it has the least-worst reputation of the two.

The *Portsmouth Herald*, aka the Award-Winning Local Daily, was gobbled up by GateHouse about six years ago. It had formerly been a chattel of Rupert Murdoch's News Corpse.

Not unexpectedly, the piece Bomey wrote for *USA Today*—Gannett's flagship—was, shall we say, upbeat: "top executives [are now] in position to move ahead with plans they believe will transform the new compa-



It's not even Thanksgiving yet, but throngs of shoppers clog the sidewalks on every pleasant day. Last Saturday, being bright and sunny, was no exception. It's so predictable that after a while it starts to get monotonous....

ny's local and national news brands, including *USA Today*, into a reinvented digital media powerhouse."

The *Columbia Journalism Review's* Mathew Ingram is less sanguine. He tweeted, "A reminder that 90 percent of corporate mergers not only fail to generate revenue-generating synergies but actually wind up destroying value."

Michael E. Reed, ex-CEO of New Media, the holding company which owned GateHouse, will have an analogous position as the head of the new corporate behemoth. Paul Bascobert, the CEO of Gannett, will run what they're calling Gannett's operating company. Meanwhile some poor drone works full-time just drawing up organizational charts.

In an interview with the *New York Times*, Reed "said the bulk of the savings 'is not going to come from editorial,' meaning newsrooms would be largely spared." Prodded for more detail, though, Reed reacted like an octopus, emitting a cloud of ink: "I can't give you an exact number, but almost nothing. I mean, just for context, there's 24,000 em-

ployees in the two companies, and a significant portion of the cost reductions are going to come from things other than people. But, obviously, people's a part of this as well. Out of 24,000 people in the company, there's about 2,500 that are actually writing stories every day. So it's a small number, relative to 24,000. So there's so much opportunity beyond the newsroom for us to go get these efficiencies."

Somehow, Reed balances his commitment to well-staffed newsrooms with an apparent disdain for members of the News Guild. "I frankly think the Guild's a big problem, and until we can get them to sit at a table and have a real discussion about where the world is today, there's going to be inefficiencies."

Nieman's Ken Doctor calculates that "[i]n any room of eight people at a current GateHouse or Gannett operation, one is likely to see her job gone in 2020. One in eight would add up to 3,450 of the combined companies' 27,600 jobs." According to the Brookings Institution, there are only 37,900 newsroom employees left in the country now.

This merger could cost nine percent of them their jobs.

The *Wall Street Journal* took Reed's blithe assertion at face value, though, headlining its story, "Gannett Looks to Spare Journalists' Jobs After Big Newspaper Merger."

Reed and Bascobert boasted, in *USA Today*, that the merger would create a "reinvented digital media powerhouse," that would "counteract the news industry's severe print revenue decline with new sources of digital dollars."

Sounds great, as long as you don't read Jesse Frederik and Maurits Martijn, over at *The Correspondent*: "The new dot com bubble is here: it's called online advertising."

Celebrating Peace: A Work in Progress
by Robert C. Koehler

Veterans For Peace, an organization that speaks truth to war like nobody else, is attempting to reclaim Armistice Day, the November 11th holiday that was flipped on its head 65 years ago when it was renamed Veterans Day—and became a celebration not of the end of war but of its perpetuity.

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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.

"Happy to Support Progressive Journalism and The New Hampshire Gazette"
— Joe Keefe

The name change occurred in 1954. The Korean War had recently “ended,” the Cold War and the nuclear arms race were seriously revving up and, of course, that other world war, nine years past, was still vividly a part of everyone’s consciousness. There was near-infinite cynicism about the whole idea of “the war to end all wars”... yeah, sure, what a joke. That’ll never happen.

But in reclaiming Armistice Day—and holding events across the country honoring the current struggle to create peace—Veterans For Peace is also reclaiming a cry of pain and anger: The so-called Great War, with its mustard gas and trenches, its shellshock and influenza, its 20 million dead, was unnecessary and should have been the last. It is reclaiming a profound, global commitment to War No More.

Veterans Day celebrates—glorifies—the past. Armistice Day speaks to, and attempts to create, the future. What is peace? How can it happen? The question hovers like a star.

Writing on November 11th, VFP executive director Garrett Reppenhagen put it thus: “We absolutely need to start pushing back on militarism in all its forms and regardless of who

is in the White House. Not just on gross displays like Trump’s proposed circus but on how we organize and how the effects of militarism show up in all of our spaces and communities. The reality is that almost *every single* domestic platform on a progressive agenda can be funded by the overinflated military budget.”

On this reclaimed American day of peace, this day of looking at what we must do, I attended an Armistice Day event in Chicago, sponsored by the local VFP chapter. To a large extent, the focal point was the city’s schools and the needs of its children. Not coincidentally, a Chicago Teachers Union strike had just ended. The union’s demands were more than better pay and benefits for teachers, but such matters as:

“All students need individual attention from their teachers. We cannot provide that level of attention when we have more than 40 students in a kindergarten or any other class.”

And, in a system that recently made a \$33 million agreement with the Chicago Police Department for policing in schools, the Teachers Union called for “hiring social workers, counselors, nurses, other



The Central Veterans Council can always be counted upon to observe Veterans Day in a dignified manner, regardless of whatever shenanigans the Commander-in-Chief may be up to. Captain Daniel Ettlich, Commander of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, delivered this year’s remarks.

clinicians at national recommended ratios; hire more case managers; full-time librarian and Restorative Justice coordinator in every school.”

This is the future, created one brick at a time. We can’t “celebrate” peace without asking what it requires. Indeed, peace is about asking the big questions. This is where it begins. Peace is always a work in progress.

One of the panelists at the Armistice Day event was part of an organization called Voices of Youth in Chicago Education, or VOYCE, which several years ago had released a report on the school system called “Failed Policies, Broken Futures: The True Cost of Zero Tolerance in Chicago,” which found that Chicago Public Schools’ “overuse of harsh disciplinary measures has cost the city tens of millions of dollars in the short term and hundreds of millions of dollars in the long-term, diverting resources from more effective approaches to school safety.”

This reclaimed day is every day, a celebration of the future that’s in

progress and our slowly growing awareness of what it requires, such as “a Restorative Justice coordinator in every school”—hallelujah. The core of Restorative Justice is the healing circle, where participants, sitting in vibrant equality, address conflict by listening to multiple points of view, figuring out what has been harmed and deciding how it can be healed. It’s the opposite of a perfunctory, bureaucratic solution, i.e., punishment, which can seem so simple to someone removed from the reality of it, but exacts a harsh cost on young people in the process of growing up. In the inner city, it’s called the school-to-prison pipeline.

An externally maintained, unstable state of order—whether in the public schools or the community of nations—is not peace.

Reclaiming Armistice Day does not mean applauding the illusory peace that was achieved on November 11, 1918, but it could well mean looking with unwavering clarity and courage at this illusion. War doesn’t work.

Veterans Day may claim to honor vets, but it isn’t about honoring the ones who have struggled with PTSD and committed suicide. Matthew Hoh, for instance, notes that far more Afghan and Iraq vets have committed suicide than were killed in the wars themselves. He writes:

“To visually understand this concept that the killing in war does not end when the soldiers come home, think of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, The Wall, with its 58,000 names. Now visualize The Wall but lengthen it by some 1,000-2,000 feet to include the 100,000 to 200,000 plus Vietnam veterans who are estimated to have been lost to suicide, while keeping space available to continue to add names for as long as Vietnam veterans survive, because the suicides will never stop.”

This is the armistice that has yet to be achieved.

Robert Koehler, syndicated by Peace-Voice, is a Chicago award-winning journalist and editor.

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote
 “To suppress free speech is a double wrong. It violates the rights of the bearer as well as those of the speaker.”
 — Frederick Douglass (1818-1895)

“The two most common elements in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity.”
 Harlan Ellison (1934 – 2018), American writer
 john@wordpraxis.com

“We need not to be let alone. We need to be really bothered once in a while. How long is it since you were really bothered? About something important, about something real?”
 — Ray Bradbury (1920 – 2012), *Fahrenheit 451* (1953)
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Never Mind the Flag—Salute the AR-15!
To the Editor:

The Democrat [*sic, passim*] Presidential Primary has indicated what Democrat leaders usually hide, but which President Obama and Senator Feinstein have let slip, that Democrat leaders, like tyrants world-wide, want to disarm law-abiding citizens.

These candidates mostly only disagree on whether to take so called “assault weapons” (e.g., AR-15s, AK-47s) by force or “voluntarily” (but usually with consequences for non-compliance).

They justify taking “assault weapons” as needed to make people safer. But “assault weapons” are rarely used to commit violent crimes. Eliminating illegal immigration would save ten times more lives. Just reducing Chicago’s murder rate by 20-30 percent (doable if Chicago Democrats cared) would save about as many lives. Democrats know this, but making people safer doesn’t seem to be their priority.

Since taking “assault weapons” from law-abiding people won’t make people safer, Democrats will then demand taking other guns, but this won’t make people safer either. Democrats intend to repeat this cycle until law-abiding people are totally disarmed.

But this won’t make us much safer since most violent gun crimes are committed by known criminals who usually aren’t legally allowed to have a gun.

Democrats have conducted a multi-decade attack on “assault weapons” to make people believe that these are horrible super-weapons that sane people would want to eliminate. But they aren’t super-weapons. Yes, some are used (like other types of weapons) in a few horrible crimes annually, but millions of law-abiding Americans own them and use them lawfully and constructively every day for things like home defense, hunting, and/or target shooting.

Democrats know that taking away “assault weapons” won’t make people safer.

Democrats demand taking “assault weapons” to get people to accept infringement of their Constitutional

Rights and to establish the processes and mechanisms needed to take away all guns from law-abiding people.

Democrat attacks on “assault weapons” aren’t intended to make Americans safer; they are intended to make government stronger and citizens less safe, more dependent, and less free.

Benjamin Franklin said, “People willing to trade their freedom for temporary security deserve neither and will lose both.”

The Second Amendment is said to be the most important Amendment because it protects all our Constitutional Rights (like our Freedoms of Religion and Speech which are also attacked).

Many actions could make us safer without depriving Americans of our rights and freedoms, e.g., better law enforcement, ending illegal immigration, severely penalizing violent gun offenders and illegal gun possessors, and protecting schools. These are all doable but of little interest to Democrats.

Democrats, like tyrants and want-to-be tyrants, want to take guns from law-abiding people because people’s gun rights are not the only rights they want to eliminate.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:
Ab, yes—“so-called” assault weapons. We’ll grant that the term is squishy enough to be nearly useless. For Second Amendment fundamentalists to pretend, though, that an AR-15 bears any resemblance to grandpa’s Winchester ‘94 is ludicrous.

Your suggesting that barring the undocumented—no person is illegal, there are only those who commit illegal acts, like your President, for example—would save more lives than banning military-style, high-capacity semi-automatic weapons—is comparing apples and bull... frogs.

We believe ballots are more essential to democracy than bullets, and we suspect leading Republicans agree—why else would they work so hard to restrict voting access?

The quotation about trading liberty for security, which you attribute to Frank-



lin, was debunked by Franklin himself, in a September 27, 1760 letter to David Hume.

You claim that “most violent gun crimes are committed by known criminals who usually aren’t legally allowed to have a gun.” Your math regarding gun deaths is as suspect as your quote attribution. A 1998 study by Emory University’s Center for Injury Control found that “For every time a gun in the home was used in a self-defense or legally justifiable shooting, there were four unintentional shootings, seven criminal assaults or homicides, and 11 attempted or completed suicides.”

Thank you for the opportunity to point out the emptiness of your... arguments. We only wish we had more time and a finer comb.

The Editor

Fraudulent Oath-Takers

Dear Sir:

Since 1966, Title 5, Section 3331 of the United States Code has required members of Congress to take the following oath; “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear truth faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

Notably absent from this oath are the words, party, power, or president. Unfortunately, as I witness the current impeachment hearings, I wonder if the Republican members have any recollection of the oath they took, or if they have any understanding of its meaning and purpose. They continue to demonstrate that their allegiance is not to the Constitution, but rather to their control of power, their political party and Donald Trump. They continue to distort reality, twist facts, attack witnesses, and promote debunked

conspiracy theories in an effort to defend the obvious crimes committed by Mr. Trump. The testimony of witnesses, and even Trump’s own call summary, have clearly demonstrated that Mr. Trump withheld critical military aid for Ukraine to defend against Russian aggression, and an Oval Office visit by Ukraine President Zelensky, in order to get President Zelensky to publicly announce an investigation into the Bidens. This was not an attempted bribe, but one which actually took place. President Zelensky had scheduled a news Conference on CNN to announce the investigation, which was cancelled once the military aid, that had earlier been approved by Congress and signed into law by Trump, was finally released on September 11, 2019. The aid was released as a result of two Congressional Committees investigating the hold, and the fact that the Defense Department found the withholding had no legal basis.

There are only two crimes specifically listed in the Constitution that warrant impeachment: treason and bribery. Bribery refers to the offering, giving, soliciting, or receiving of any item of value as a means of influencing the actions of an individual holding a public or legal duty. Solicitation of a bribe also constitutes a crime and is completed regardless of whether the solicitation in the receipt of a valuable gift (Cornell Law School). This describes Mr. Trump’s actions with President Zelensky to the letter.

The members of Congress who openly and knowingly ignore and violate their oath of office are no less guilty of crimes than Trump. They are in effect, accomplices and co-conspirators to Trump’s bribery. They have chosen to support and defend Trump, party and power, not the constitution. A violation of my oath as a military of-

ficer came with severe professional and legal consequences. The same should be true for members of Congress and the President, otherwise, these oaths are nothing more than meaningless ceremonial words and a fraud.

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

Rich:
We hate to tell you, but all the evidence suggests that that oath means a lot more to you than it does to Republican Members of Congress.

The Editor

Property Taxes are Servitude

To the Editor:

A quote from the Nomad Capitalist article by Andrew Henderson: “If you own property in the western world, not only have you taken a long position on your government’s declining currency, but you have also signed up for a lifetime of indentured servitude. For all of your government’s efforts to promote home ownership over renting, the reality is that property owners are the biggest renters of all.”

So [according to] Karl Marx’s *Communist Manifesto*, taxes for that form of socialism [must derive from] real estate property, aka “land rents,” ... paid to the government.

In New Hampshire’s “Live Free or Die,” if you miss paying your property taxes on your home here you will lose it very soon, even if you think, with no debt on it from the bank or anyone else, “I own it out right.”

Think again—this [is] from the New Hampshire state tax collector’s web page: “Failure to pay taxes, penalties or interest when due or assessed, or to comply with the tax laws may result in the following actions:

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The Editor

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Seabrook: Trust But Independently Verify
To the Editor:

When President Reagan said: "Trust but verify," he was commenting on the need to independently verify nuclear weapons treaties. However, based on my professional experience as a physicist, I believe this philosophy should be applied to all areas related to health and safety.

In fact, the verify part should always be in the hands of an entity that is not involved with the activity to be verified.

Here on our New Hampshire Seacoast we are dealing with significant environmental concerns, e.g. in our air, water and soil. We have also identified some pediatric cancer clusters, for which no one can identify the cause. That is why I believe it is important to use the best available technology to monitor our environment for hazards. One such potential source is nuclear radiation originating from Seabrook Power Station. Currently, our neighboring towns in Massachusetts are benefiting from real-time radiological monitoring under the supervision of the Massachusetts Department of Safety, while New Hampshire towns have no such real-time monitoring. That network in Massachusetts has already reported incidents of elevated levels that exceeded three times and as high as 17 times background.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) does require and oversees such monitoring in the immediate areas around Seabrook, which is equipped with modern instruments and has highly trained technicians operating those instruments.

But outside that area, the State of

New Hampshire does not maintain real-time monitoring devices. Instead, TLDs [thermoluminescent dosimeter] (passive monitors) are located throughout the 17 towns within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone. These monitors are collected and evaluated for signs of radiation every 3-5 months. They do not provide any real-time actionable information, and are not capable of detecting low level radiation releases, or releases that only last a few hours or a day.

That is why the Citizens Initiative for Radiological Monitoring is supporting bills sponsored by Sen. Tom Sherman and myself to convince state agencies to replace the TLDs with real-time devices. Since Oct. 2018, this initiative has already raised \$40,000 in private pledges toward a goal of \$60,000 needed for hardware devices. Additional fund-raisers are planned such as a January 7, 2020 event at Flatbread Company in Portsmouth.

On December 1st, at 3:00 p.m., a reception is planned at a home in Portsmouth to provide more information about the Citizens Initiative and solicit more support. If you are interested in attending this event, or wish to receive more information contact Rep. Peter Somssich at staterrep27@myfairpoint.net or call (603) 436-5221.

Rep. Peter Somssich
staterrep27@myfairpoint.net
Portsmouth, N.H.

====

Trump, Evangelicals and Human Rights
To the Editor:

Last week three women and six of their children were gunned down in Mexico. The women were in two separate SUVs which were far apart from each other. It wasn't one case of mistaken identity. These were American citizens. Their families had refused to pay protection money to the drug cartels.

This is a country President Trump claims is safe enough for those seeking asylum in this country to stay for months before being allowed into this country to make their plea.

Trump threatened Mexico with big tariffs if the country did not agree to hold these asylum seekers. He stopped

hundreds of millions in aid money to Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, trying to coerce them into stopping people fleeing gang violence in those countries from traveling north to the U.S. He strong armed Guatemala's President into claiming that country was a safe haven for asylum seekers, even those fleeing his own country.

It is clear Trump cares nothing about the lives of others. What I find unfathomable is that so many of the pro-life evangelicals do not either. It is time they stopped saying they care about the sanctity of life and start saying they only care about the sanctity of the fetus.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:

An excellent point. Sadly, correcting this situation would seem to require a wholesale change of heart among Republicans in general, and anti-choice religious zealots in particular.

The Editor

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Tribute to "the Meryl Streep of Generals"
To the Editor:

Former Secretary of Defense James Mattis, a well-respected retired U.S. Marine Corps General, who served his nation admirably for 40 years, should consider a new career in comedy. He had Al Smith Dinner attendees in stitches with his brilliant response to President Trump's criticism of him. After Mattis critiqued Trump's disastrous Syria policy, Trump claimed Mattis "is the world's most overrated general." Mattis responded against Trump's childish tantrum when he said, "I'm honored to be considered that by Donald Trump because he also called Meryl Streep an overrated actress. So I guess I'm the Meryl Streep of generals."

Initially, I was concerned about Mattis. Given our President's obvious fetish for authoritarian and military strongmen, I'd found it quite disconcerting when I heard Trump tell a crowd of his supporters in Cincinnati,

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

ty interests including bank accounts, accounts receivable, security interests, and similar items. Also, the liened property may be subjected to tax sale.

"Distraint (i.e., notice of seizure of property), may be issued and the seized property sold with the proceeds applied to the balance owed.

"If you have a license from the Department, proceedings may be started to revoke or suspend your license."

Now my wife and I have a dilemma, now that our property taxes have outpaced both of our income[s], and this is why: 55 years ago, our three-generation property, that my mother bought, had a tax bill of \$150 in 1965. The average income in the United States then was \$6,900.... Since then our home taxes have increased to \$14,700.

For our taxes to increase to [the] amount that the town and the state demand today, the taxes every year since have compounded yearly by 8.9 percent.

Crime in crimson blood of my family's hard earned labor being taken!

This means the average income since 1965 should have increased 8.9 percent every year to \$632,887 to be equal in what the state expects us to afford! How many of you increase your income every year by 8.9 percent? I am tired of the everyone pointing to the taxes paid by the top one percent—they are not the other 99 percent being hit by the hammer and then the eviction from your home if you can not pay.

You do not own your home, no one does or ever has. The state does, you just rent it, and you can not control the rent they demand every year—Marx's "land rents."

It is neither "free" nor likely you will "die" in your home if you live in it your whole life and do not win the lottery.

Karl Marx's dream of control of your productivity is alive and well here in New Hampshire, more so than most states, we are 49th worst.

If you want to "Live Free or Die" in New Hampshire you have to use capitalism over Marx's central control socialism—meaning the state "takes" rather than it receives "freely" from its governed, what we can afford.

The only tax not wanted by Karl Marx was a sales tax, it was too free-market capitalism. People spend what they have, by about 92-98 percent of their income, and a sales tax reflects how well the economy the state government has provided, or not.

New Hampshire has many sales taxes—the real estate sales tax, car registration tax, rooms and meals tax, liquor sales, cable and phone tax, mooring tax, building permit tax, &c. They all are free choice taxes. You choose the value of your car and therefore the annual registration tax-value tax. None of these taxes force you out of your home.

So my Republican and Democrat[ic] friends, which principles of government do you want to support—Marx's socialism, or "free" market principles? Time to ax the home tax, so the citizens are not renters evicted from their homes.

Jeff Frost
Alexandria, N.H.

Jeff:

Interesting. You realize of course that by your assessment, Meldrim Thompson Jr., William Loeb, both Governors Sununu, and virtually every Republican in the state going back at least half a century, are all Marxists. We hope that irony helps ease the pain you clearly feel.

That pain is shared by the great majority of New Hampshire homeowners who are not independently wealthy. Meanwhile, the wealthy continue to be

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Old Pine Tree

by William Marvel

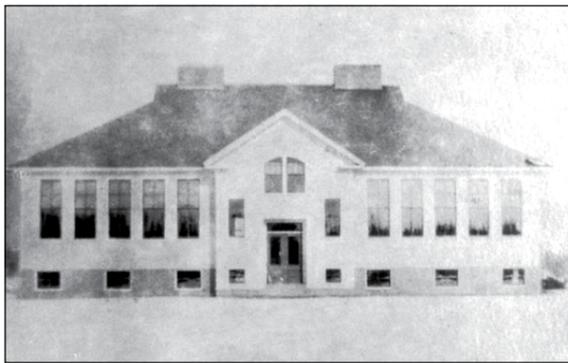
Around breakfast time on Saturday morning, January 31, 1914, the “splendid” new schoolhouse in Center Conway burned to the ground. It was a suspicious fire, since there was no school that day, but the cause was never determined. The school board had only insured the building for \$1,500, much to the indignation of the community. It would not be the last time that board outraged its constituents.

By the autumn of 1915, classes had begun in a solid new building on a concrete foundation. Three of the four rooms were filled with 61 students. During the first six weeks of classes none of the students missed a day, while there were only three instances of tardiness—perhaps because there used to be consequences for arriving late. The first two grades were under Miss Elsie Wickens, who had begun her teaching career at the ill-fated earlier school in 1912.

A 1915 photo of the new school shows the yard clear of vegetation, and reflections in the windows sug-

gest that no trees of any size stood nearer than the road. As late as 1942, the new building was referred to as “Conway Center School,” but sometime thereafter it came to be known as Pine Tree School, for a double row of white pines that lined the driveway. Those pines seemed old to those of us who took recess beneath them during the Eisenhower administration, and in the 1990s one of the stumps allegedly revealed about 100 rings, but they had not been there in 1915. Probably no one survives with a memory long enough to resolve that mystery.

I first set foot in Pine Tree School exactly 40 years after it first opened. By then, all four rooms were filled with two grades apiece, and I expected to remain until June of 1963. The young man teaching the seventh and eighth grades served as principal because, unlike the three aging women there, he had a college degree. In the first two grades our teacher was the former Elsie Wickens, whom we knew as Mrs. Masterton. Like her colleagues she was a strict disciplinarian, but she lacked the touch of



cruelty that seemed to motivate the tyrant of the fifth and sixth grades, and when I split my chin open on the ice she was very kind to me.

Parents today would cringe at the perils we faced. Our playground consisted of an unfenced softball field where older boys could send a fly ball into the road, or into the cemetery beyond, and one of us would run for it. Railroad tracks defined the rear boundary of the school, and the Maine Central rumbled through at least once each day, often at recess. There was no fence to keep us off the tracks, either, for in those days even children were expected to exercise a bare minimum of sense, and those who didn't were considered expendable.

For nearly three decades the old school served as the recreation center, surviving even harder use than it endured from three-quarters of a century of grammar-school students. It remains fairly solid, but building codes that have been imposed with such relentless good intentions make the cost of renovating it prohibitive, so it will almost certainly be torn down. With that in mind, I recently made what I suppose will be my last visit.

Mrs. Masterton's room looked much smaller than I remembered. The windowsills that I could barely peer over in 1955 barely reach my crotch. The blackboard that used to loom above us is still there, but it seems to sit far lower. The white

globes for the electric lights that hung from chains all around the room are gone, and electric or propane fixtures have replaced the hissing, clanking radiators. The round wall clock no longer clicks its way interminably toward three o'clock, far above the shelves that held our reading books and extra paper.

Unlike most of my classmates, I did not learn my letters in that room. I was already reading and writing when I arrived. Boredom with the instruction led to a lot of time spent beneath Mrs. Masterton's desk, or banished to the hallway outside. I passed many hours staring at the treetops, daydreaming, but I also met my oldest surviving friends in the bright sunlight that poured down on us through those tall windows.

Most of those who settled into their seats on the morning of September 6, 1955 have gone into retirement or under the sod. So far I have done neither, however, and demolishing the still-useful scene of our early education feels very much like an impatient generation's way of dismissing us early.

from page five

“We are going to appoint ‘Mad Dog’ Mattis as our Secretary of Defense.” Trump and his supporters were no doubt drawn to Mattis' nickname. However, it turns out that General Mattis much preferred being referred to as the “Warrior Monk,” which is far more fitting of his scholarly demeanor.

SecDef Mattis quickly assuaged my concerns when I watched him (via *YouTube*) addressing a large group of military personnel in Afghanistan, appealing to their better angels: “Our country right now, it's got problems we don't have in the military. You just hold the line until our country gets back to understanding and respecting each other



and showing it.”

During his short two-and-a-half years as the Pentagon head, Mattis did his best, out of a sense of patriotism and devotion, and was not afraid to push back hard, when no sycophant Republicans or Trump Cabinet members were willing to do so, on Trump's worst impulses. Mattis stood strong against Trump's policies and attitudes about torture, authoritarian regimes, LGBTQ issues in the military, the important NATO alliance, the threat from Putin and Russia, diplomacy, the threat of Global Climate Change, the Iran Nuclear Deal, and the rise of White

Nationalism. Mattis, when further pressed at the dinner, continued, perfectly capturing the essence of Trump (and those that follow and enable him), “I earned my spurs on the battlefield... Donald Trump earned his spurs in a letter from a doctor.”

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

A Simple Tool for a Simple Fool

Dear Editor,
The impeachment hearings revealed a simple tool that manipulates the President.

Rudy was cooking up some corrupt scheme with his two indicted co-conspirators (Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman), involving a Ukrainian energy company. Their plan required getting rid of Maria Yovanovitch. How to get Trump to dump her? Sure, he could legally fire her for no reason, but Rudy & Co. had to motivate Trump to do it.

Three actions get his attention: (1) flatter him, (2) show him how he could profit financially, or (3) tell him someone said something bad about him.

Too many people have already de-based themselves flattering Trump

to make an impact.

We don't know yet if Rudy offered Trump a piece of his nefarious scheme. Number 3 got Trump's response, a shameful slandering of Yovanovitch's respected reputation.

Like Putin, Erdogan, and Kim Jong Un, Rudy knows a simple tool manipulates a simple fool.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.
Bruce:

We realize your consistent failure to capitalize the name Trump was probably intentional. It is certainly understandable. We capitalized it out of respect, not for the individual, but of editorial standards.

The Editor

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Why would we trust plutocrats to save us from plutocracy?

by Jim Hightower

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote of being leery of a fast-talking huckster who visited his home: "The louder he talked of his honor, the faster we counted our spoons," Emerson exclaimed.

Likewise, today's workaday families should do a mass inventory of their silverware, for the fast-talking CEOs of 181 union-busting, tax-cheating, environment-con-

taminating, consumer-gouging corporations are asking us to believe that they stand with us in the fight against...well, against them. From Wall Street banksters to Big Oil polluters, these profiteers are suddenly trumpeting their future intentions to serve not just their own greed, but every "stakeholder" (which is what they call employees, customers, suppliers, et al).

But vague proclamations are cheap, and it's worth noting that

these new champions of the common good propose no specifics—no actual sacrifices by them or benefits for us. A few media observers have mildly objected, saying it's "an open question" whether any of the corporate proclaimers will change how they do business. But it's not an open question at all. They won't. They won't support full collective bargaining power for workers, won't join the public's push to get Medicare for All, won't stop using mo-

nopoly power to squeeze out small competitors and gouge consumers, won't support measures to stop climate change, won't back reforms to get their corrupt corporate money out of our politics...won't embrace any of the big structural changes necessary to reverse the raw economic and political inequality that has enthroned their plutocratic rule.

In fact, their empty proclamation is what West Texas cowboys might call "bovine excrement," meant to

fend off the actual changes that real reformers are advancing. Corporate elites won't fix inequality for us—they're the ones doing it to us.

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

The Failures of a Con Artist

To the Editor:

Donald Trump promised to do wondrous things for us during his presidential campaign:

1. To build a border wall paid for by Mexico. As of July 2019, 60 miles of replacement wall has been completed, plus a two-mile stretch of steel slats which are being sawed through by drug dealers. Since Mexico and Congress have declined to fund the wall, President Trump, in defiance of Congress, has reallocated from the defense budget, \$2.5 billion dedicated to anti-drug funding and \$3.6 billion intended for military construction projects.

2. To give us a "phenomenal" health care plan. The Republicans have no plan and since President Trump took office the number of Americans without health insurance has increased by 7 million. Middle income people with private insurance are unable to pay their hospital bills, due to large deductibles and copayments.

3. To cut our taxes. His tax plan was a gift to the wealthy with two-thirds of it going to the richest fifth of Americans. The cut did not produce the promised 4 percent growth in the economy, which is currently growing at 2 percent.

4. To reduce the national debt "very quickly." The national debt has increased from \$19 trillion to \$22 trillion and growing since President Trump took office because spending has outpaced income.

5. To get out of the Iran Nuclear Treaty. Trump has kept that promise and Iran has now resumed enriching



uranium.

6. To "drain the swamp" of lobbyists, special interests and corruption. So far, at least 20 people in the Trump administration have been forced to resign and/or been indicted—more than any president in history.

Do you imagine President Trump awake in the wee hours worrying about us average Americans as he roams the halls of Mar-a-Lago tweeting? No, neither do I. He is worrying, however, about how to con us into voting for him again.

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.

The Beginning of the GOP's End?

Dear Editor:

Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, Madam Speaker, members of Congress, I am NOT the whistleblower, but oh how I wish I was. I would wear a black suit, pink shirt with a black tie (the colors that defined my generation) and walk into the Hearing Room dragging a string of tin cans.

There comes a time in one's life when each of us has to stand up and be held accountable and it's sometimes hard to know when that time is. I've been in the position of whistleblower twice, did what I thought was the right thing on both occasions, and was fired twice. Both involved mental health agencies (two different states), both very legitimate complaints. The second time I tried to involve the press. "We believe you, Mr. Snell," the reporter said, "but it's

just too hot to handle."

I learned from those experiences (1) to keep my mouth shut, (2) that no one wants to hear about fraud, waste, abuse, or corruption (we're living in very strange and difficult times). When I was about a week into a new job in education here in North Carolina in 2001, the social worker in charge said, "David, you're intimidating me by the way you're sitting." Instead of saying, "I've been sitting this way for 60 years Baby Cakes, you'll just have to get used to it," I muttered something along the lines of, "Yes, Ma'am, how would you prefer I sit?" In exchange for my integrity, I got to hang on to a not-so-good job another seven years, amidst the guiding principles of diversity and fragile feminism.

It occurs to me that the two major political parties in the United States, working unwittingly in tandem (each taking the lead role at random intervals) have managed to change the fundamental characteristics and the underlying sentiments that formed the beliefs, customs, the very spirit of our culture, the moral order of things we once considered inviolate.

They have rendered us perplexed, puzzled, and bewildered, and for this alone they should be ashamed. Were this all we had to contend with it would be, on its own, a formidable undertaking.

Twenty plus years ago a Republican Congress impeached a president who had a consensual sexual rela-

tionship with a young woman. Today, some of those same people are supporting and protecting a president who lies practically every time he opens his mouth, who has abused the power of his office many times over, who has destroyed so many norms of American life that we once took for granted there is no space to list them all, who derides decorated combat veterans as "human scum," who endangers national security, and trashes our Constitution.

Donald Trump has knowingly engaged in numerous impeachable acts as a means of placing his own interest above the national interest and the Republican Party and a substantial percentage of his followers continue to support and defend him. Shame. On. You.

We are witnessing only the beginning of the impeachment proceedings, and at the same time the possible beginning of the end of the Republican Party. If the Republican Party fails to demand either the resignation of President Trump or fails to impeach and demand his removal, it will have failed the test of character, and will well deserve to be thrown on the pyre of Trump's burning presidency and lost in oblivion on the ash-heap of history.

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.

David:

The Republican Party's enthusiastic support for George W.[MD] Bush's unprovoked war on Iraq was more than sufficient for us.

The Editor

Another Correction

To the Editor:

This is a small correction, hardly worth publication, but the error nevertheless grates on me whenever I see it in print.

In the front-page article (below the fold) about [Ed "Meese is a Pig"] Meese in your October 11th edition, you refer to his promotion to colonel in the "Army Reserves [sic]." The proper name of that branch is "Army Reserve" (in which I served for 28 years). The collective name of the reserve units for all the military services is "reserves."

I recently relocated to Portsmouth and look forward to each new edition of your paper.

Steve Glazer
Lieut. Col., U.S. Army (Ret.)
Portsmouth, N.H.

PS—Although a modern style manual I have not yet seen may perhaps differ, unless used in a named person's title, military rank is not capitalized. Hence, Meese obtained a promotion to "colonel."

Steve:

Thank you. Our chagrin at having made this error is ameliorated by the kindness you have shown in alerting us to it.

The Editor

"The children are fat and happy when they eat KKK Flour biscuits."

The Atlanta Constitution,
Advertisement, August 18, 1908

"If all printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody, there would be very little printed."

— Benjamin Franklin

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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, NOVEMBER 24 | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25 | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29 | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>2006—"The only way we can win [in Iraq]," says George W. Bush, "is to leave before the job is done."</p> <p>1979—The U.S. admits troops in 'Nam were hit by Agent Orange.</p> <p>1976—Steven B. Williams rams a White House gate with his pickup truck at 25 mph. It doesn't budge.</p> <p>1971—Toting \$200,000 in ransom cash, "D.B. Cooper" parachutes from a hijacked 727 over Washington State, into oblivion and America's heart.</p> <p>1965—<i>The New York Times</i> runs a full-page ad signed by 500 WW II and Korean War vets protesting escalation of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1963—Strip joint proprietor Jack Ruby, to spare Jackie Kennedy's feelings, shoots Lee Harvey Oswald under the watchful eye of the Dallas Police Department and the TV cameras.</p> <p>1961—An overheated electric motor in Colorado cuts off all communications between SAC and NORAD.</p> <p>1953—Sen. Joe McCarthy (R-Wisc.) claims the Truman administration is "crawling with Communists."</p> <p>1947—All but 17 Congressmen vote to cite the Hollywood Ten for contempt after they take the 5th.</p> <p>1922—Erskine Childers, a Brit supporter of Irish independence charged with carrying a pistol, is executed while his case is on appeal. He says to his firing squad, "Take a step forward, lads. It will be easier that way."</p> <p>1759—Tobias Smollet is convicted of libeling an admiral.</p> | <p>1997—In Plymouth, Mass., police serve Native American demonstrators a generous helping of pepper-spray.</p> <p>1986—As Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese confesses that profits from illegal arms sales to Iran went to Nicaraguan <i>contras</i>, a reluctant Ronald Reagan fires Lt. Col. Oliver North.</p> <p>1974—Britain outlaws the IRA after two bombs kill 21 and injure over 100 in Birmingham.</p> <p>1968—Death of Upton Sinclair, writer and media critic.</p> <p>1955—The ICC bans racial segregation in interstate bus transportation; the ban is ignored, though, until Freedom Riders force the issue in 1961.</p> <p>1950—Great Appalachian Storm winds hit 110 mph in Concord, N.H.</p> <p>1947—For refusing to rat out their friends to Congress, the Hollywood Ten are fired by studio bosses.</p> <p>1915—William J. Simmons burns a flag at Stone Mountain, Ga., founding the new, improved Ku Klux Klan: it hates Catholics and Jews, too.</p> <p>1865—Mississippi creates the first Black Codes: legal restrictions nearly indistinguishable from slavery.</p> <p>1783—Redcoats evacuate New York as General Washington and the victorious Continental Army arrive.</p> <p>1120—King Henry's only heir William Adelin sails for England aboard the <i>White Ship</i>. The ship's crew, drunk, is told to make haste; hitting a rock, it capsizes. All drown but a butcher. England is in chaos for decades.</p> | <p>2000—Katherine Harris, Florida's Secretary of State and, coincidentally, the Bush campaign's state co-chair, declares DUBYA the winner.</p> <p>1977—Vrillon, from the Ashtar Galactic Command, hijacks a British TV transmitter to warn mankind: beware false prophets, reject evil weapons—share in the great awakening.</p> <p>1975—George Gainsou, son of a heroin importer, climbs the White House fence to ask for his father's pardon. Arrested 90 minutes later while chatting with President Ford's daughter Susan, he later says, "If [Ford] can pardon Nixon he can pardon my father."</p> <p>1973—Rose Mary Woods takes the fall for the 18½ minute gap.</p> <p>1933—Thomas H. Thurmond and John M. Holmes are lynched in San Jose, Calif. Jackie Coogan—"Uncle Fester," 30 years later—helps ready a rope. Judge Timothy Fitzpatrick says in his personal opinion, the mob "did a damned good job." Gov. "Sonny Jim" Rolph vows to pardon anyone convicted, but no one is even charged.</p> <p>1932—In his newspaper column, Will Rogers mocks Herbert Hoover's theory of "trickle-down economics."</p> <p>1922—Howard Carter and his employer Lord Carnarvon desecrate the tomb of King Tutankhamun.</p> <p>1921—Former Lt. Col. Charles W. Whittlesey, 37, commander of the "Lost Battalion" and a pallbearer for the Unknown Soldier, leaps from a ship and drowns in the Atlantic.</p> | <p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld signs off on "Category III" interrogation techniques—namely, torture.</p> <p>2001—Gen. Tommy Franks, working on catching Osama bin Laden, is told by Donald Rumsfeld to drop that and revise plans to attack Iraq.</p> <p>1997—In New York, a lampost fatally stabs Macy's Barney the Dinosaur balloon. Meanwhile, the Cat in the Hat knocks over a lampost, which then falls on two women, putting one in a month-long coma.</p> <p>1969—At the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, 100 soldiers fast on Thanksgiving to protest the war.</p> <p>1965—The first Acid Test.</p> <p>1952—Winnie Ruth Judd, the Trunk Murderess, makes her sixth escape from Arizona's State Insane Hospital.</p> <p>1932—Edward Marshall, future beat poet, is born in Chichester, N.H.</p> <p>1900—To convince a Filipino town's president he should rat out local rebels, U.S. troops force salt water down his throat and burn down his town.</p> <p>1868—In the Battle of the Washita, General George A. Custer and his troops massacre Black Kettle and 102 other Cheyenne survivors of the Sand Creek Massacre.</p> <p>1729—The Natchez people repay decades of haughty brutality by massacring 230 Frenchmen. Women and enslaved Africans are spared.</p> <p>1095—Pope Urban II launches the Crusades, promising salvation for those who die slaying pagans. Jihad?</p> | <p>2014—Cards Against Humanity, to express its disdain for consumerism on Black Friday, removes all products but one from its online store: a \$6 box of "literal feces, from an actual bull."</p> <p>2005—Ex-Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-Calif.) pleads guilty to selling votes and dodging taxes.</p> <p>1979—Relying on outdated navigational data during a sightseeing flight over Antarctica, <i>Air New Zealand Flight 901</i> flies into Mount Erebus with 257 souls on board.</p> <p>1950—Albert Pierrepont, Britain's official hangman as well as a pub owner, hangs James "Tish" Corbitt, his former customer and drinking buddy.</p> <p>1942—The Cocoanut Grove in Boston burns; 492 die, 172 are injured.</p> <p>1936—Basil Zaharoff, the world's fifth richest man, dies in bed at 87—five times older than those who died using the weapons he sold to all sides.</p> <p>1895—Six cars compete in the U.S.'s first auto race. Frank Duryea wins with an average speed of 7.3 m.p.h.</p> <p>1858—The luxury yacht <i>Wanderer</i>, sleek, fast, and refitted for a trade outlawed 50 years earlier, docks at Jekyll Island, Georgia. The 409 enslaved Africans who survived the passage are the next-to-last such cargo to arrive.</p> <p>1795—On George Washington's watch, the U.S. pays \$800,000 to Tunisian pirates, with a promise to pay \$25,000 a year in future.</p> <p>1545—Printer Jacob van Liesveld is beheaded for heresy in Antwerp.</p> | <p>2015—Professing concern about the lives of fetuses, Robert L. Dear murders three adults and wounds nine more as he shoots up a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado.</p> <p>2011—Ex-Arapahoe County (Colo.) Sheriff Patrick Sullivan, arrested for exchanging methamphetamine for sex with a male informant, is incarcerated in an eponymous jail.</p> <p>1976—After Jerry Lee Lewis accidentally plugs his bass player in the chest twice with a .357 magnum, he's charged with discharging a firearm within city limits.</p> <p>1963—LBJ sets up the Warren Commission to rule out a conspiracy in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.</p> <p>1960—On learning that, thanks to the CIA, the Congo's Patrice Lumumba had been arrested, genial old Ike orders that agency to heighten its efforts to assassinate Fidel Castro.</p> <p>1947—French soldiers massacre over 300 civilians, mostly women and children, halving the population of My Trach, in Vietnam.</p> <p>1864—Ignoring a truce flag, Col. (& ex-minister) John Chivington leads a Colorado militia in the slaughter and mutilation of 150 Cheyenne women, children, and old men at Sand Creek. A local paper says the soldiers had "covered themselves in glory" (a typo).</p> <p>1781—His slave ship <i>Zong</i> short of water, captain Luke Collingwood has 133 live slaves thrown overboard to stick underwriters with the loss.</p> | <p>2001—Two days before filing for bankruptcy, Bush-backing Enron execs award themselves big bonuses.</p> <p>1999—A WTO meeting in Seattle is called off due to anarchists.</p> <p>1974—Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.) appears onstage at Boston's Pilgrim Theater with stripper Fanne Foxe.</p> <p>1972—Nixon spokesperson Ron Ziegler says with only 27,000 Americans left risking their lives in Vietnam, the White House is done updating the nation on withdrawals.</p> <p>1965—Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara offers LBJ two Vietnam options: get out now, or go all-in, suffering 1,000 KIAs per month and perhaps losing anyway.</p> <p>1954—Failing to clear the summit by 500 feet, a DC-3 crashes on N.H.'s Mount Success. All seven aboard survive the crash, five survive two freezing nights at the crash site.</p> <p>1954—Liz Hodges of Sylacauga, Ala. is bruised by an eight-pound meteorite that busts through her roof.</p> <p>1951—Winnie Ruth Judd the Trunk Murderess is recaptured after her fourth escape from the Arizona State Insane Hospital.</p> <p>1835—A "hack writer," in William Faulkner's view, "who would not have been considered fourth rate in Europe," is born: Samuel L. Clemens.</p> <p>1812—Gen. Alexander "Apocalypse" Smyth's troops disobey his orders to invade Canada and turn their weapons on his tent. He flees.</p> |
| <p>8:46 9:18 2:24 3:01</p> | <p>9:37 10:11 3:17 3:54</p> | <p>10:25 11:01 4:06 4:45</p> | <p>11:12 11:50 4:54 5:33</p> | <p>11:58 5:41 6:20</p> | <p>12:39 12:45 6:27 7:08</p> | <p>11:27 1:32 7:15 7:56</p> |
| SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 | MONDAY, DECEMBER 2 | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 |
| <p>2017—One-time Trump National Security Advisor and ex-general Michael Flynn does the perp walk.</p> <p>2007—Presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani, at Federal Cigar in Portsmouth, refuses to autograph a <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i> for countererman Dave McNicholas, but agrees to sign a photo of himself—which he takes with him when he leaves.</p> <p>2003—Howard Dean, leading the pack in polling, tells Chris Matthews he'll "break up the giant media enterprises;" giant media enterprises soon label Dean "unelectable."</p> <p>1969—The U.S. Selective Service guts the anti-war movement by holding a draft lottery.</p> <p>1968—The Walker Commission reports that the Chicago PD rioted during the Democratic Convention.</p> <p>1964—In J. Edgar Hoover's FBI office, purportedly for a reconciliation, the Director reveals information to Martin Luther King, Jr., demonstrating that he's under illegal surveillance.</p> <p>1955—On a bus in Montgomery, Ala, Rosa Parks changes the world.</p> <p>1842—Secretary of War John C. Spencer's son Philip, 19, a midshipman aboard the <i>U.S.S. Somers</i>, along with two sailors, and without benefit of court martial, is hanged for mutiny.</p> <p>1777—Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben lands in Portsmouth, N.H. from France, en route to Valley Forge, where he will turn Washington's rabble into a trained army.</p> | <p>1986—Pres. Ronald Reagan says he can't remember what he knew about Iran-Contra, or when he knew it.</p> <p>1984—Union Carbide's Bhopal, India plant springs a leak. It's a corporation, though, so, no consequences—other than up to 16,000 people dead.</p> <p>1980—U.S.-backed death squads murder four nuns in El Salvador.</p> <p>1964—Mario Savio tells a mob of thousands of Berkeley students, "when the operation of the machine becomes so odious ... that you can't take part ... you've got to make it stop."</p> <p>1956—<i>Granma</i> lands 82 rebels in Cuba. Only 12 make it to the Sierra Maestra. That was enough.</p> <p>1954—The Senate votes to "condemn" Joe McCarthy. N.H. Senator Styles Bridges is one of 22 "No" votes.</p> <p>1949—At the Air Force's request, GE contractors at Hanford, Wash. turn off air filters for a test. Oops—they release double the intended amount of radioactive iodine-131.</p> <p>1946—Oakland, Calif. comes to a halt as 100,000 workers go on a General Strike. Two days later Teamster boss Dave Beck sells them out.</p> <p>1943—The <i>U.S.S. Squalus</i>, formerly the <i>Squalus</i>, sinks the Japanese carrier <i>Chuyo</i> near Truk. Aboard <i>Chuyo</i> are 21 survivors from the <i>U.S.S. Sculpin</i>, which had aided in the 1939 rescue of the <i>Squalus</i>; only one of them survives.</p> <p>1942—Enrico Fermi fires up the first sustainable atomic chain reaction under a Chicago football stadium.</p> | <p>2013—In Londonderry, N.H., failed Senate nominee Scott Brown says "I don't think I ever said I was thinking about running for president," 16 weeks after telling the <i>Boston Herald</i> he was thinking about running for President.</p> <p>2004—George W.[MD] Bush nominates Bernard Kerik (later to be known as Federal Inmate 84888-054) to be Secretary of Homeland Security.</p> <p>1996—A New York company that had a contract to manufacture Medals of Honor is fined \$80,000 for selling 300 bootleg copies.</p> <p>1983—U.S. Information Agency head Charles Z. Wick says Margaret Thatcher opposed the invasion of Grenada because she's a woman.</p> <p>1980—Secretary of State Al Haig says four Maryknoll nuns recently murdered by Salvadoran death squads may have been gun-runners.</p> <p>1979—Eleven fans die during a stampede to get seats for a Who concert in Cincinnati.</p> <p>1976—Bob Marley is shot twice by unidentified assailants. Two days later he plays a concert.</p> <p>1969—Protesters destroy files at eight N.Y. draft boards.</p> <p>1966—The AEC explodes a .38 kiloton A-bomb 10 miles west of Purvis, Miss., inside an underground cavity created by a 5 kiloton A-bomb blast conducted two years earlier.</p> <p>1964—600 police arrest 800 protesters in Berkeley; 900 faculty members call for amnesty.</p> | <p>2016—To free the fictitious child sex slaves of the Democrat Party, Edgar Welch shoots up Comet Ping Pong in Washington D.C. with a real gun.</p> <p>2013—Rep. Duncan Hunter [R-Calif.] suggests the U.S. use tactical nukes against Iran's nuclear program.</p> <p>1993—R.I.P. Frank Zappa.</p> <p>1982—Returning from a trip to Latin America, President Reagan says, "I learned a lot. You'd be surprised. They're all individual countries."</p> <p>1981—President Reagan OK's CIA spying on U.S. citizens.</p> <p>1979—French commandos "convert to Islam," then help the Saudi military drive rebels from Grand Mosque. The indiscriminate killing by these infidels enrages Osama bin Laden; the CIA concludes the episode is not a sign of widespread Islamic radicalism.</p> <p>1969—Chicago cops, aided by the CIA, murder Black Panther security guard Mark Clark, then assassinate Fred Hampton, who's been drugged.</p> <p>1952—A "Great Smog" so thick moviegoers couldn't see the screen descends on London. It lasts all winter and kills about 12,000.</p> <p>1950—In <i>Feres v. U.S.</i>, the Supreme Court rules that servicemembers can't sue the U.S. for injuries.</p> <p>1837—During a debate on wolf bounties in the Arkansas House, Speaker John Wilson and Joseph Anthony fight with Bowie knives. Wilson is later acquitted of murder.</p> | <p>2013—Scott Brown, in N.H., says he's been helping Republicans "raise awareness as to the issues ... here in Massachusetts."</p> <p>2002—At a party on Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday, GOP Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott expresses regret over desegregation.</p> <p>2001—A B-52, sent the wrong coordinates, bombs U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan, killing three.</p> <p>1996—Fed Chair Greenspan warns: "irrational exuberance" may have inflated stock prices.</p> <p>1994—The House of Alleged Representatives elects Newt Gingrich the first Republican Speaker in 40 years.</p> <p>1988—A Grand Jury in N.C. indicts "holy" man Jim Bakker on charges of fraud and conspiracy.</p> <p>1965—An A-4 Skyhawk accidentally rolls off the <i>U.S.S. Ticonderoga</i> near Japan. Plane, pilot, and one-megaton B43 are still missing.</p> <p>1960—The Supreme Court rules that restaurants in interstate bus stations can't be segregated anymore.</p> <p>1955—"Uppity Negroes" in Montgomery, Ala., boycott the municipal mass transit system.</p> <p>1945—Five Grumman Avengers and 14 airmen—the Navy's Flight 19—disappear off Ft. Lauderdale. Thirteen more men and a Mariner flying boat disappear looking for them.</p> <p>1894—Alabama repeals its child labor laws in a bid to entice a Massachusetts textile corporation. It works.</p> | <p>1973—Gerald R. Ford takes the place of disgraced Vice President and freelance media critic Spiro "Ted" Agnew.</p> <p>1969—The Rolling Stones throw a free concert at Altamont, Calif. Four people die and four are born.</p> <p>1967—Chaplain Angelo "Charlie" Lityky carries 23 wounded men to safety in Vietnam despite intense hostile fire. For his bravery he is given the Medal of Honor, which he returns in 1986 to protest U.S. foreign policy.</p> <p>1957—Two months after <i>Sputnik</i>, a Vanguard rocket carrying the U.S.'s first would-be satellite explodes at an altitude of five feet.</p> <p>1933—Federal judge John M. Woolsey rules that Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> is not obscene and therefore may be imported.</p> <p>1928—In Cienega, Colombia, soldiers with machine guns open fire on workers striking against United Fruit Co. At least 47, and possibly several thousand, workers die.</p> <p>1918—The U.S. War Department ceases shackling conscientious objectors to the walls of solitary cells.</p> <p>1917—The largest pre-A-Bomb explosion occurs in Halifax when a munitions ship explodes; 1,600 die; and windows break 40 miles away.</p> <p>1915—The Supreme Court upholds a federal law stripping women of their citizenship if they marry "foreigners."</p> <p>1907—More than 360 men and boys are killed by explosions at two coal mines in Monongah, W.Va.</p> <p>342—RIP Saint Nick.</p> | <p>2006—The "Justice" Department fires eight prosecutors for failing to prosecute enough Democrats.</p> <p>1997—Six skydivers leap from a plane over the South Pole. Three of them die when their chutes fail to open.</p> <p>1995—France is virtually paralyzed when 1.75 million workers protest global exploitation.</p> <p>1993—The Department of Energy admits it conducted more than 200 secret weapons tests.</p> <p>1987—A disgruntled ex-employee shoots a Southwest Airlines pilot and co-pilot. The plane breaks up while diving at Mach 1.2, killing all aboard.</p> <p>1985—Despite warnings from Cap Weinberger and George Schultz that it's illegal, Ronald Reagan OK's selling arms to Iran and giving the money to assassins in Central America.</p> <p>1970—R.I.P. legendary cartoonist Rube Goldberg, whose work inspired the <i>Gazette's</i> business plan.</p> <p>1964—Japan bestows the Order of the Rising Sun on Gen. Curtis LeMay, whose fire-bombing of that nation during WW II probably killed half a million Japanese.</p> <p>1961—MPs hold civilians at Peterson Field, Colo. at gunpoint as Tibetan commandos, secretly trained by the CIA, are smuggled aboard a C-124.</p> <p>1941—Japan attacks Pearl Harbor.</p> <p>1874—Whites in Vicksburg, Miss., upset by the election of a black sheriff, begin a month-long slaughter of 150-300 blacks.</p> |
| <p>2:16 2:22 8:04 8:45</p> | <p>3:09 3:15 8:57 9:37</p> | <p>4:03 4:12 9:54 10:31</p> | <p>5:00 5:12 10:54 11:26</p> | <p>5:56 6:12 11:55</p> | <p>6:49 7:08 12:20 12:53</p> | <p>7:37 8:00 1:10 1:45</p> |

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