

## The Fortnightly Rant

### A Shot Across Reality's Bow

The day before his expected impeachment, President Trump issued a letter to Speaker Pelosi. Generally assessed, quite accurately, as an unhinged, colicky, "six-page tweet," it was also considerably more. It was a peevish renunciation of reality. It was a declaration of his independence from the Constitution. It was Napoleon Bonaparte placing a crown on his own head.

If this matter involved only the President, that would be just fine. "Lone crackpot holes up in high-end government housing unit," the headlines would read, if our corporate media were as committed to objective journalism as they claim.

Considering his privileged position, the author of the manifesto would be treated with as much dignity as the awkward situation would allow. After all, it's not as if he's some un-diagnosed homeless person, whose entire net worth—conveniently contained in a black Hefty bag—could be casually discarded by the South Bend police as winter sets in.

If the President were the only person suffering from the defining delusion of our time, a pre-determined process would be followed. The Cabinet would meet, consider the situation, and gravely conclude that the time had come to write a letter themselves:

"Dear Speaker Pelosi and president pro tempore of the Senate Grassley: the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office." Exactly how President Pence would then proceed to wrinkle Trump out of the Oval Office is unclear; perhaps fanning the aroma of a MacDonald's Filet-o-Fish sandwich under the door might do the trick.

Clearly, though, the President is not alone. He must have had help in composing that letter. Granted, it shows no sign of being grounded in reality, but neither is it incoherent. Though peppered with Trumpisms, it is too tightly constructed to have been composed by him, even if he were not in mid-tantrum.

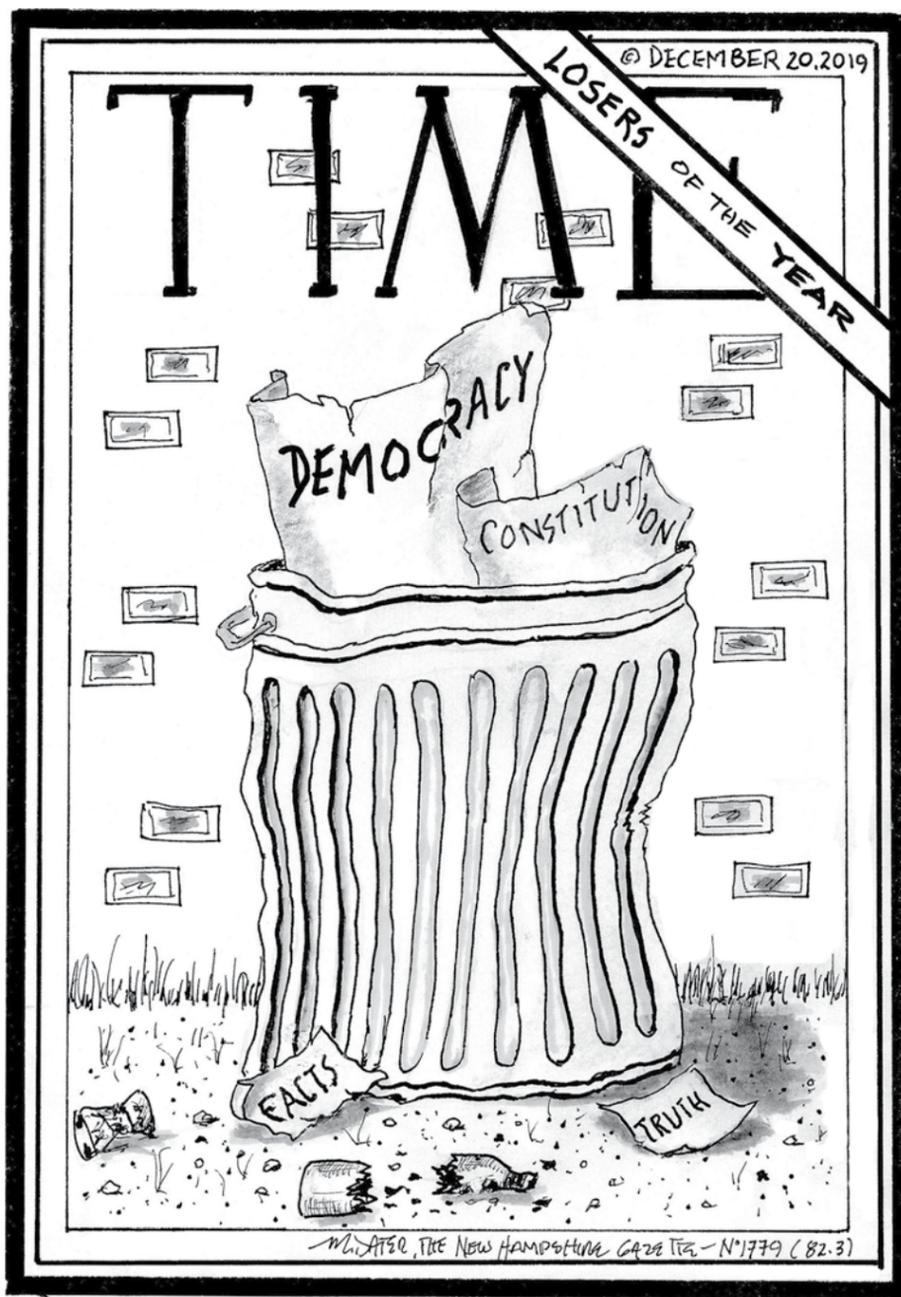
Besides, despite being a 2,800-word wad of gibberish, it is also a document of great importance. It is a formal declaration, issued unilaterally at a pivotal historic moment, declaring that from here on out, no rules will be obeyed. The Presidential cerebrum, such as it is, was probably not involved; his brainstem, though, would know enough to assign the task to the sanest lawyers he could find. Rudy was likely lured away elsewhere by a dummy TV camera.

Attorney General Barr has been conspicuously absent lately. Perhaps he wrote the letter. Why would he not? He's never passed up a chance to prove he's a member of Team Trump. He submitted an unsolicited 20-page memo resumé to the White House seven months before his appointment, offering up tips for defending Trump's firing of James Comey. He mischaracterized the Mueller report before its release, a classic propagandist's maneuver. He slammed his own FBI for being too zealous in its investigation of the President and set a U.S. Attorney on an unfounded investigation into the legitimate one. His son-in-law works in the White House counsel's office on matters that "intersect" with the Russia investigation. Finally, in case there were any doubt, last July Barr booked a \$30,000 "Family Holiday Party" at Trump's Washington D.C. grift palace.

Barr's brazenness is stunning; it's no wonder he and Trump see eye to eye. Rep. Bobby Rush [D-La.] probably took that into account when he filed House Resolution 757 calling for Barr's resignation and disbarment. The Resolution cites half a dozen specific acts of misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance, along with more general, but equally real, examples of behavior that make John Mitchell, our only previously jailed Attorney General, seem like an Eagle Scout in retrospect.

Trump's big day finally came on Wednesday. The outcome was a foregone conclusion. However much longer he lives, Trump will know, and will know that we know, his name will be forever linked with something he despises: impeachment, not just once, but twice. That's meagre compensation for having to put up with him, but it's not nothing.

Trump could have had two more votes on his side, if only a pair of Republicans weren't so much like him. Chris Collins, of New York, resigned on September 30th, shortly before pleading guilty to insider trading and making false statements. Duncan Hunter, of California, is technically still in Congress. The House Ethics Committee told him on December 5th, though, that he can't vote any more. He had pled guilty to a felony two days earlier—for misusing campaign funds—and faces up to five years in prison.



At this point the contest is *mano-a-señora*; the wily Pelosi face-to-face with the implacable McConnell. The Speaker, wielding a pair of impeachment resolutions and her legendary parliamentary prowess, will be a formidable opponent; but she is going up against the dread Rogue Tortoise of the Senate—a man who has shown, time and again, that he is Trump's equal when it comes to disregarding precedent and defying what decent people considered the American Way.

The Majority Leader is likely aiming to conjure up a declaration that Trump is as innocent as a newborn Caucasian child of married Presbyterian parents. Pelosi is trying to

deprive him of that trophy, but her chances of getting Trump's head on a pike fall somewhere between slim and none.

Republicans continue moving rightward, where eventually you run into monarchy. Is that why this Cult of Trump has been so successful? Between that trend and the GOP's proven ability to wangle over-representation in Congress and the Electoral College, our long national nightmare is far from over.

On the night of his impeachment, the President jetted to Michigan, where he mocked the widow of the late Rep. John Dingell and joked that her husband might be in Hell.

Why wouldn't he be? Aren't we all?

## The Alleged News®

### Groundhog Day II, the Remake [Spoiler Alert: It's a Tragedy]

Forty-eight years ago the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* published the Pentagon Papers. Written in secret at the behest of Defense Secretary Robert [Very] Strange McNamara, the documents confirmed what many soldiers, sailors, Marines, and veterans already knew: the war was an utter failure, could never succeed, and had been based on ignorance and lies from the very beginning.

By June of 1971, resistance among GIs on the ground had forced a change in strategy; unable to rely on search-and-destroy missions, the generals had turned to an air war. Even so, 181 died the month the papers were published.

Eleven days ago the *Post* reprised its earlier performance, with a few alterations, of course. Its lead story began, "A confidential trove of government documents obtained by *The Washington Post* reveals that senior U.S. officials failed to tell the truth about the war in Afghanistan throughout the 18-year campaign, making rosy pronouncements they knew to be false and hiding unmistakable evidence the war had become unwinnable."

Leslie Gelb led the team that wrote the original Pentagon Papers. "[T]he main message" of the project, he told "On the Media's" Brooke Gladstone in January, 2018, "is that our leaders, from Truman onwards,

didn't know hardly anything about Vietnam and Indochina. They were ignorant. And it also shows that the foreign policy community believed that if we lost Vietnam the rest of Asia would fall. [And,] because we'd never learned that darn lesson about believing our way into these wars, we went into Afghanistan and we went into Iraq."

In a previously-unreleased interview, ironically filed under "Lessons Learned," George W.[MD] Bush's "War Czar" Douglas Lute proved Gelb's point. He said, "[W]e were devoid of a fundamental understanding of Afghanistan—we didn't know what we were doing... We didn't have the foggiest notion of

what we were undertaking... For example, the economy: we stated that our goal is to establish a 'flourishing market economy.' I thought we should have specified a flourishing drug trade—this is the only part of the market that's working."

CIA-backed anti-communist tribesmen conspired with top Vietnamese officials to sell heroin to American GIs. In October, Human Rights Watch reported that CIA-backed Afghan forces "have committed summary executions and other grave abuses without accountability... These strike forces have unlawfully killed civilians during night raids, forcibly disappeared detainees, and attacked healthcare

facilities for allegedly treating insurgent fighters. Civilian casualties from these raids and air operations have dramatically increased in the last two years."

Americans still seem willing to send their young off to Afghanistan. If they should ever balk, though, the Pentagon has a plan. It's titled, "Cyborg Soldier 2050: Human/Machine Fusion and the Impact for the Future of the DOD." Robo-wars will be expensive, but obviously money is no object. We spent \$2 trillion in Afghanistan, and have nothing to show for it but graves.

**The Alleged News®**

from page one

**What's the Matter With Philanthropy?**

Press releases from Scott W. Murray are enough to induce a coma. We mean no disrespect to Mr. Murray, it's just that, as the U.S. Attorney for New Hampshire, he is, shall we say, predictable. This past month his office sent out about two dozen press releases. Nearly every one was about either drugs or guns—often it was both. On Friday the 13th, though, he issued a real doozy.

“Former United Way Vice President Convicted Of Participating In Fraud And Money Laundering Scheme,” read the header.

The United Way, of course, is “America’s favorite charity.” Just ask *Wikipedia*. If you don’t trust *Wikipedia*, you could go to the source it cites: the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*. Just don’t expect to read it for free. That content is “available exclusively to *Chronicle* subscribers.” What? You thought they’d just give it away? Clearly you don’t understand modern philanthropy. But we digress....

“CONCORD—United States Attorney Scott W. Murray announced that U.S. District Judge Joseph Laplante found Imran Alrai, 45, of

Windham, New Hampshire, guilty of wire fraud, money laundering, and transportation of stolen funds after a ten-day bench trial.

“According to the trial evidence, Alrai was an information technology (“IT”) professional at the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley in Boston, Massachusetts. Between 2012 and June 2018, Alrai obtained approximately \$6.7 million in payments for IT services supposedly provided to United Way by an independent outside contractor, Digitalnet Technology Solutions, Inc. Evidence at trial show that Alrai misrepresented material facts about Digitalnet and fraudulently concealed that he owned and controlled Digitalnet. In early 2013, Alrai rigged the bidding process for a major contract to provide managed IT services at the United Way so that Digitalnet was chosen. Alrai then gave fake references and false information about Digitalnet to United Way.

“For the next five years, while serving as United Way’s Vice President for IT Services, Alrai steered additional IT work to Digitalnet, so that his company soon became UW’s second-largest outside vendor, receiving more than \$1 million



The Holiday Season is at its peak. Here we see the City’s official Holiday Tree—a fine conifer. At its foot, a small band of hardy Holiday carolers, singing traditional Holiday carols. Nothing missing but Holiday shoppers.

annually. Alrai concealed from his colleagues that he had anything to do with Digitalnet. He routinely sent emails with attached invoices from a fictitious person to himself at United Way. After the fraud came to light, in June 2018, officials at United Way confronted Alrai and terminated him. Federal agents executed search and seizure warrants and data from Alrai’s home office in Windham, as well as approximately \$2.2 million in fraud proceeds in bank and investment accounts. During the scheme, Alrai wired \$1.2 million in fraud proceeds to a Digitalnet bank account in Lahore, Pakistan.

“According to expert testimony at the trial, United Way lost at least \$3.1 million as a result of Alrai’s crimes due to Digitalnet’s excessive billing, duplicate billing, and billing for services not delivered. The same expert calculated that Alrai personally enriched himself in the amount of \$3.7 million. The evidence fur-

ther showed that in 2013-14 Alrai perpetrated a similar scheme at the Robert Allen Group in Foxboro, Massachusetts, where Alrai was CIO, and induced that company to pay Digitalnet more than \$400,000. The total amount involved in the scheme was approximately \$7 million.

“Judge Laplante convicted Alrai on 18 counts of wire fraud, 14 counts of money laundering, and 12 counts of transporting stolen funds. The court acquitted Alrai on six counts of money laundering, one count of aggravated identity theft, and two counts of failing to file Foreign Bank Account Reports with the IRS. The court also ordered forfeiture in an amount to be determined. The court previously ordered that Alrai repatriate funds he wired to Pakistan.

“Alrai will be detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for March 21, 2020.”

This rather staggering tale is followed by a few hundred words of

high-minded tut-tutting from Special Agents of the FBI and Homeland Security, a homily vaguely reminiscent of Joe Friday’s lectures at the end of every episode of *Dragnet*. We will spare the reader.

If something about this story rings a faint bell, congratulations: your memory hasn’t yet failed completely. The United Way has been fleeced before.

In 1995, William Aramony, the former CEO of United Way, was sentenced to seven years in federal prison after being found guilty on 23 counts including conspiracy to defraud, mail fraud, wire fraud, transportation of fraudulently acquired property, engaging in monetary transactions in unlawful activity, filing false tax returns and aiding in the filing of false tax returns. He and two co-conspirators had spent the money on the usual things: gambling in Las Vegas, champagne, chauffeur-driven town cars, flights on the Concorde.

It could have been worse. So far

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*Sometimes Old is Good*  
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 — Joe Keefe

as we know, he never faced charges for the sex offenses he committed against a 17-year old girl. Even so, it was a sordid end to a brilliant career. Brilliant for him, anyway. We're not so sure about the consequences for philanthropy in general.

The United Way began as a joke—well, almost—when a woman, a priest, two ministers, and a rabbi got together in Denver, in 1887. Perhaps they walked into a bar. We like to think so, but we can't prove it. Anyway, they came up with the idea of a united fundraising campaign, to benefit ten local health and welfare agencies. The organization grew and spread, under a welter of different names.

Aramony took over a South Bend, Ind. Community Chest in 1954 and set about revolutionizing the operation. He took what had been a loose, scattered network operating under different names and turned it into a unified, nation-wide business. In doing so he engineered a brand—The United Way—that was bland enough to pass muster with corporate America, making it the vampire squid of philanthropy.

Brian Gallagher, United Way's current CEO, describes how it worked by the time he joined the

organization in 1981: "a company's donations would arrive in a big envelope. It would contain some cash, some personal checks, and a summary sheet stating that, for example, 1,200 employees had agreed to payroll deductions, which would total however many dollars every other week."

"Over the past few years," Gallagher told the *Harvard Business Review* last fall, "we've worked to change that model—to transform from a primarily business-to-business model of fundraising (in which we work mostly with employers) to a B2B2C model\* in which we create a more direct relationship with individual donors. Payroll deductions still play an important role, but we're moving to a technology-driven engagement platform." One assumes that someone other than Imran Alrai is currently providing the IT services for that platform.

United Way now has 1,285 local

\* *Techopedia* gives this example of a B2B2C model: "Business A pays Business B for users, leads or sales generated by Business B's business or website. Business A then uses Business B's channels to locate prospective customers. Business B provides its customers with new and relevant services, facilitating an increased customer base and earned revenue for sold products and services."



18 YEARS OF WINNING THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN



There was no shortage of elbow room Monday at Strawberry Banke's Labrie Family Skate. A full one-third of the on-ice skaters are shown here. Remarkably, there was nary a Presidential candidate among them.

organizations around the country, hoovering up \$4.2 billion in contributions annually. All of them, we're sure, are doing good work. Little of that work though, we suspect, has anything to do with changing the course of a nation which, last time we looked, was bent on self-destruction.

Speaking of self-destruction, one of the biggest names in philanthropy in recent decades has been the Sackler family; their largesse was legendary, until it became notorious. They could afford to be generous because their company, Purdue Pharma, invented and marketed—with a vengeance—OxyContin. Though fiendishly addictive, it was claimed to be benign.

George Carlin, one of the nation's foremost philosophers, famously wrote about the American Dream, "you have to be asleep to believe it." For those unable to sleep, OxyCon-

tin provided a working, if lethal, substitute. Its huge success sparked an epidemic of addiction that's said to have taken 250,000 lives.

It has recently been reported that the Sacklers have taken more than \$10 billion out of the company between 2008 and 2018—the height of the opioid epidemic. Having a morbid turn of mind, we did the math: the profit per death was \$40,000.

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**The Further Misadventures of Matt Bevin**  
Matt Bevin, an alumnus of the Bevin family home school in tiny Shelburne, N.H., first came to our attention in fall of 2016, when, as Governor of Kentucky, he said it was possible that the nation might "be able to survive" if Hillary Clinton were to win the election, "but at what price?... Whose blood will be shed?" He later gave an \$18 million tax break to a Noah's Ark-based

theme park, and another \$15 million to a badly-planned aluminum plant which got bailed out by a Russian oligarch.

Narrowly defeated in November, Bevin apparently decided to go out with a bang. Before leaving office on the 10th, he pardoned or commuted the sentences of 428 criminals.

Beneficiaries of his leniency include Brett Dustin Whittaker, 36, who, driving drunk while on probation, crashed his car and killed his wife and a pastor. Whittaker has been cited for 30 disciplinary violations in prison, five of them in 2019. Elizabeth Stackelbeck, 40, was sprung after serving just a fraction of her 15 year sentence. She had pleaded guilty to hiring a hit man to murder her ex-husband and his wife.

Patrick Baker, convicted of reckless homicide, was set free at the urging of Terry Forcht, one of Kentucky's largest Republican donors.

**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**  
"Nihilistic forces...seek to discredit the pillars of our democracy...voting rights and fair elections...the free press...and the concept of truth itself."  
— Paul Volcker (1927-2019) Chairman of the Federal Reserve (1979-1987)

"To succeed in the world it is not enough to be stupid, you must also be well-mannered."  
— François-Marie Arouet (aka Voltaire)  
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**A Common, Dangerous Category Error**  
To the Editor:

This coup disguised as a legitimate impeachment is just another step towards destroying the work of the Founders. And what hypocrisy to try to justify this coup in the language of the Founders when the liberals are taking down their monuments and want their pictures removed from the currency. The impeachment will not lead to the removal of Trump only because there is a Republican Congress, and ironically it will help Trump and the Republicans win in 2020. Nonetheless, this will set a precedent from which America will not recover. The precedent is that an election can be overturned by Congress without any crime or malfeasance on the part of the President, thus destroying the cherished concept of government by the people. This is a tragedy not for Trump but for America. When the President can be removed only because of personal passions he or she will now serve only at the will of Congress and not by the expressed will of the American electorate.

John Dente  
Wilmington, Del.

John:

Thank you for keeping this missive manageable, in size if not in import.

You flatly deny that an impeachment is under way, insisting instead that it is a coup. In making this claim you align yourself with President Trump, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, and, apparently, a majority of Republicans.

Once again, Trump and the GOP are projecting. It is they who are attempting to usurp power, by attempting to deny the Democratic majority their Constitutional right to act as it sees fit.

This is typical bullying behavior, on a grand scale: commit an act so egregious that the only possible responses require considerable courage, or capitulation. If the Democrats had shown more courage in the face of Reagan and the Bush dynasty, this mess might have been avoided.

Our susceptibility to this sort of error is guaranteed by the failure of our public schools to teach civics.

The Editor

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**Don't Stop Now!**

Dear Editor,

Impeachment shouldn't end with a narrow vote on one narrow issue, important as weakening our national security is. Trump has committed many more impeachable crimes in addition to shaking down Ukraine. The impeachment investigation is our only and best opportunity to get to the bottom of his emoluments, his electoral collusion with Russia, his ceding our foreign influence to Russia in places like Syria, his disruption of our NATO alliances, his obstructions of justice, his personal profiting from governmental expenditures at his hotels...the list goes on.

At present, it is expected the Senate will acquit Trump of all impeachment accusations. Then he will prance around the country clucking "exonerated, exonerated!" Impeaching by December's end would give him *woay* too much time to exploit that opportunity. Congress must keep the investigation boiling; keep uncovering more of his impeachable offenses.

Eventually, the accumulating evidence will overwhelm Republican tribal partisanship.

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

You're right, of course. Justice demands that all of Trump's crimes be investigated and prosecuted. The trouble is, that would just scratch the surface. He'd be entirely justified, as he's hauled off to the new Trump Wing at Leavenworth, to holler that he's a victim of selective prosecution. At this point most Republicans in Congress appear to be complicit. It's time to put that RICO statute to work.

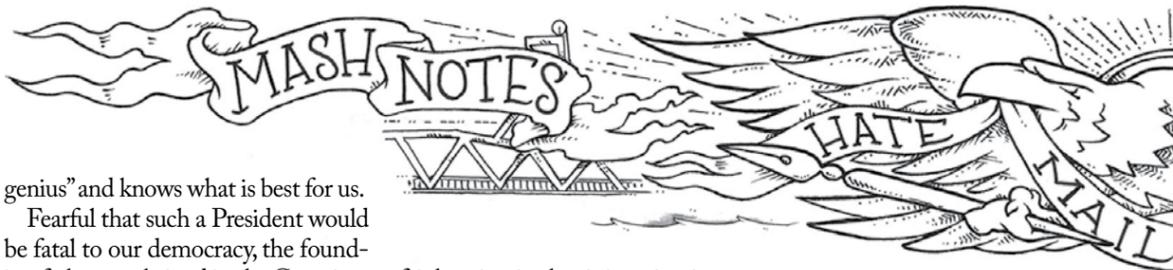
The Editor

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**It's Time, People**

To the Editor:

Donald Trump became President by appealing to the fears, desires and prejudices of ordinary people. He consolidates his power and promotes himself through systematic lying to the public, vilification of the opposition, flaunting the rule of law and ignoring the Constitution. He tells us this is justified because he is a "stable



genius" and knows what is best for us.

Fearful that such a President would be fatal to our democracy, the founding fathers enshrined in the Constitution a remedy—removal from office by impeachment. The evidence that Trump betrayed the country and his office is concise, clear and overwhelming. Because of the current GOP's uncharacteristic fealty to a clearly flawed leader (John McCain, we miss you!) the impeachment of Donald Trump is uncertain. There is, however, available to us a backup remedy to deal with a budding despot.

Andrew Jackson had great respect for the people. He declared that they were the government, delegating administration to their elected agents. He said, "Fear not, the people may be deluded for a moment, but cannot be corrupted. Americans are not a perfect people, but we are called to a perfect mission. The people, sir—the people will set things to rights."

November looms.

Cynthia Muse

Rye, N.H.

Cynthia:

He actually is a stable genius—his head is full of exactly the same material you'd expect to find in any stable.

The Editor

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**Lack of Moral Leadership Means Doom**

To the Editor,

I am a first generation American whose family escaped persecution at the hands of autocracies. Our founding fathers created a masterpiece in the Constitution of the United States. Today our way of life, our democracy and open society is under attack by a narcissistic, racist, bigoted, anti-Semitic, dishonest sociopath, enabled by power hungry, greedy people almost all of whom identify as Republicans.

As a history buff I have always kept in mind, "Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it." Today I see an administration that is

frightening in that it is acting in ways not unlike Germany in the 1930's. There is a complete disregard for societal norms, rule of law and tradition. The presidency is being used to enrich supporters and crush all opposition, with a total disregard for the environment, our greatest existential threat.

When challenged, people will say we will never get to a level of Germany. Exactly what Victor Klemperer said in *I Will Bear Witness*. If we do not begin to act in a civil, constructive way and say no to this tyranny then we will end up no different than Russia, Turkey, China or the myriad other countries spiraling out of control. This time it is life and death. If the United States does not reclaim our moral leadership, fighting global climate change will fail and it will end in the demise of our planet and all of us.

Wayne Goldner

Bedford, N.H.

Wayne:

Thank you for demonstrating so eloquently the essence of true Americanism. It has nothing to do with lineage. It's all about the principles.

The Editor

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**Big Fat Republican Crocodile Tears**

To the Editor:

"Sour grapes," they say. "Desperate and driven by hate, Democrats are trying to steal your vote and overturn the results of the last election!"

The Republican party's bologna barkers somehow conveniently forget to mention that Donald Trump didn't run in the last election because it was a mid-term. They also fail to acknowledge that those Democrats who now hold a majority position in the House of Representatives were duly elected by the American people, possibly in response to the President's frighteningly incompetent performance

during his first two years in office.

Somehow, House Republicans believe that strident hyperbole and personal attack are plug-in replacements for corroborated evidence. However, any high-school debater with better than a "D" average knows better.

Unfortunately, even if Mr. Trump is successfully indicted by the Democratic House, it's virtually certain the Republican majority in the Senate will fail to convict, no matter how strong and compelling the case. We should all cry about that.

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

Look on the bright side: the GOP has made future choices very clear—vote for reality, or forge ahead into a future where words have no meaning.

The Editor

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**Is This The Best of All Possible Worlds?**

To the Editor:

In America we strive to Be Just and Fear Not, as much as human beings can be just in plying their own self-interest.

The law is after all a Human Institution moved and swayed by the emotions of the people—whether a caste, a family, a club, or even a religion that persuades, turns, or warps the justice of the mob, jury, or judge as much as facts and the truth.

Where as [sic] in politics the persuasion and the swaying are to make the law rather than to judge it and many times it's centered in self-interest to some and nay to the inalienable rights of all.

President Trump stands now beyond self-interest and egos compared to the power brokers of the common man.

His ego has been filled to the top as

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President and his pockets filled before his new job.

Truth, logic, facts, common good, and blindness compared to self interest often are discarded in both courts of law and legislatures but much less with Trump winning the battles in the Capital's ambitious muddled political swamp of self interest.

And for all those seekers of power, ideology, and/or wealth beneath Trump's position are the enviable truths of the nation's well-being and success for the common man from bottom to top.

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A truth, a statistical fact, and a reality not lost on the interests of the American voter.

Jeff Frost  
Alexandria, N.H.

Jeff:  
*We're somewhat alarmed.*

*Sorry to be so vague, but, given the nature of your prose, it's hard to know just how alarmed we should be. If your letter accurately reflects your thoughts, they seem... muddled. On the other hand, you do seem to be, as far as we can tell, in line with the thinking, if we can call it that, of a significant portion of the population.*

OK. We're very alarmed.  
The Editor

====

**Authoritarianism Only a Shoulder-Tap Away**  
To the Editor:

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, filling in for the alleged "Leader of the Free World," recently joined a large group of world leaders from advanced democracies in Germany to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall (a heavily guarded concrete barrier built the year I was born to prevent East Germans from fleeing to the West for freedom from totalitarian rule). The collapse of the wall was largely seen as the beginning of the collapse of the totalitarian Soviet Union and Iron Curtain.

I give Pompeo a lot of credit for managing to keep a straight face as he told our allies: "As we celebrate, as we take this victory lap, we must also recognize that freedom is never guaranteed. We spoke to this, it doesn't just happen. Today authoritarianism is just a stone's throw away. It's rising, and if we're honest, it never really went away completely."

What made Pompeo's lecture so laughable is that Trump, whom Pompeo represents, has openly berated leaders of world democracies and denounced the NATO alliance (likely at the behest of Russian President Vladimir Putin, an authoritarian, who would like nothing better than to see the destruction of NATO) while consistently heaping praise on and working in the interests of Putin and other prominent authoritarian figures such as China's Xi Jinping, Saudi Arabia's MSB, Turkey's Erdogan, Hungary's Orban, North Korea's Kim Jong Un and Brazil's Bolsonaro.

At home, Trump, who has countless enablers and accomplices, including Pompeo, continues to behave like an authoritarian, riding roughshod over the Constitution, the rule of law and democracy. He incessantly attacks and

berates his own Justice Department, intelligence community and the free press, which he has labeled, "the enemy of the people."

Trump, under the guise of "Making America Great Again," has used racism and White Nationalism to hold on to power, has blamed immigrants for America's problems (proposing a ban on their entry and their mass deportation).

Pompeo was correct in stating that authoritarianism never went away; however, it's actually only a tap on the shoulder away from him as opposed to the stone's throw he claimed.

Wayne H. Merritt  
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:  
*Inundated as we are by a flood of lies, and an avalanche of news which can't be believed, Pompeo's remark—testing the farthest limits of irony—had escaped our attention. Thank you for providing it.*

The Editor

====

**Free Acting Lessons**

To the Editor:

I have been watching the impeachment hearings. The Republican members of both the intelligence committee and the judicial committee are providing a master class in acting.

Watching their facial expressions and body language is a treat: slouching; scowling; narrowing their eyes; looking away as a witness answers their questions; rolling their eyes like a testy teenager. It is quite a show.

And it's not just body language. No siree. They talk over witnesses, they interrupt, and most egregiously, they provide five-minute soliloquies while supposedly "questioning" witnesses, a sure sign they don't want to hear the truth. We have seen a host of impressive witnesses from the diplomatic corps, the military, the intelligence community, many of them part of the Trump administration. They have broken ranks, risked their careers, and

detailed the truth.

But the Republican committee members dishonor their service and pretend not to see the evidence. They have tried to impugn the witnesses' veracity. They are betraying the honesty and sacrifice these well-informed and well-intentioned civil servants are displaying.

Trump committed impeachable offenses, betrayed our allies, sought to profit at the expense of our national security, and the Republican committee members know it. In their desperation they pretend not to see the evidence. It is indeed a master class in (bad) acting!

Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

*They're "all in." They know they're either doomed—if justice prevails—or guaranteed a future in the post-truth future. What's one more layer of lying to them now?*

The Editor

====

**Public Media and Random Capitalization**  
To the Editor:

Our Nation of The United States is not very old and could very easily be torn asunder if cool and collected rational minds do not take authoritative control of it now.

What needs to happen here as a Country is to form an Enlightened Plan for Public Media Programming along a "Social Platform of Working Things Out Together."

All Americans need to feel content with the way things are; and *we* need to be educating on resolving the conflicts preventing our becoming what *we* need to be.

We have in mind a Great Gathering of Professional Intelligent Minds to oversee the Moral Foundation of Our Nation Under God based to a *Parens Patriae* Doctrine.

Here are some pertinent discussions from the Summation of the November 12, 2019 Supreme Court DACA Hearing on "boilerplate law" regarding INA/USCIS. That was left on the wording of "Subject To Review" in arguing "Immigration Law" v. "Executive Order" that The U.S. Supreme Court ruling is asked to resolve.

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) was enacted in 1952. The INA collected many provisions and reorganized the structure of immigration law.... The U.S. Code is a collection of all the laws of the United States. Title 8 of the U.S. Code covers "Aliens and Nationality."

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 also known as the Hart-Celler Act, is a federal law passed by the 89th United States Congress and signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The law abolished the National Origins Formula, which had been the basis of U.S. immigration policy since the 1920s.

The National Origins Formula was an American system of immigration quotas, used between 1921 and 1965, which restricted immigration on the basis of existing proportions of the population. It aimed to reduce the overall number of unskilled immigrants (especially from Southern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Asia), and to prevent immigration from changing the ethnic distribution of the largely Protestant Northwestern European-descended United States population. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that administers the country's naturalization and immigration system. It is a successor to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), which was dissolved by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and replaced by three components withing the DHS: USCIS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

We are dealing with a War Footing of Life and Death as it is in the Real World in our time...and the fate of Nations...and Populations, to resolve: who the Sovereign is here in the United States. Let us get to the heart of what it is that is troubling us, and most importantly, to correct what the problems are, if *we* can.

That needs a mature hand, reason-

*Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.*

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# Hotel Della

by William Marvel

It's traditional for American males to harbor a certain aversion to their mothers-in-law. I'm nothing if I'm not a traditionalist, but my mother-in-law is just too estimable for me to even pretend any such tension, even if I weren't naturally disposed to favor the distaff side of my family. My favorite Millennial can probably attest to that preference, since she benefited from it, and she has noticed that "distaff" is a favorite word of mine. Her grandmother exemplifies the reason for that.

Della Ree Marion, as she was known for barely 17 years, was born into a family of cattlemen and farmers in Medicine Lodge, Kansas, in the middle of the Depression. The Wild West was not long gone when she arrived. Her great-uncle, Sheriff Enos Lee McCracken of Barber County, died in a shootout near the Oklahoma border just 30 years before she was born. McCracken himself had killed a suspected rustler in

another gunfight in Oklahoma in 1885, and he fatally wounded the man who killed him.

I've seen the spot where she grew up, traversing a couple of miles of prairie and cottonwood draws to school each day, sometimes on horse back. At an early age she began helping with some of the farm chores. At 12 she took part in a cattle drive when her father was short-handed, and rode back home alone after they delivered the herd.

Her own mother graduated from Kansas State Normal School and spent a decade as a teacher, but that was not the immediate trajectory of Della's life. Soon after her 17th birthday she eloped with the son of a ne'er-do-well minister and used-car salesman, and a decade later she was trying to feed and clothe a husband and six daughters on a limited, sporadic income. I do wish her life had been easier, but I'm a little ambivalent about the struggles she faced raising six children, for if she had stopped anywhere short of six I

would probably be a lot less happy than I am today.

About the same time Della's last child was born, the Air Force abandoned the base just outside the town where the family lived, and the local economy fell flat. The construction jobs on which her husband had depended for most of the household income dried up. The population had doubled during the lifetime of the airbase (and to a large degree because of the airbase), so the agriculture that had previously predominated in that region could no longer support so many people. Neither was there enough industrial potential.

Notwithstanding intense cultural pressure to stay home and keep house, the girl who had driven cattle at 12 because she was needed easily saw that her labor was going to make the difference between want and adequacy for her children. First she earned money at home through tailoring and upholstering. Then, in her early forties, she went to work to

earn a GED and LPN certification, and started the long road to a nursing degree. The year after her last daughter graduated from college, so did Della.

Thenceforward she was the chief earner in the family, by dint of both salary and steadiness of employment, but she apparently never retreated from the perceived duties of a stay-at-home mother, either. Her house always remained immaculate, despite a perennial cavalcade of daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren (and now great-grandchildren), besides the occasional mendicant and, of course, my father-in-law. She worked some 15 years after she might have retired, but still acted as a reliable babysitter for her numerous grandchildren, some of whom also grew up to regard her as the nanny for their own broods.

She cooks for all those people, too, and cooks well. Eating her food is enough to make even me feel more understanding about the girth of so many who pass through her door,

and I suppose if I were within easy range I might pack on a few pounds myself. In fact, I gained six pounds there over four days in late November. On the way home from my last visit to Los Angeles I was scheduled for a meal at her house—reaching which allegedly required 22 hours of nonstop driving, but even with a few hours' sleep near Tucumcari I made it in 24 hours flat. I didn't leave the Huntington Library until four o'clock on a Saturday afternoon, and was sitting at Della's table at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, fidgeting with my silverware.

Like most of those who hold everything together for themselves and others through relentless labor and self-control, she never complains of the difficulties she faces, nor does she object when the credit for her hard work lands elsewhere. People like her usually know an appropriate degree of appreciation only when their own vigor wanes, whereupon the machine slowly grinds to a halt.

—==—

from page five

ing from strength, and spelled out as: the Collective Mind and Will of the People Set To A Determined Purpose To Accomplish.

The Native Americans name the one chosen to speak for the Collective Mind: "Bad Hands." The one elected by us at this hour is our President Donald J. Trump.

The conservative positions of the Fox News Channel is where *we* need to be. Mother Russia is our White Race European-American Ally in securing America's A-Bombs and the Threat of Nuclear War from a Hostile Forces Take-Over of Our Democratic Country by an Overpopulation Domination of Militant Muslim—Anti-White—American Hating—Third World Parties, and otherwise from Foreign Invasion

Overrun Antithetical to Our U.S. American and NATO Alliances Interests, and to the Interests of Russia; who are being Voted Into Office outright, or by proxy, on Majority Rule of the Democratic Party Third-World/People of Color Hegemony.

Don't get on the wrong side of this Civil War. The reasoning here is Not to do with Racial Inequality and Prejudice; but about the Unconditional Declaration of Our United States American Sovereignty, long vested from the conception of Our European Nation in Heritage; of the Self-Determination of a People to Govern Over Themselves; and depending to Our Ability "To Exit" from the Mis-Wording of Our Civ-

il Right Contract with the Minority Populations, in allowing Foreign Peoples, and their Alien Ideologies, Cultures, and Values, to Replace Us in hostile take-over to the Ambitions of Our Government and the utilization of Our Nation's Military.

Gary Koniz  
Jacksonville, Fla.

Gary:  
*Congratulations! That is the most bizarre rant we've received from any political candidate since the death of the late perennial Presidential candidate Robert Haines.*

*We hate to jinx you, but our guess is that John Rutherford is about to win his third term representing Florida's*

4th district.

*If you should fail to win the seat, perhaps it will be time to retire, and rest on your laurels as a former staffer for Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan.*

The Editor

—==—

**Beyond Changing Light Bulbs:  
21 Ways You Can Stop the Climate Crisis**  
by Rivera Sun

Here's the good news: The debate is over. 75% of US citizens believe climate change is human-caused; more than half say we have to do something and fast.

Here's even better news: A new report shows that more than 200 cities and counties, and 12 states have committed to or already achieved

100 percent clean electricity. This means that one out of every three Americans (about 111 million Americans and 34 percent of the population) lives in a community or state that has committed to or has already achieved 100 percent clean electricity. Seventy cities are already powered by 100 percent wind and solar power. The not-so-great news is that many of the transition commitments are too little, too late.

The best news? The story doesn't end there.

We can all pitch in to help save humanity and the planet. And I don't mean just by planting trees or changing light bulbs. Climate action movements are exploding in numbers, actions, and impact. Groups like Youth Climate Strikes, Extinction Rebellion, #ShutDownDC, the Sunrise Movement, and more



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## Should Democrats be the party of small change?

by Jim Hightower

We might expect that corporate billionaires and Koch-funded Republican right-wingers would be howl-at-the-moon opponents of a wealth tax, Medicare-for-All, and other big, progressive ideas to help improve the circumstances of America's workaday majority. But... Democrats?

Unfortunately, yes. Not grassroots Dems, but a gaggle of don't-rock-

the-corporate-boat, Fraidy-cat Democrats. These naysayers are the Party's old-line pols, lobbyists, and other insider elites who're now screeching that Democratic candidates must back off those big proposals. Why? Because, they squawk, being so bold, so progressive, so—well, so Democratic—will scare voters. As one meekly put it: "When you say Medicare for All, it's a risk. It makes people afraid."

Excuse me, but in my speeches

and writings I say "Medicare for All" a lot—and far from cowering, people stand up and cheer! In fact, the *New York Times* has just reported that 81 percent of Democrats (and two-thirds of independents) support Medicare for All. Even apple pie doesn't score that high! It's simply a lie that the people are "afraid" of the idea of everyone getting public-financed health care.

So who really fears it? Three special-interest groups: Insurance com-

pany profiteers, Big Pharma price gougers—and the political insiders who're hooked on funding from those corporations.

Not only is it a pusillanimous fabrication to claim that the people oppose any changes stronger than corporate minimalism, it's also political folly. If the Democratic Party won't stand up for the transformative structural changes that America's middle and low-income majority clearly wants and needs, why would

those people stand up for Democrats? As the 2016 presidential election taught us so painfully, a whole lot of the working class Democrats the Party counts on... won't.

====

*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

are changing the game. Join in if you haven't already. As Extinction Rebellion reminds us: there's room for everybody in an effort this enormous. We all make change in different ways, and we're all needed to make all the changes we need.

Resistance is not futile. As the editor of Nonviolence News, I collect stories of climate action and climate wins. In the past month alone, the millions of people worldwide rising up in nonviolent action have propelled a number of major victories. The University of British Columbia divested \$300 million in funds from fossil fuels. The world's largest public bank ditched fossil fuels and said it would no longer invest in oil and coal. California cracked down on oil and gas fracking permits halting new drilling wells as the state prepares for a renewable energy transition. New Zealand passed a law to put the climate crisis at the front and center of all its policy considerations (the first such legislation in the world). The second-largest ferry operator on the planet is switching from diesel to batteries in preparation for a renewable transition. Re-affirming their anti-pipeline stance, Portland, Oregon city officials told Zenith Energy that they would not reverse their decision, and instead would continue to block new pipelines. Meanwhile, in Portland, Maine, the city council joined the ever-growing list endorsing the youths' climate emergency resolution. Italy made climate change science mandatory in school. And that's just for starters.

Is it any wonder Collins Dictio-



nary made "climate strike" the Word of the Year?

Beyond planting trees and changing lightbulbs, here's a list of things you can do about the climate crisis:

1. Join Greta Thunberg, Fridays for the Future, and the global Student Climate Strikes on Fridays.

2. Not a student? Join Jane Fonda's #FireDrillFridays (civil disobedience is the latest workout fad; everybody looks good saving the planet).

3. Take to the field, like the students who disrupted the Harvard-Yale football game to demand fossil fuel divestment. You can't play football on a dead planet, after all.

4. Stage an "oil spill" like these 40 members of Fossil Fuel Divest Harvard (FFDH) and Extinction Rebellion. They staged an oil spill in Harvard's Science Center Plaza to call attention to the university's complicity in the climate crisis.

5. Get in the way with city-wide street blockades like #ShutDownDC. People from an alliance of groups blockaded the banks and investment firms in the nation's capital to protest the financing of fossil fuels, and the ways the banking industry drives the climate migration crisis while profiting from the devastation.

6. Rally the artists and paint giant murals to remind people to take action, like this skyscraper-sized Greta Thunberg mural in San Francisco.

7. No walls handy? Print out a scowling Greta and put it in the office to remind people not to use single-use plastic.

8. Crash Congress (or your city/county officials' meetings) demanding climate legislation, climate emergency resolutions, and more. That's what these climate justice activists did last week, protesting legislative inaction and demanding justice for people living on the front lines of the crisis.

9. Occupy the offices: Sit-ins and occupations of public officials offices are one way to take the protest to the politicians. Campaigners occupied US Senator Pelosi's office and launched their global hunger strike just before US Thanksgiving weekend. In Oregon, 21 people were arrested while occupying the governor's office to get her to oppose a fracked gas export terminal at Jordan Cove.

10. Organize a coal train blockade like climate activists in Ayers, Massachusetts. They made a series of multi-wave coal train blockades, one group of protesters taking up the blockade as the first group was arrested. Or rally thousands like the Germans did when they gathered between 1,000-4,000 green activists, made their way past police lines, and blocked trains at three important coal mines in eastern Germany.

11. Shut down your local fossil fuel power plant. (We've all got one.) New Yorkers did this dramatically a few weeks ago, scaling a smokestack and blockading the gates. In New Hampshire, 67 climate activists were arrested outside their coal power plant, calling for it to be shut down.

12. Of course, another option is to literally take back your power like this small German town that took ownership of their grid and went 100 percent renewable.

13. Like Spiderman? You could add some drama to a protest like these two kids (ages 8 and 11) who rappelled down from a bridge with climbing gear and a protest banner during COP25 in Madrid.

14. Ground the private jets. Extinction Rebellion members went for the gold: they blockaded a private jet terminal used by wealthy elites in Geneva.

15. Sail a Sinking House down the river like Extinction Rebellion did along the Thames to show solidarity with all those who have lost their homes to rising seas.

16. Clean it up. Use mops, brooms, and scrub brushes for a "clean up your act" protest like the one Extinction Rebellion used at Barclay's Bank branches.

17. Blockade pipeline supply shipments like Washington activists did to stall the expansion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline.

18. Catch the eye with a Red Brigade Funeral Procession like this one during the Black Friday climate action protests in Vancouver.

19. Tiny House Blockades: Build a tiny house in the path of the pipelines, like these Indigenous women are doing to thwart the Trans Mountain Pipeline in Canada.

20. Make a racket with a pots-and-pans protest. Cacerolazos—pots and pans banging protests—erupt-

ed in 12 Latin American countries last week. The media focused on government corruption and economic justice as the cause, but in many nations, including Chile and Bolivia, climate and environmental justice are included in the protesters demands.

21. Share this article. Action inspires more action. Hearing these examples - and the successes - gives us the strength to rise to the challenges we face. You can help stop the climate crisis by sharing these stories with others. (You can also connect to 30-50+ stories of nonviolence in action by signing up for Nonviolence News' free weekly e-newsletter.)

Remember: all these stories came from the Nonviolence News articles I've collected in just the past 30 days! These stories should give you hope, courage, and ideas for taking action. There's so much to be done, and so much we can do! Joan Baez said that "action is the antidote to despair". Don't despair. Organize.

====

Rivera Sun, syndicated by PeaceVoice, has written numerous books, including *The Dandelion Insurrection*. She is the editor of *Nonviolence News*, and a nationwide trainer in strategy for nonviolent campaigns.

====

*"Thanks again, as always, for making the now really bad news somewhat easier to tolerate. The truth, which is now seldom spoken, and never spoken by our nation's 'Liar in Chief,' just keeps getting worse and worse. I am thankful for our still (for now, anyway) free press and late night television comedians' rants posted on Youtube about the state of our country."*

— E.S., Dover, N.H.

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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

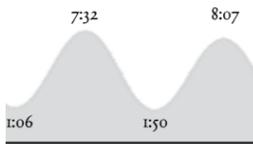
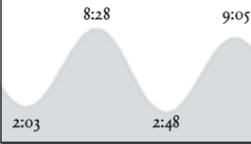
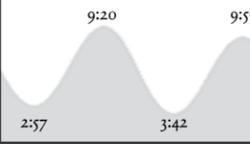
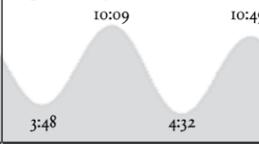
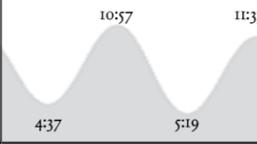
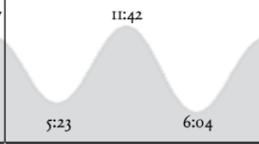
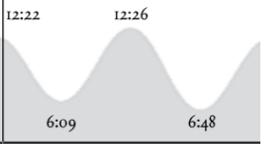
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

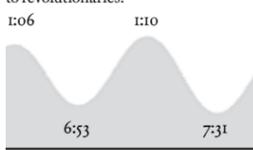
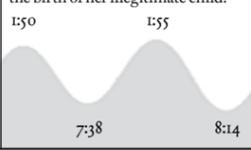
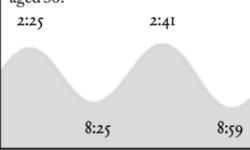
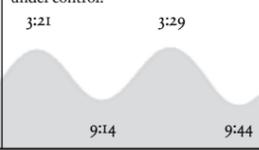
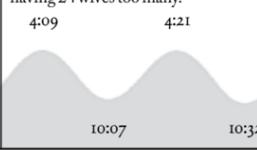
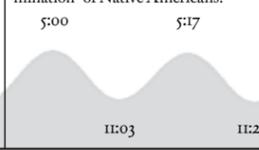
moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

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, DECEMBER 22	MONDAY, DECEMBER 23	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28
<p><b>2001</b>—Richard Reid's shoe-bomb fizzles, but all air passengers must now remove shoes before boarding.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Asked for money on a New York subway, Bernhard Goetz responds with lead instead. Then he flees to New Hampshire. Of course.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Ronald Reagan gives the poor 30 million lbs. of moldy cheese.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Seymour Hersh exposes the CIA's Operation Chaos in the <i>New York Times</i>: 10,000 Americans under illegal surveillance since 1967.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—The CIA hands LBJ the second of four reports on its illegal surveillance of anti-war activists. Because it, too, refutes his belief in foreign influence, he rejects it and demands another.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—To a German demand for surrender, surrounded General Anthony McAuliffe replies, "Nuts."</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Hotel clerk and author Nathanael West and his wife Eileen McKenney die in a car wreck during their honeymoon.</p> <p><b>1849</b>—Fyodor Dostoevsky, half-naked and tied to a pole, is presumably pleased to learn he's going to Siberia for four years instead of being shot.</p> <p><b>1813</b>—In downtown Portsmouth, N.H., 18 acres burn, from Daniel to Court Streets, from Fleet to the river; 272 buildings are destroyed.</p> <p><b>1757</b>—A Portsmouth mob, hundreds strong, incensed by British press gangs, drags <i>HMS Enterprize's</i> longboat two miles inland and burns it.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—NASA reports that the asteroid Apophis has one chance in 233 of hitting Earth in 2029.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—Tipped off by a Boston FBI agent that he's about to be arrested, James "Whitey" Bulger takes a powder. He's on the lam for 16.5 years.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—The FCC bans indecency on radio and TV; somehow, though, they still report on war and politics.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—The airplane <i>Voyager</i> completes its nonstop circumnavigation.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Basement digging causes the Foye Building, next to the Portsmouth Athenaeum, to partially collapse.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—President Nixon springs Jimmy Hoffa from federal prison; the Teamsters then endorse Nixon. A \$1 million bribe may also be involved.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—FBI officials begin scheming to "neutralize" Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with wiretapping, bugging, infiltration, sabotage, and blackmail.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—James Kutcher, a legless WW II vet, has his disability payments cut off, too, because he's a Socialist.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—In Korea, 21 American POWs refuse to go home. In response, the CIA starts studying mind control.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—Three sailors trapped below-decks in the sunken <i>West Virginia</i> since the 7th finally succumb.</p> <p><b>1888</b>—Rachel, a prostitute, declines Vincent Van Gogh's offered ear.</p> <p><b>1776</b>—"These are the times that try men's souls..." Tom Paine's <i>The Crisis</i> is read aloud to the Continental Army, days before their victory at Trenton.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Responding to credible intel, Mike Hayden tells his British counterpart to take over his NSA duties if al-Qaeda nuked D.C. on Xmas.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush pardons Caspar "Cap" Weinberger, Bob McFarlane, and 4 other Iran-Contra creeps, coincidentally protecting his own sorry self.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—The Soviet Army enters Afghanistan to prop up the Marxist government. Oops. They correct their mistake after just nine years.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Her airliner having fallen apart after being hit by lightning two miles above the Amazon, Juliane Koepecke, 17, falls into the jungle. She survives with minor injuries.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Nine G.I.'s are KIA and 9 WIA by "friendly fire" in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—VC blow up the Brink Officers Quarters in downtown Saigon, killing two and injuring 107.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Top CIA counterspy and Friend-of-the-Mob James Jesus Angleton shuts down the Agency's investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—During a union Christmas party at the Italian Hall in Calumet, Mich, thugs hired by copper bosses yell "Fire"; 73 die, 59 are kids.</p> <p><b>1883</b>—Increasingly deranged since his stabbing by John Wilkes Booth during Lincoln's assassination, Maj. Henry Rathbone murders his wife.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—Six Confederate veterans boozing it up in Pulaski, Tenn. form the KKK.</p>	<p><b>1989</b>—Romania celebrates Christmas and freedom by putting former President Nicolae Ceaușescu and his wife Elena before a firing squad.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—Four Santa Clauses are arrested in Plymouth, Mass. for climbing the fence at a nuke plant.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—In Birmingham, Ala., civil rights activist Fred Shuttlesworth survives the bombing of his home.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—In Mims, Fla., a bomb explodes under the home of NAACP leaders Harry T. and Harriette Moore on the night of their 25th anniversary. Both die; no one is indicted; the state concludes 55 years later that four long-dead Klansmen did it.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Demonstrators at the White House demand the release of jailed conscientious objectors.</p> <p><b>1914</b>—German and British troops leave trenches, sing Christmas carols, shake hands, and share smokes.</p> <p><b>1868</b>—President Andy Johnson unconditionally pardons all those involved in the "Southern Rebellion."</p> <p><b>1837</b>—At Lake Okechobee, Seminoles under Billy Bowlegs trounce Zachary Taylor's regulars.</p> <p><b>1802</b>—In Portsmouth, N.H., 132 buildings are destroyed by fire.</p> <p><b>1793</b>—After gathering the scattered bones of hundreds of soldiers massacred two years earlier by Indians and burying them in a massive pit, troops under General "Mad Anthony" Wayne build Fort Recovery, Ohio, atop the mass grave.</p>	<p><b>2002</b>—Americans learn a new euphemism from the <i>Washington Post</i>: "extraordinary rendition" means kidnapping and torture.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—From a pool of 1,500 candidates, the press selects JonBenet Ramsey as the most important child murdered in the U.S. this year.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—The Supreme Soviet meets one last time and dissolves the USSR.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Disgruntled Vietnam veterans occupy the Statue of Liberty.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Having fought a shifting cargo of bombs, missiles, and mines for nine days in heavy seas, the crew of the freighter <i>S.S. Badger State</i> abandons ship in mid-Pacific after a bomb explodes and blows a hole in the hull. Out of 40 crewmen, 11 survive.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—<i>Time Magazine</i> names "The Younger Generation" the "Man of the Year," further exacerbating a pandemic of unwarranted self-esteem.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Harry Frazee sells Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—Writer and perennially-disgruntled Civil War veteran Ambrose Bierce allegedly pens one final letter before vanishing in Mexico.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—Jack Johnson becomes the first black heavyweight boxing champ.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—Under orders from President Lincoln, the U.S. Army hangs 39 Santee Lakota Sioux on one huge gallows.</p> <p><b>1787</b>—In Carlisle, Pa., an anti-Federalist mob wielding barrel staves bludgeons and nearly kills Constitution-framer James Wilson.</p>	<p><b>1986</b>—In San Diego, Cara Evelyn Knott is strangled by on-duty Highway Patrolman Craig Alan Peyer.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Supreme Court Associate Justice William H. Rehnquist checks into a hospital to kick his Placidyl habit and end the hallucinations.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Mass. bans EC Comics' version of "The Night Before Christmas." Illustrated by Will Elder, it features a just-divorced Santa driving a Cadillac sled and giving away poison.</p> <p><b>1900</b>—Carrie Nation hatches-up her first saloon, at the Carey Hotel, in Wichita, Kan.</p> <p><b>1895</b>—In Bill Curtis's St. Louis saloon, William "Billy" Lyons foolishly — and fatally — grabs "Stagger Lee" Shelton's Stetson hat.</p> <p><b>1827</b>—Georgia proclaims "the lands of Georgia belong to her absolutely. The Indians are tenants at her will." Indulgent solons give the indigenous inhabitants three years to get west of the Mississippi.</p> <p><b>1763</b>—Sixteen of the few living Conestoga Indians, huddled for protection in the Lancaster, Pa. workhouse, are mysteriously deserted by their guards. A mob known as "the Paxton Boys" hacks 14 of them, mostly children, to death. There is no investigation; no one is ever charged.</p> <p><b>1739</b>—A large crowd gathers to witness New Hampshire's first executions: Sarah Simpson and Penelope Kenny are hanged in Portsmouth for infanticide.</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—Congress ends long-term unemployment benefits to 1.3 million Americans, damaging the economy to the tune of an estimated 240,000 jobs.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Terry Dolan, Republican critic of gay rights, dies of AIDS.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Dr. George Graham, of President Reagan's Task Force on Food Assistance, says black children are "probably the best-nourished group in the U.S." —citing athletes as proof.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—In space, the crew of Skylab goes on strike to protest over-work and micro-management. NASA meets the demands of the astronauts.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The Akron, Ohio Chamber of Commerce denounces the Soap Box Derby as a cheat and a fraud.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—At the White House, 88 'Nam vets are busted for protesting their war.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—A DC-3 disappears with 32 on board in an area soon known as the Bermuda Triangle.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Congress recognizes the "Pledge of Allegiance," authored by Christian Socialist Francis Bellamy.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Sit-down strikers close Cleveland's General Motors plant.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—H.L. Mencken publishes a phony history of the bathtub, now widely accepted as gospel.</p> <p><b>1879</b>—As legendary stagecoach driver "One-Eyed Charlie" Parkhurst, 67, is prepared for burial in Watonsville, Calif., it becomes clear that he was a she—namely, Charlotte Darkey Parkhurst, born in Lebanon, N.H. in 1812.</p>
 <p>1:06 7:32 8:07 1:50</p>	 <p>2:03 8:28 9:05 2:48</p>	 <p>2:57 9:20 9:59 3:42</p>	 <p>3:48 10:09 10:49 4:32</p>	 <p>4:37 10:57 11:37 5:19</p>	 <p>5:23 11:42 6:04</p>	 <p>6:09 12:22 12:26 6:48</p>

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29	MONDAY, DECEMBER 30	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1	THURSDAY, JANUARY 2	FRIDAY, JANUARY 3	SATURDAY, JANUARY 4
<p><b>2006</b>—The UK pays off its \$100,000,000 WW II debt to the U.S.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Playwright Vaclav Havel becomes President of Czechoslovakia.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Eleven people are killed and 74 wounded when a bomb explodes in a storage locker at LaGuardia Airport. The crime remains unsolved.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Operation Linebacker II, which R. Nixon will call "my terrible personal ordeal," ends. U.S. losses: 15 downed B-52s, 12 other aircraft, 43 KIA, &amp; 49 POWs.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—Fred Newton arrives at New Orleans after swimming 1,826 miles down the Mississippi.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Poisoned, stabbed, beaten, shot three times, and thrown unconscious into the freezing Neva River, the Russian Tsarina Alexandra's favorite faith-healer Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin dies by drowning.</p> <p><b>1900</b>—Harvard prof Albert B. Hart says states where lynching is prevalent should legalize the practice to maintain order.</p> <p><b>1890</b>—The 7th Cavalry massacres about 300 Lakota Sioux men, women, and children on their reservation at Wounded Knee. For this, a grateful nation bestows 20 Medals of Honor.</p> <p><b>1876</b>—A poorly-designed, uninspected railroad bridge collapses in Ashtabula, Ohio, killing 92.</p> <p><b>1837</b>—In Buffalo, N.Y., Canadian militiamen burn the <i>U.S.S. Carolina</i>, which has been caught running guns to revolutionaries.</p>	<p><b>2015</b>—At the North Pole, the temperature rises above 32° for six hours.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Saddam Hussein's inelegant demise is captured by cellphone.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—In Brookline, Mass., John Salvi lives out his "pro-life" creed by killing two health care workers.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—A House Select Committee concludes that conspirators "probably" helped kill JFK and MLK.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Dan Ellsberg is indicted for having set the truth free.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—An unsafe Kentucky coal mine explodes, killing 38 miners.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—American coal miners get protection for their lives and safety through a law signed by R. Nixon.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Irgun fighters kill six Arabs and wound 42 in a grenade attack at a Haifa oil refinery. Arabs retaliate by beating 39 Jews to death.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—The GM sit-down strike spreads from Cleveland to Flint.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Godless Commies establish the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the ruins of a pious Empire.</p> <p><b>1905</b>—A cabal of miners assassinate Idaho's ex-Governor Frank Steunenberg with a bomb at a gate to his house.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—At 3:15 p.m. fire breaks out in Chicago's new, "fireproof" Iroquois Theater. By 3:30, 600 people are dead.</p> <p><b>1828</b>—In Dover, N.H., protesting a women-only wage cut, 400 "mill girls" conduct the first all-woman strike.</p> <p><b>1768</b>—Teacher Ruth Blay, 31, is hanged in Portsmouth for concealing the birth of her illegitimate child.</p>	<p><b>1997</b>—Quaker Oats pays \$1.8 million to settle a lawsuit over their secret feeding of radioactive oatmeal to developmentally-disabled kids.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Bill and Monica enjoy their third tryst in a White House study.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Congress repeals the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Associated Milk Producers, Inc. gets \$100 million in price supports in exchange for its \$2 million donation to the Nixon campaign.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Hitmen hired by United Mine Workers President Tony Boyle murder his rival, Joseph "Jock" Yablonski, along with his wife and daughter.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—The Tuskegee Institute reports that for the first time since 1881, a year has passed without a lynching.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—The Israeli paramilitary outfit Haganah kills 20 to 70 Arabs in retaliation for the previous days' Arab retaliation against an earlier Irgun attack against Arabs at a Haifa refinery.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—"I see nothing in the present situation that is either menacing or warrants pessimism," says Treasury Secretary Andrew W. Mellon.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—At midnight, for the first time, a ball drops in Times Square to mark the New Year.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—This year's U.S. lynching toll: worst ever—105 blacks, 25 whites.</p> <p><b>1879</b>—Edison shows off the first practical electric light bulb.</p> <p><b>1761</b>—Lydia (Hall) Fowle, wife of Daniel Fowle, dies in Portsmouth, aged 36.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—Speaking to amputee vets of his Iraq War, George W.[MD] Bush says "I have an injury myself [from] combat with a cedar. I eventually won."</p> <p><b>1994</b>—NAFTA kicks in; losers include union members, Mexican farmers, and the environment. In Chiapas, the Zapatista Army of National Liberation stands up to fight back.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Ma Bell is broken up into 22 smaller units. It seemed like a good idea at the time.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Nixon cronies H.R. Halderman, John Ehrlichman, and John Mitchell are convicted of felonies.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The pirate station Radio First Termer debuts from a Saigon brothel.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Batista flees, and Fidel Castro takes over in Cuba.</p> <p><b>1880</b>—Elmer J. McCurdy, a miner, soldier, and bank and train robber, is born in Washington, Maine. Shot dead in 1911, he then begins a longer career as a sideshow attraction and movie extra. He's buried in 1977.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—President Lincoln proclaims the emancipation of slaves, but only in states which had seceded.</p> <p><b>1804</b>—Haiti proclaims independence as the world's first black republic, the result of a successful revolution.</p> <p><b>1781</b>—Troops at Morristown, NJ, seize artillery and march to confront Congress, seeking back pay.</p> <p><b>1300</b>—Pope Boniface VIII's Jubilee is such a popular success that dozens must be executed to bring the mob under control.</p>	<p><b>1996</b>—At Bill Clinton's invitation, Monica Lewinsky drops by the Oval Office. Sequestered in the bathroom, they violate his marriage vows.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—During a one-hour interview on CBS, Richard Nixon tells Dan Rather that the bombing in Southeast Asia had been "very, very effective." Next day in a note to Hank Kissinger, he tells the truth: "The result = zilch."</p> <p><b>1970</b>—The Supreme Court nixes Gen. Hershey's effort to reclassify all draft protestors as 1-A, or draftable.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—In Florida, 72 men are arrested, thwarting an invasion of Haiti financed by CBS in exchange for exclusive film rights of the landing.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Outnumbered four to one, vastly outgunned, without helicopters or armor, 350 Viet Cong defeat U.S.-advised ARVN at Ap Bac.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—King Zog of Albania, the only head of state to have fired back at a would-be assassin, abdicates.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—As evidence of his corruption mounts, Interior Secretary Albert Fall resigns. President Harding then offers him a seat on the Supreme Court.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer has thousands of alleged subversives arrested.</p> <p><b>1905</b>—The I.W.W., aka The Wobblies, "organize" in Chicago.</p> <p><b>1882</b>—Standard Oil reorganizes so as to allow John D. Rockefeller to keep his oil monopoly; laws be damned.</p> <p><b>1872</b>—Brigham Young is arrested for having 24 wives too many.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—Hotshot Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleads guilty to three felony counts for defrauding Indian tribes and bribing officials.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Jack Ruby conveniently dies in prison while awaiting retrial.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Ronald Reagan announces for Governorship of California, claiming it leads in bankruptcies and has 40% higher unemployment than the rest of the country, neither of which is true.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Navy veteran and civil rights Samuel L. Younge, Jr., 21, is murdered in Tuskegee, Ala., by a white, 68-year-old gas station attendant, later acquitted by an all-white jury.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—In Idaho, three military technicians are killed in a steam explosion at a nuclear reactor.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—The U.S. government announces that over 3,000 federal employees have been sacked to quell Joe McCarthy's paranoia.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Ball turret gunner SSgt. Alan Magee escapes without a parachute from a doomed B-17, falls 22,000 feet, and crashes through the roof of a St. Nazaire railroad station. He dies in 2003 at the age of 84.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Grave robber/archaeologist Howard Carter gloms onto Tutankhamen's gold coffin.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—J.R.R. Tolkien is born in Orange Free State, Africa.</p> <p><b>1891</b>—Oz author L. Frank Baum, writing in the <i>Aberdeen (S.D.) Saturday Pioneer</i>, calls for the "total extermination" of Native Americans.</p>	<p><b>1971</b>—George Mellendorf, in Vietnam, mails a letter to the White House complaining of slow mail delivery. His answer arrives in 1978.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Having forced UC Berkeley Regents to drop their ban on political speech, the Free Speech Movement holds a rally that's legal for a change.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—During a Minimum Interval Takeoff at Pease AFB, the second of three B-47s crashes and burns; four crewmen die.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—In a New York cab, ex-Commie, ex-McCarthy aide, and ex-editor of <i>Confidential</i> Howard Rushmore shoots his wife then himself.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—A Senate Internal Security Subcommittee begins investigating newspapers, including the <i>New York Times</i>, for alleged Commie influence.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—The U.S. agrees to pay Japan for nuking the Marshall Islands.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Farmers in Primghar, Iowa, throw a rope around a banker's neck and threaten to lynch him unless he promises to end foreclosures.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—Topsy the Elephant, unjustly accused of being a killer, is fitted with copper sandals, fed carrots laced with a pound of cyanide, and electrocuted by the owners of Luna Park at Coney Island. An Edison crew films the fun.</p> <p><b>1882</b>—John McCarton, ship's printer aboard the <i>U.S.S. New Hampshire</i>, leaps overboard off Newport, R.I., to save Musician 2nd Class Jabez Smith from drowning. For this act, Carlton is later given the Medal of Honor.</p>
 <p>6:53 1:10 7:31</p>	 <p>1:50 1:55 7:38 8:14</p>	 <p>2:25 2:41 8:25 8:59</p>	 <p>3:21 3:29 9:14 9:44</p>	 <p>4:09 4:21 10:07 10:32</p>	 <p>5:00 5:17 11:03 11:22</p>	 <p>5:51 6:15 12:00</p>



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"IT IS A TRUE SAYING THAT A MAN MUST EAT A PECK OF SALT WITH HIS FRIEND BEFORE HE KNOWS HIM."

— MIGUEL DE CERVANTES (DON QUIXOTE)



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