

The Fortnightly Rant

Who Can't Handle the Truth?

We might as well get the bad news out of the way first: we are barreling down a potholed highway at twice the speed limit in a rusty old bus without any brakes. In place of a windshield, we're relying, for navigational purposes, on a high-resolution screen that's showing us something with more resemblance to Gong Show reruns than whatever it is that's actually in front of us—which we suspect may be a cliff.

And that's just a metaphor. The reality is no improvement. We're on an old spinning rock that's hurtling through space at a speed so terrible we cannot comprehend it. Our lives depend on a layer of gas so thin that people have made a sport of climbing above it.

That blanket of gas has been keeping us alive since our ancestors lived in trees. (In retrospect, climbing down may have been a terrible mistake.) After the last few centuries of abuse and misuse, it now seems as if, unlike we humans, our atmosphere has a mind of its own, and has decided to wreak its vengeance.

If we take strong, immediate action, we may reduce the level of horror awaiting us and our progeny. The people we've put in charge of making decisions, though, are squabbling over what is, to them, the really, really big question: who amongst us will be the richest when, by dint of our cumulative sins, we finally bequeath this Earth to the cockroaches?

Hyperbole, you say? Tell that to the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*. Last week it reset its famous Doomsday Clock at just 100 seconds—closer than ever before—to midnight.

They wrote, in part, "...this year, we move the Clock 20 seconds closer to midnight not just because trends in our major areas of

concern—nuclear weapons and climate change—have failed to improve significantly over the last two years. We move the Clock toward midnight because the means by which political leaders had previously managed these potentially civilization-ending dangers are themselves being dismantled or undermined, without a realistic effort to replace them with new or better management regimes. In effect, the international political infrastructure for controlling existential risk is degrading, leaving the world in a situation of high and rising threat. Global leaders are not responding appropriately to reduce this threat level and counteract the hollowing-out of international political institutions, negotiations, and agreements that aim to contain it. The result is a heightened and growing risk of disaster."

By any measure, that statement is pretty alarming. Can we find any concrete evidence that it's true? Let's see....

Our so-called President has been confessing on a daily basis to having used foreign aid as a carrot to coerce the head of a foreign government to make a public announcement that it's investigating for corruption one of his leading opponents in the upcoming election. He's even bragged about being untouchable because he's sitting on the evidence.

He's been successfully impeached for his quid pro quo with the President of Ukraine, but his trial in the Senate is stalled because the Majority Leader—who has already demonstrated his contempt for procedure by arbitrarily strong-arming the previous President out of a Supreme Court nomination—is now taking a similarly bold approach to minor details, such as hearing testimony from witnesses.

Defending the President on



Wednesday, his lawyer Alan Dershowitz asserted that since "every public official...believes that his election is in the public interest," therefore "if a president does something that he believes will help him get elected in the public interest, that cannot be the kind of quid pro quo that results in impeachment."

Dershowitz must be a damn good lawyer, despite having uttered such a preposterous argument: he managed to get acquittals for murder suspects Claus von Bulow and O.J. Simpson, and he engineered a pretty sweet plea deal for his good friend, the late child molester Jeffrey Epstein. Also, Harvard University pays him to teach law.

The current tumult has even disrupted the operations of this newspaper—normally steady and predictable as the tides; like Kurt Vonnegut's Billy Pilgrim, we have become unstuck in time. Somehow a cartoon which belongs in this issue appeared in the paper we published

last fortnight:



In the face of all this chaos, it's hardly surprising that one Democratic candidate has been campaigning largely on the theme that what we need is a return to normalcy. While the idea does have a certain instant, comforting appeal, it's hardly a desirable goal. After all, normalcy is what brought us here. Under the cover of normalcy, we saw a slow, creeping drift, over half a century, from Gerald Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon to Newt Gingrich's application of postmodernism to politics, to Murdoch's declaration of war on truth itself.

Besides, "A Return to Normalcy" was Republican Warren G. Harding's slogan. Nostalgia for the most corrupt Administration of the 20th century is hardly a good look. What we really need is a return to reality, no matter how grisly and frightening it may be.

Modernity has given us an infinite supply of distractions from the realities of our animal existence. They include any number of amusing little video clips showing ordinary people becoming unhinged by the inadvertent denial of some inconsequential trifle on which they have come to depend to distract them from their own mortality.

Meanwhile, they are passing up the opportunity to witness what is without question the greatest, most gripping show on Earth: After millions of years of evolution, will humans learn in time how to avoid their own destruction?

—

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While Everyone's Distracted Elsewhere...

The month before making that famous descent on his own personal gilded escalator, to bask in the adulation of a hired crowd while excoriating those less fortunate than himself, a certain overweight draft dodger with implausible hair proclaimed on Twitter, "I was the first & only potential GOP candidate to state there will be no cuts to Social Security, Medicare & Medicaid. Huckabee copied me."

Yesterday, presuming things proceeded as planned, his administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [CMS] will.... We don't even have to spell it out, do we?

We will, anyway: barring any unforeseen disruptions, CMS Director Seema Verma will give New Hampshire, and other states which expanded Medicaid under Obamacare, a new tool to deny health care to those who can't afford

it: aptly-named block grants.

Instead of the current system, under which eligible patients' health care providers submit bills for the treatment rendered—local control, as it were—unelected Federal bureaucrats will decide how much health care those patients deserve, and write the State a check to cover that amount.

What could possibly go wrong?

This latest effort to restrict health care among the undeserving comes on the heels of the apparent failure of an earlier scheme. Under a Dickensian work requirement program lauded by Hereditary Governor Chris Sununu, Medicaid recipients would have been required to work 100 hours a month. To make sure they weren't cheating, they would have been required to submit documentation, on a monthly basis, to a small army of otherwise useless

bureaucrats.

While these programs often appear to be simply instances of people in power putting a boot in the ribs of those already on the ground, their proponents uniformly assert that their motive is purely beneficial—they want to save the taxpayers' precious dollars. Somehow their concern seems...intermittent.

Last year *Politico* reported that CMS, which "has its own large communications shop, including about two dozen people who handle the press," had shelled out, in several contracts with a number of Republican-connected PR flaks, at least \$3 million taxpayer dollars, most of which went to stories glorifying Verma's outstanding work.

Explaining that this was perfectly fine, Tom Corry, CMS's "new top communications official," told *Politico*, "we use our resources judiciously.

We're not wasting the taxpayer dollar."

Oh. Our eyes must be lying again. How did Escalator Man discover this gem of a public servant?

A 1996 grad of Johns Hopkins School of Public Health—formerly a reputable institution—Verma made her bones in Indiana, Vice President Pence's home state. She founded SVC Inc., a company that developed a health insurance plan "ostensibly designed for people with low income," according to the hack editor's friend, *Wikipedia*. "The plan requires participants to pay into a health savings account and has high deductibles. According to Verma, 'you have to make your contribution every month, with a 60-day grace period. If you don't make the contribution, you're out of the program for 12 months. It's a strong personal responsibility mechanism.'"

Right: people who are barely making the rent are going to park all that abundant spare cash in a plan that assures only one thing—that the plan gets paid. If keeping the patient alive gets too expensive, though, it's "So long, loser. Thanks for all the premiums."

That "personal responsibility" line is particularly rich considering a visit Verma paid to San Francisco in July, 2018. She delivered a speech—ironically enough, at the Commonwealth Club—in which she claimed that adoption of Medicare for All would result in Medicare for None. (This, in a nation that is unique on several fronts among allegedly civilized countries: our health care costs per capita are much higher, our overall health is poorer, our lon-

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from page one

gevity is declining, and—purely a coincidence—we're the only nation saddled with a bloodsucking private health insurance care denial industry, exemplified by corporations such as SVC Inc.).

Anyway, while in San Francisco, Verma's luggage was stolen from her rented Chevy Tahoe. She alleges it contained two dozen pieces of jewelry appraised at \$43,065, some clothing valued at \$2,000, and another \$2,000 worth of the usual necessities, such as a \$325 jar of moisturizer.

Naturally, she filed a \$47,000 claim for reimbursement with the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department, well-versed in these matters, did what Verma's SVC has doubtlessly done thousands of times. It searched through the rules, found one that said stolen jewelry is not covered, and reimbursed her with a check that covered six percent of her loss.

She's lucky she didn't lose a vital

organ—"Here you go, Seema: six percent of a small intestine."

Among those treasures she did lose was an Ivanka Trump-brand pendant which sells for \$5,900—a little more than the \$5,736 Medicaid spends each year on the average patient.

Thursday's attack on Medicaid will be just the opening salvo. Trump admitted as much last week, whilst hobnobbing in Davos.

"[Will] entitlements ever be on your plate?" he was asked. Mister "Say the Quiet Part Loud" replied, "At some point they will be." For a few moments he blathered simultaneously, in his signature aphasic fashion, about the "tremendous growth, about the "tremendous growth"—which no one else sees coming—while reiterating his intention to rob the elderly of their benefits: "This next year I... it'll be toward the end of the year. The growth is going to be incredible. And at the right time, we will take a look at that. You know, that's actually the easiest of all things, if you look, cause it's such a..."



The fourth annual Women's March made an impressive showing on January 18th. Led by the Leftist Marching Band, of course, the procession stretched for about a quarter mile. Among the messages conveyed: "Make America Kind Again;" "Public Cervix Announcement: The Future Is Female;" "Dear Patriarchy: F__ YOU;" "Our Rights Are Not Up For Grabs;" "Well, Apparently Rock Bottom Has a Basement;" "We Are Not Ovary-Acting;" and the old standby, "Get Your Laws Off My Body."

President Trumpsterfire was vague about the timing, but we think he meant, "after my re-election, that's when the knives come out."

====
Hmmm...

"Our corporate media system prioritizes making money over producing adversarial journalism and covering working-class issues. We should dare to imagine something different: a public media system that privileges democracy over profits.

"Our goal must be to reinvent news media, not shore up old commercial models. Given this chance to unhook journalism from profit imperatives, we can reclaim and reinvent a public good. By designing a system that actually serves democracy, we can finally create the media we need."

Victor Picard, from *Democracy Without Journalism: Confronting the Misinformation Society*, excerpted in *Jacobin*, January 27th.

Their Future, Their Climate
"...global warming has left its mark on Garmisch-Partenkirchen—the site of the 1936 Winter Olympics—putting the town's identity and affluence at risk. It's January, and there's so little natural snow that anxiety is building whether upcoming ski races can go ahead." — *Bloomberg News*

Thanks to climate change, New Hampshire's lucrative ski industry and its tradition of maple sugaring—which, though less important monetarily, carries great meaning in other ways—are now in a precarious state, making them what economists would call wasting assets: "assets which have a limited life and therefore decrease in value over time." Under Republican doctrine, shouldn't the owners of ski resorts—and of farms that make maple syrup—be able to sue the shareholders of the fossil fuel industry for wrongful taking?

One of our most faithful readers,

over Acworth way, alerted us to a New Hampshire Youth Climate & Clean Energy Town Hall to be held in Concord, on February 5th, six days before the New Hampshire primary. While it is open to the general public, it's apparently intended primarily for high school and college students to meet with and question several of the presidential candidates. And why should "the youth" not have such an event? They're going to have to live with a lot more of this dubious future than us fogies. The day-long event will be held at the Bank of New Hampshire Stage in Concord, wherever that is; it shouldn't be too hard to find in this day and age. The event is sponsored by the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation, the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, and Stonyfield Organic.

Recently it was so cold in Florida that iguanas began falling out of trees.

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— Joe Keefe

Flag Police: Greenville Station

Jim Giddings, of Greenville, sends the following dispatch:

"We had a little press conference on a cold, windy Friday, to protest the fact that Governor Sununu had arranged a community development tax break for Waterville Valley while ignoring Greenville, whose median income would definitely qualify for such a tax break."



"Looking up, I noticed that the town hall's New Hampshire flag was in a condition that needs to be brought to the attention of the Flag Police."

The Flag Police are dismayed but not surprised to see this evidence of the consequences of our Hereditary

Governor's skewed, self-serving, and Trump-like priorities.—HQ

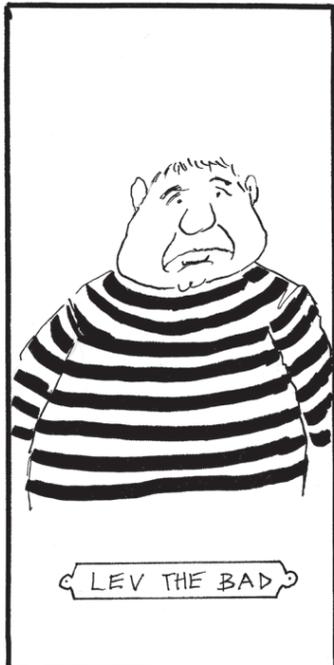
Don't Miss the Bus!

The deadline fast approaches—deposits are due by February 14th for the 2020 Sankofa Bus Tour to Washington D.C.'s National Museum of African American History & Culture.

Scheduled for Monday, August 10th through Friday, August 14th, this trip will include a VIP motor-coach from Portsmouth, N.H. to and around Washington, D.C., five days and four nights lodging at the Madison Hilton, visits to the National Museum of African American History & Culture, the Frederick Douglass House Museum, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and more.

The total cost is \$955 per person, with a \$355 non-refundable deposit per person due on February 14, 2020. An installment payment plan is available.

For information contact the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, 222 Court Street, Portsmouth, N.H. 03801; (603) 570-8466; or email info@blackheritagetrailnh.org.



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We Can't Forget, They Won't Remember

This is the 51st anniversary of the Tet Offensive, when Vietnamese communists gave a lesson in geography to those Americans who were capable of learning: they were born there, and, if necessary, they would die there, if that was what it would take to get us the hell out of there.

That lesson stuck in the minds of most Americans throughout the 1970s. Then the Gipper found it useful to turn the U.S. into a re-education camp. He convinced a lot of people—including a surprising number of veterans—that we lost an unwinnable war because the media told the truth about it.

Veterans who had been badly treated by the establishment—first by the Department of Defense [DoD], then by the VA and traditional veterans service organizations—began to be portrayed instead as the hapless victims of the media and spitting protestors.

In fact, many veterans were welcomed by the anti-war movement. Nevertheless, improbable incidents were conjured up in which mobs of protesting dweebs somehow cowed and spat upon combat veterans.

Jerry Lembke, a Vietnam veteran himself, who went on to become a

professor of sociology, rigorously scoured the public record for contemporary reports of such incidents. Finding none, he wrote a book: *The Spitting Image: Myth, Memory and the Legacy of Vietnam*, [New York University Press, 1998.] He concluded, "given the manipulation of information and images that began with the Nixon administration and continued at the hands of filmmakers and the news media during the 1970s and 1980s, it would be remarkable if a majority of Americans had not come to believe that Vietnam veterans were abused by the antiwar movement."

Perversely, by portraying its veterans as betrayed heroes, those who supported the war were able to rehabilitate it—which was probably the point in the first place: Vietnam had stood in the way of further imperial ventures.

The latest report from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction [SIGAR] demonstrates the cost of forgetting the lesson Uncle Ho so generously taught us 51 years ago:

"...in Afghanistan, most military, embassy, and civilian personnel rotate out of country after a year or less. This means that new people

are constantly arriving, all with the best of intentions, but with little or no knowledge of what their predecessors were doing, the problems they faced, or what worked and what didn't work. SIGAR's Lessons Learned Program is a unique source of institutional memory to help address this 'annual lobotomy.'"

The "annual lobotomy" was invented in Vietnam with the introduction of the one-year tour of duty. DoD policy for officers was more extreme: they rotated in and out on six-month tours. All too often they started out getting people killed, and by the time they wised up, it was time to go home.

The latest SIGAR report is enough to cause *déjà vu*: "To be effective, reconstruction efforts must be based on a deep understanding of the historical, social, legal, and political traditions of the host nation. The United States sent personnel into Afghanistan who did not know the difference between al-Qaeda and the Taliban, and who lacked any substantive knowledge of Afghan society, local dynamics, and power relationships."

Swap out a few proper nouns, substitute mud for dust, and you're back in Vietnam.



As a general rule, Gazette staffers like to think they're pretty resistant to insidious corporate marketing stratagems. Offer our Wandering Photographer a free cupcake for taking a snapshot of the hapless victims of some corporate team-building exercise and all you'll get is a barangue to take back to your HR Department. Das Bootmobile, though? Irresistible.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"I don't want to see the Republican Party ride to political victory on the four horsemen of calumny—fear, ignorance, bigotry and smear."
 — Sen. Margaret Chase Smith (1897-1995), speaking out against Joseph McCarthy

"TV and the Internet are good because they keep stupid people from spending too much time out in public."
 Douglas Coupland, author of *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture* (1991)
john@wordpraxis.com

"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting."
 — Franklin D. Roosevelt
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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**A Look Back At Seven Centrist Defeats:
Why Bernie Is More Electable
Than Any Centrist**

by Paul Rockwell

In 2016 Democrats nominated Hillary Clinton, not because she was a visionary, certainly not because her agenda generated enthusiasm among young voters, but because Democrats—influenced by media—simply assumed that centrists are automatically more electable than progressives.

That assumption has no basis in reality. Even worse, the centrist viewpoint could well lead to another Clinton-like fiasco.

Many voters may be too young (or too old) to remember the sorry record of centrist failures. I am 82 years old, and I have painful memories of seven ignominious defeats of Democratic nominees. And prior to all the nominations, pundits and press insisted that Democrats needed to move the party to the right in order to defeat their Republican adversary. They blamed the misfortunes of the Democratic Party on excessive liberalism.

However, when we actually look at the historical record, a different story emerges, a story that dispels the myth of centrist electability.

Adlai Stevenson

I was a teenager when Democrat Adlai Stevenson ran a pitiful, overly intellectual campaign against Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower (“Ike”). Stevenson was a liberal from Illinois who, in order to win the presidency, became a centrist in his campaign. Centrists are afraid to confront the war machine that sucks wealth and treasure out of our domestic economy. Stevenson never had the guts to call for an end to the Korean War. I remember when my father, a Democrat, voted for Eisenhower in 1952, after Ike wiped out Stevenson with a single announcement: “I will go to Korea. The time has come to bring our boys home.” Stevenson’s wimpy centrism lost big in 1952.

Despite that loss, the Democrats didn’t change their agenda or strategy in 1956. The party nominated Stevenson again. During the 2nd campaign against Eisenhower, a black woman

asked Stevenson to take a clear stand on the historic Supreme Court ruling against segregated schools. Stevenson choked, and he refused to support the use of federal troops to enforce the ruling. As a result of his default on civil rights—a subject on the mind of most Americans—Stevenson lost by a bigger margin in 1956 than in 1952.

Hubert Humphrey

In 1968 Hubert Humphrey, once proud of his liberal record, campaigned as Lyndon Johnson’s proxy. His centrist campaign, his refusal to make a clean break from LBJ’s war, made Nixon’s victory possible. Republicans know how to goad liberal Democrats into war, only to leave them with blood on their hands, the consequences of their own right-wing follies.

Notwithstanding his record as a hawk and witch-hunter, Nixon became—by default of the Democrats—the “peace” candidate. Nixon offered a “secret plan” for ending the war. The Democrats, so far gone in their pro-interventionist policy, were outflanked again.

George McGovern

Richard Nixon’s defeat of George McGovern, the anti-war candidate in 1972, is often cited as an excuse for choosing centrists over progressives (regardless of the litany of centrist Presidential defeats).

Nixon’s victory is not especially difficult to understand. His monetary policies, which caused inflation in the long run, fired up economic growth prior to the election. The incumbent’s approval ratings were high.

Nixon was a master of timing. He claimed to be winding down the war. In February he made his historic trip to communist China and met with Mao. After George Wallace was shot, Wallace supporters went over to Tricky Dick.

Democrats were still in disarray from the Johnson-Humphrey betrayal of their mandate for peace and social justice. Humphrey and other centrists continued to attack McGovern.

In sum, as Joshua Mound wrote in the *New Republic* (February 29, 2016): “Any Democratic nominee was doomed in 1972.”



Walter Mondale

Antipathy to progressive politics dominated the conservative money-drenched leadership of the Democratic Party throughout the 1980s. The thrilling grassroots campaign of Reverend Jesse Jackson caused panic in the halls of Congress. Democratic insiders nominated Walter Mondale, as right-wing as Joe Biden today. When nominated, Mondale rejected all of Jesse Jackson’s platforms at the convention. Mondale went on to engineer the ugly system of “superdelegates,” designed to prevent progressive candidates from ever winning a nomination. The *Congressional Quarterly* called Mondale’s platform “economically the most conservative platform in the last fifty years.” It promoted cuts in social spending and an increased military budget. Mondale expected he could win the election by appeasing militarists and conservatives. He won 40 percent of the popular vote.

Michael Dukakis

The 1988 Democratic primary was far more exciting than most. Seven million Americans supported Jackson’s second bid for the nomination. Not one United States senator or governor endorsed the African-American candidate. But the Mayor of Burlington, Vermont—Bernie Sanders—not only endorsed Jackson, he won over the majority of Vermont delegates for the Rainbow Coalition.

Michael Dukakis ran a typical centrist primary: he leaned to the left to win the nomination, only to turn to the right to campaign in the general election.

Awed by pundits and self-proclaimed pragmatists, Dukakis tried to look conservative. He organized a dramatic, histrionic photo opp. He invited national TV to capture him riding around in a tank. You could barely see his tiny head in the cockpit. The media loved it. And while Dukakis won the “asshole of the year award” from a

group of anarchists, our mastermind of centrist tactics lost the election.

John Kerry

Of all the centrist defeats, none is sadder than John Kerry’s campaign against “W” Bush, the man who initiated the 2003 invasion of Iraq and facilitated the rise of ISIS.

Kerry was actually beating the drums for intervention in the Middle East even before Bush launched the invasion. On July 2, 2002, Kerry gave a speech to the centrist Democratic Leadership Council: “I agree completely with this administration’s goal of a regime change in Iraq.”

During the 2004 primary, I remember sitting on the couch watching TV with my wife. A reporter pressed John Kerry to answer George Bush about whether, “knowing what we know now” (that there were no weapons of mass destruction), he would have supported the Bush decision. “Yes, I would have voted for the authority.”

“Oh my God!” I turned to my wife and said, “He just lost the election!”

Euphemism is inherent in centrist realpolitik. Kerry would tell reporters: “I think it the right decision to disarm Hussein.”

Disarm? The U.S. did not just disarm Hussein. The U.S. Air Force bombed Bagdad and other populated cities. Thousands of children were injured or killed. Museums with 2,000-year-old artifacts were looted. Muslims were tortured at Abu Ghraib. Rivers were drenched with oil and set on fire. Refugees fled into Syria. American soldiers and Iraqi civilians became sick, and babies were born with deformities from U.S. depleted uranium.

(Kerry now supports the candidacy of Joe Biden, who also voted for the war in Iraq and, like Kerry, equivocates about the real meaning of his vote.)

Hillary Clinton

Hillary Clinton ran against the most unpopular candidate in the history of Presidential elections. And lost. Until we recognize how such an ignominious defeat was possible, voters are likely to make the same mistake again, to run the Clinton campaign one more time—with a new face, of course, Joe Biden.

Let us recall the pivotal debate between Trump and Clinton over foreign policy. When Trump denounced Clinton’s infamous Iraq war vote, he was able to present himself as a kind of peace candidate who would halt endless wars. Trump understands centrist vulnerability. He put Clinton on the defensive, and she was helpless. Everyone knew she was a hawk. And it was disingenuous of her to portray her war vote as some isolated mistake, something out of the ordinary, when all Washington knew she was an interventionist, voter for military budgets, for sanctions, arms sales to dictators, a foreign policy wheeler-dealer with experience.

The Future Is Progressive

I believe Sanders has a better chance of defeating Trump than Biden or any centrist candidate. Sanders does not just dwell on the white middle class. His campaign reaches beyond the party establishment to the chronically unemployed, to the poor, the unhoused, the young, rising electorate of the time. Victory over Trump requires a mass coalition strategy.

The Green New Deal is often compared to the New Deal of FDR and Truman in the ‘40s and ‘50s. However, the old New Deal was deficient. African Americans were denied access to college, turned down for home loans, and domestic and agricultural workers were not even covered. In essence, mi-

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norities were excluded.

In contrast, the Green New Deal is inclusive. Its preamble calls attention to the “large racial wealth divide in the U.S. amounting to a difference of 20 times more wealth between the average white family and average black family.”

Representative Barbara Lee, one of 90 co-sponsors of the Green New Deal resolution, writes: “Black, brown and low-income communities bear the brunt of pollution and environmental degradation from accelerated climate change.... That is why addressing climate change is not just an environmental issue, but also an imperative to achieve racial and economic justice.”

Bernie’s “Economic Bill of Rights” is clear:

“Every person in this country must have a right to: a decent job, quality health care, a complete education, affordable housing, a clean environment, and a secure retirement. It’s time for a 21st Century Economic Bill of Rights.”

With our help, history will vindicate the message of Bernie Sanders: “Not me, Us.”

Paul Rockwell is a columnist for In Motion Magazine and the East Bay Times. With Cindy Sheehan, he co-authored Ten Excellent Reasons Not to Join the Military (New Press). His columns have appeared in The Nation, Los Angeles Times, Christian Science Monitor, and elsewhere. He was an assistant professor of history and philosophy at Midwestern University, Texas.

Senator Warren Not Satisfied with Crumbs To the Editor:

If the United States is such a great and wealthy country, why are some many Americans poor or struggling to make ends meet? Why has our

country not seen clear progress in many areas of social life? For decades now, many politicians from both major parties have been telling us to be satisfied with the crumbs that fall from our nation’s economic table. While at the same time, in other countries of Europe and Scandinavia, the quality of life has increased with many major changes and improvements implemented.

Changes such as: more job security, reduction in the work week, higher incomes, quality public schools, debt-free higher education, strong technical trades programs, comprehensive quality health care (including medications) for all residents, publicly funded daycare, enhanced environmental protection, strong support for clean and green industries and less income inequality. At the same time, they manage to fund their modern infrastructure including high-speed trains.

Most of these countries have a fairer and simpler tax system as well that manages to fund their public benefits, without a significant national debt.

In our country, however, we can’t seem to find enough money for our basic human needs, but there always seems to be enough money for large tax breaks for corporations and high-income earners, increases in our defense budgets and for unfunded wars.

Senator Warren is running for President to change this situation. She recognizes that what this country needs are big changes, like President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal, and not just minor adjustments or a few crumbs from our economic table. She does not believe that making some minor changes will provide for the public welfare of all our citizens, but that we must be bold and demand big change. She knows firsthand what it means to

struggle with minimal income. Growing up in Oklahoma her biggest dream was to become a public-school teacher. She managed to do that with great determination and many sacrifices. That strong work ethic and her personal determination eventually earned her, first a law degree, and then a professorship teaching the law. As part of President Obama’s administration, she, almost single-handedly, created the new Consumer Protection Bureau, which since its inception has returned to American consumers \$17 billion of fraudulently collected fees and charges. Of course, making change will be resisted by many established institutions, e.g. the financial sector, the healthcare industry and corporations and wealthy individuals who currently legally, are paying less than their fair share of taxes, and who will be fighting her efforts energetically.

But the final verdict on the direction of our country belongs to us, the voters. Change won’t be easy, but our country and our fellow Americans are worth the effort. And to those who are concerned that a woman can not be elected President, I would only say, look who was just elected President. Can a woman not do better? I believe,

Yes, she can, and I’ll be voting for her.

Rep. Peter Somssich, District 27
Portsmouth, N.H.
(603) 436-5382 (h)

=====
“Give ‘em Hell” Harry

Dear Editor:

Have you a favorite President? I do, Harry S Truman (no period after the S). Truman was the first President I saw in person. In 1947 he campaigned from a caboose in my hometown (Haverhill, Massachusetts). It was after Labor Day, school had commenced, my 3rd grade class was at the railroad station to greet him.

Truman became President when Franklin Roosevelt died April 12th,

1945, then won the presidency by defeating Thomas Dewey in 1947. One of Truman’s accomplishments was his sincere effort to introduce national health insurance.

Even in Harry Truman’s time (70 years ago) the deep-pocketed American Medical Association (AMA) opposed the program, wanting to protect physicians’ superior market power and professional autonomy. Then, as now, the AMA’s national network endeavored to stir up fear of “socialized medicine.” Opponents of universal coverage have relied on variations of that playbook ever since.

This is well-documented and you can verify these facts through study of William C. Hsiao, K.T. Li Professor of Economics Emeritus at Harvard University’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Hsiao most recently wrote on the subject for *Foreign Affairs* (Jan-Feb 2000).

Truman, JFK, Johnson, Nixon, Carter, G.H.W. Bush, Clinton and Obama all recognized the need of establishing effective, affordable health care. The fact remains, across the broad spectrum of health care, Americans pay more and get less.... Why?

The root of the problem (deferring to William Hsiao), as the United States became a prosperous, industrialized society in the early 20th Century, it chose to treat health care as a commercial product rather than a social good, such as education. As a result, whereas government-mandated universal schooling was the norm by the 1920’s, health care still remains primarily a private-sector commodity driven by the profit motive.

According to statistics (confirm them—please) 28 million Americans are uninsured, and 44 more million are under-insured, contributing to an inequality, in that the top quarter of American wage-earners live 10 years longer (on average) than the bottom quarter.

Finally, the flagrant fraud, waste and abuse driving up the price of health care, tens of billions of dollars in unnecessary spending year after year. Hsiao tells us that a cottage industry has sprung up to advise hospitals and

physicians how to game the claims system by fragmenting bills and “up-coding services”—exaggerating their complexity—in order to maximize payments.

Large providers employ workers whose primary task is to find ways to pad charges. Some hospitals and clinics take a blunter approach: they simply file claims for services they’ve not actually performed. It’s been going on for decades.

Some of us have experienced and reported irregularities over the years with only minimal success. Unless public attitudes shift drastically, we’ll never achieve full and affordable health care.

However, should American values and urgencies change and we decide we’ve had enough scheming and scamming, we have only to look to Canada, Taiwan, Germany (and a few other nations) for guidance with systems that work.

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.
David:

Ol’ Harry is a mixed bag. He laid the foundation for our national security apparatus. Its excesses have produced blowback which continues to haunt us. Chalmers Johnson’s trilogy, Blowback, The Sorrows of Empire, and Nemesis, is essential reading on this matter.

He was right about health care, though—and about standing up to Republicans.

The Editor

=====
Bernie Bears MLK’s Torch
To the Editor:

Kudos to NHPR’s Peter Biello and Casey McDermott for presiding over a high minded conversation with Senator Bernie Sanders as part of NHPR 2020 Candidate Forum Series.

Although I found the entire conversation to be intellectually stimulating and informative, my favorite exchange came at the end of the forum when Biello relayed an excellent question from Julia, a junior at Manchester West High School who requested that

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.
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Meeting Crazy Horse

by William Marvel

Northern New Hampshire has produced a fair crop of soldier-adventurers, despite a sparse population. There was Colonel Timothy Bedel of the Revolution and his son, General Moody Bedel of the War of 1812. Moody's own son led a New Hampshire regiment in the 1863 battle for which the 54th Massachusetts has lately been given all the "Glory," with a movie of that name.

The region's most famous soldier was Edward E. Cross, of Lancaster, who divided his time between editorial politics and the more extreme politics that is decided on the battlefield. From adolescence he worked on Democratic newspapers, first at home and later in Ohio. Finally he ran a weekly in Arizona, fulminating against Mexicans and Indians and political opponents, with one of whom he fought a duel.

Cross came home in 1861 and recruited the 5th New Hampshire Infantry. He led a brigade from

Chancellorsville onward, but his Democratic opinions precluded a promotion to brigadier general. Still, few New Hampshire visitors to Gettysburg fail to visit the 5th New Hampshire's monument in the Wheatfield, on the spot where Cross received his death wound.

The town of Lancaster also produced a more hesitant soldier in the form of John C. Jenness, who was clerking in a Lancaster store in April of 1861. He was among the first in town to answer Lincoln's call for troops, signing the roll of a local company, but apparently he thought better of it. When those recruits marched away, Jenness failed to show up, and no one went looking for him.

Men enlisted in droves for more than a year and a half afterward, but John Jenness was not among them. Even when Colonel Cross came home to raise a regiment among his neighbors, Jenness stayed home. Only when the stream of volunteers petered out and New Hampshire began raising a regiment for

the short term of nine months did Jenness agree to go again, signing on as the quartermaster sergeant. Not enough men could be found to fill out the regiment, so after a few weeks in camp at Concord he was sent home.

Another year and a half later, the state had been drained of so many men that Jenness stood a fair chance of being drafted in the September levy of 1864. Instead, he resorted to political connections to finagle a commission in a short-term heavy artillery regiment that was serving comfortably in the safety of Washington.

The war ended a few months afterward, and he reverted to a job as a government clerk, but he again appealed to political friends for a commission in the peacetime Regular Army. It took a while, because so many more experienced veterans sought similar positions, but late in 1866 he received the commission and traveled to New York to be examined. The army board found him deficient in drill, tactics, and general

knowledge of an officer's duties, and rejected him, but he wrote directly to the Secretary of War, who sent him to a board that passed him.

Not until March of 1867 did he report for duty in Dakota Territory. He was assigned to Fort Phil Kearny, in what is now Wyoming, and four months into that assignment his company was detailed to guard a civilian construction crew cutting timber a few miles from the fort. On August 2, 1867, they came under attack by hundreds of the same Sioux horsemen who had wiped out an 80-man detachment from the fort the previous December.

Lieutenant Jenness and Captain James Powell had only 26 enlisted men and four civilians, but the men were all armed with new breechloading rifles, and they took cover behind a corral of jettisoned wagon boxes that were impervious to arrows. A young warrior named Crazy Horse led the attacks, but he found the breechloaders' higher rate of fire more deadly than he expected, and after a few bloody attempts he

dismounted his men. They had still not reached the corral several hours later, when reinforcements arrived with artillery, and the Sioux judiciously departed.

Captain Powell lost only three men, including Lieutenant Jenness, who was shot through the head by one of the few Sioux who carried rifles. The Lancaster clerk's long, equivocating journey toward soldiering ended with his first hostile action, but he was the most prominent casualty of the Wagon Box Battle—one of the most famous clashes in the wars against the Plains Indians. Numerous histories mention him by name, and there is even a monument on the precise spot where he died, just as there is for Colonel Cross. Still, death in battle seems to have been more accidental for him than it was for his famous townsman—with whom he declined to go to war when the opportunity offered.

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from page five

Bernie name a hero of his or someone who has inspired him, to which Bernie, without flinching, replied:

"Well, ironically, one of my great heroes is a man whose birthday we're gonna be celebrating tomorrow. Dr. Martin Luther King Junior. Now, again, I guess telling my age. I was there on the march on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. I was a student at the University of Chicago. I took a long bus trip and went there. King was an extraordinary human being, one of the great leaders in American history, not just as an African-American, one of the great leaders in American history. And while the media appropriately talks about the extraordinary role he played in fighting segregation and

racism, they often don't talk about what he was doing the day he was assassinated. He was in Memphis, Tennessee, with striking sanitation workers standing up for justice, for decent wages and working conditions; he was organizing a poor people's march of blacks and whites and Native Americans and Latinos to change the priorities in Washington so that instead of spending huge amounts of money on the military and war, you start investing in housing and jobs and health care. He was an extraordinary human being, in terms of his courage. He stood up at great personal sacrifice against the war in Vietnam. So Martin Luther

King Jr. is certainly one of my heroes."

Bernie's heartfelt answer to Julia furthered my understanding of the driving force behind Bernie's four decades in politics and the true essence of the man and the political movement he is currently leading, comprised of tens of millions of working class Americans of all colors and stripes.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:

A half-century after he was taken from us, it's easy to forget how unpopular Dr. King became during the last

year of his life. He became so by challenging forces that retain their power today. Bernie carries on that fight.

The Editor

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How Well Do You Read Minds?

To the Editor:

"Who are you going to vote for in the primary?" I repeatedly ask friends, relatives, and members of various groups to which I belong. With few exceptions, they respond that they do not know. Most have a favorite whom they feel would reflect their values and be good for the country, but they worry that he or she may not be able to beat Trump. Voters and pundits alike incessantly discuss that issue and all have an opinion, but the truth and past history show us that nobody knows. As it has been since the day he was elected, it is all about Trump. He has invaded our government, the media and our minds with his endless ego needs and multitudes of non-facts which replace reality.

Perhaps, it is time for us to throw off the shackles and use our common sense to vote for the candidate we feel is most qualified to be President of the United States—how satisfying that would be! Then we could all work like crazy to get the winner of the primary elected. That is the way our democracy is supposed to work. Let's make America normal again!

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.



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What's the charitable thing to do about inequality?

by Jim Hightower

Our society has coined expressions like “philanthropist” to encourage and hail people’s charitable spirit.

Look on the flip side of that shiny coin of generosity, however, and you’ll find that it’s base substance is societal selfishness. After all, the need for charity only exists because we’re tolerating intentional injustices

and widespread inequality created by power elites.

A society as supremely wealthy as ours ought not be relegating needy families and essential components of the common good to the whims of a few rich philanthropists. Yes, corporate and individual donations can help at the margins, but they don’t fix anything. Thus, food banks, health clinics, etc. must constantly scrounge for more charity, while big

donors have their “charitable spirit” subsidized with tax breaks that siphon money from our public treasury.

Especially offensive to me is the common grandiose assertion by fat cat donors that charity is their way of “giving back” to society. Hello—if they can give so much it’s probably because they’ve been taking too much! As business columnist Andrew Ross Sorkin points out, “All

too often, charitable gifts are used... to make up for the failure of companies to pay people a living wage and treat their workers with dignity.”

It’s not just the unemployed who rely on food banks, but janitors, nannies, Uber drivers, checkout clerks, and others who work full time, but are so poorly paid they can’t make ends meet. That’s not a sad charity case, but a matter of criminal exploitation by wealthy elites—and

the charitable thing to do is to outlaw it and require a living wage for all.

As Sorkin puts it, “The aim should be to create a society where we don’t need places like food banks... We should be trying to put the food banks out of business.”

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from page six

Cynthia:

We agree. Call us simple-minded if you will, but voting on the basis of what you think someone else thinks strikes us as a more risky approach than voting for the person you actually want in the Oval Office.

The Editor

D Ploribus Unum

To the Editor:

This past week, Simon Legree reincarnate Mitch McConnell used his power to tie the House Impeachment Committee’s case firmly to the railroad tracks. Today, he’ll gleefully leap up into the cab of his Senatorial steam locomotive and prepare to finish the job.

“Pour on the coal boys,” he’ll shout to the President’s legal team as the temperature rises and pressure mounts. “Full steam ahead!”

Unfortunately, there won’t be any handsome cowboy to ride in at the last minute to rescue the distressed Victim. There’ll only be a deafening crunch as the framework of the U.S. Constitution shatters.

Once acquitted, the President will be empowered—literally—to walk down the street and shoot someone. As a matter of fact, he already did just a few days ago. His irresponsible action resulted in injury to 34 U.S. soldiers, and got a planeload of innocent people killed, but unintended consequences and collateral damage just go with the turf when you’re king.

If this were a Disney movie, a hero would ride in, rescue the Constitution and beat old Simon Legree to a pulp amid cheers from a liberated

throng of onlookers. The taproot of justice would prevail.

Not so on this day.
Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

A System on Trial

Dear Sir:

This week the impeachment trial of Donald J. Trump began. The big question is whether this will be a fair, open and complete trial with witness and documents, or a farcical miscarriage of justice. So far, all indications and actions by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, point to a “trial” more reflecting the status of a dictatorial Banana Republic than that of a great Democratic Republic.

We should understand that the impeachment trial of Donald Trump is much more than a trial of one man. Also on trial is our Constitutional system of checks and balances, the integrity of the U.S. Senate, the rule of law, the sanctity of our elections, and in the end, the American people. Will Americans stand up for the truth, justice and democratic principles, or will we allow the likes of Mitch McConnell and his Republican accomplices to shred our Constitution and bury the truth under a pile of lies, obstruction and criminality? The eyes of the world on on America and how we respond during this critical moment in our history. If we fail this test, the fate of democracy here and around the world will be danger.

The truth has been clearly laid out before the American people and the

world. We ignore it at our peril. In the words most prophetic words of Winston Churchill, “The truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is.”

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAF, Ret.

Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

McConnell may hide the truth, the Senate is most unlikely to convict. There’s damn little the people can do to change that. Our political process has been broken by decades of voter suppression, gerrymandering, and other shenanigans. What the people can and must do is demand—in ways extending beyond mere voting—that the political process be restored to health.

How that can be done with our ailing Fourth Estate is a good question. We’re attempting to come up with an answer.

The Editor

Change the Fish & Game Commission

To the Editor:

The New Hampshire’s Fish and Game Department’s web site claims it is the “guardian of the state’s fish, wildlife, and marine resources” and it “works in partnership with the public to conserve, manage and protect these resources and their habitats.”

But that’s not true! It doesn’t even represent the majority’s interest in wildlife protection and welfare.

The department is run by the Fish and Game Commission, whose members must be “active outdoors-



men” and have fishing, hunting, and trapping licenses (for at least five of the last 10 years).

House Bill 1571 will change that, so those who wish only to hike, photograph, bird watch, boat, or enjoy other activities overseen by the Department can also have representation on the commission.

As it is currently composed, the Commission often overrules its Department’s own biologists’ recommendations when it involves rules relating to protecting wildlife.

For example, the Commission refused to shorten the hunting season for coyotes during the time coyotes raise their pups, and also refused to reduce bag limits for gray and red squirrels, despite their declining populations.

In these cases, the Commission favored a very small and unscientific but vocal number of hunters and trappers, who kill these animals for “sport” and trophies. While these trappers and hunters make up a very small, single-digit percentage of N.H. residents, they have 100 percent influence on Commission decisions.

Contact the House Fish, Game and Marine Resources Committee at HouseFishandGameCommittee@leg.state.nh.us and tell members to vote “yes” on HB 1571, to open the Fish and Game Commission to those with expertise in conservation, sustainability, and protection of our state’s wildlife.

Jack Hurley
Claremont, N.H.

A Senate Half Full of Criminals

To the Editor:

Eric Alterman’s latest column in *The Nation* mentions President Trump showering cash contributions on the same Republican Senators who are his jury in his impeachment trial.

Richard Painter, the chief White House ethics lawyer under President George W.[MD] Bush, says that those contributions constitute “felony bribery,” and that any other American who offered cash to a jury before or during a trial would go to prison.

And any Senator who accepts such cash is guilty of accepting a bribe and should likewise go to prison.

That’s the law; but who will enforce it? Who will care? Who among our elected officials will look into this latest example of Trump lawlessness with Republican support?

Neal W. Ferris

“...to maintain our empire abroad requires resources and commitments that will inevitably undercut our domestic democracy and in the end produce a military dictatorship or its civilian equivalent. The founders of our nation understood this well and tried to create a form of government – a republic – that would prevent this from occurring. But the combination of huge standing armies, almost continuous wars, military Keynesianism, and ruinous military expenses have destroyed our republican structure in favor of an imperial presidency. We are on the cusp of losing our democracy for the sake of keeping our empire.”

– Chalmers Johnson



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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, FEBRUARY 2	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
<p>2015—A week after a two-foot snowstorm, Po'Town gets 18 inches more.</p> <p>2004—George W.[MD] Bush reluctantly OK's an investigation of intelligence failures.</p> <p>1991—Before Desert Storm ground combat begins, the Pentagon bans the press from the Dover morgue.</p> <p>1972—In Dublin, Irish Catholics, irate over "Bloody Sunday," burn the British Embassy.</p> <p>1970—Capt. Gary Faust bails out after his F-106 goes into a spin over Montana. The pilotless plane lands in a cornfield and is returned to service.</p> <p>1966—Australians burn their conscription papers in Sydney.</p> <p>1965—Protesting a protest against the jailing of MLK, Daniel P. Skelley pours water from a can labeled "gas" all over his American Nazi uniform. Cops take him away after a TV cameraman offers him a match.</p> <p>1952—Winnie Ruth Judd, the "trunk murderer," makes her fifth escape from Arizona State Insane Hospital.</p> <p>1915—German national Werner Horn bombs the railroad bridge connecting Vanceboro, Maine with St. Croix, Canada. There is little damage.</p> <p>1912—Steeplejack Frederick R. Law successfully parachutes from the Statue of Liberty's torch.</p> <p>1848—The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo legalizes America's seizure of half of Mexico.</p> <p>1819—<i>Dartmouth v. Woodward</i> gives super powers to corporate charters.</p>	<p>2012—"Today is the day that in 1924 Woodrow Wilson died, that son of a bitch," radio-active dingbat Glenn Beck says, "and I'm happy."</p> <p>2006—After Don Rumsfeld likens H. Chavez to Hitler, Venezuela's VP compares the U.S. to the Third Reich.</p> <p>1959—In Iowa, a plane crash kills Buddy Holly, "The Big Bopper," and Richie Valens.</p> <p>1956—Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Johnny Cash jam at Sun studio in Memphis.</p> <p>1953—J. Fred Muggs, a bad-tempered chimpanzee from Cameroon, becomes the first non-human primate to appear regularly on TV.</p> <p>1943—Four U.S. Navy chaplains aboard the U.S. Army transport <i>Dorchester</i> drown after giving their life jackets to others.</p> <p>1931—Arkansas' state legislature votes to pray for the soul of H.L. Mencken after he calls the state "the apex of moronia."</p> <p>1916—In Zurich, Hugo Ball opens Café Voltaire, hotbed of dadaism.</p> <p>1870—The 15th Amendment is ratified: black male Americans are told they can now vote.</p> <p>1811—Future newspaperman and notable eccentric Horace Greeley is born on a farm in Amherst, N.H.</p> <p>1793—Shot in the face and bayoneted 13 times by the British at Lexington 17 years earlier, Samuel Whittemore, a farmer, dies of natural causes at 98.</p> <p>1468—RIP Johannes Gutenberg.</p>	<p>2004—The Pentagon cancels LifeLog, a database designed to trace every thread of an individual's life.</p> <p>1976—Lockheed admits paying \$22 million in bribes to sell aircraft.</p> <p>1974—William Randolph Hearst's granddaughter Patty, 19, is kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.</p> <p>1968—Cholon, Saigon's Chinatown, is declared a free-fire zone; South Vietnamese pilots bomb their own capital.</p> <p>1968—Ur-beat Neal Cassady dies alongside Mexican railroad tracks.</p> <p>1913—Rosa Louise McCauley Parks is born in Tuskegee, Ala.</p> <p>1912—Franz Reichelt, an Austrian tailor, tests an experimental parachute/overcoat from the Eiffel Tower. His design is fatally flawed.</p> <p>1899—Five months after being liberated from Spaniards by Americans, Filipinos begin fighting the liberators.</p> <p>1887—The ICC is established, "having a good sound," according to a future Union Pacific president, "but quite harmless, which will impress the popular mind with the idea that a great deal is being done, when, in reality, very little is intended to be done."</p> <p>1875—Eadweard Muybridge, the pioneering photographer who shot Major Harry Larkyns dead for impregnating his wife, is found not guilty by a California jury which says they'd have done the same. He's the last man to enjoy that loophole in America.</p> <p>1794—The Fugitive Slave Act expands the slave-catching racket.</p>	<p>2018—At a rally, D.J. Trump says Democrats who didn't applaud his State of the Union speech are traitors.</p> <p>2007—Astronaut Lisa Marie Nowak is arrested for attempting to kidnap the girlfriend of another astronaut and for suspected misappropriation of NASA diapers.</p> <p>2003—Secretary of State Colin Powell tells the UN that Saddam Hussein's Iraq is bristling with WMDs.</p> <p>1992—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush is "amazed" to encounter a supermarket checkout scanner.</p> <p>1981—For her husband's 70th birthday, First Lady Nancy Reagan flies her manicurist in from Los Angeles.</p> <p>1958—A B-47 bomber collides with a jet fighter near Tybee Island off the coast of Georgia and jettisons an H-bomb. It's still buried in the mud.</p> <p>1953—Ike starts a tradition and treads on the First Amendment by speaking at the National Prayer Breakfast.</p> <p>1937—Roosevelt attempts to "pack" the Supreme Court.</p> <p>1918—Stephen W. Thompson becomes the first American pilot to down an enemy aircraft.</p> <p>1897—Marcel Proust meets critic Jean Lorrain for a pistol duel at 3:00 p.m.—the earliest hour decent people are up and about.</p> <p>1830—The <i>New York Daily Sentinel</i>, the first labor daily, begins.</p> <p>1637—Tulip prices, up 2,500 percent in 33 days, top out in Holland at \$40,000 a pound.</p>	<p>2013—In Seabrook, N.H., Phantom Fireworks sells Tamerlan Tsarnaev 1.5 lbs. of black powder, and gives him another 1.5 pounds for free.</p> <p>1994—U.S. Army Golden Knights parachutist Dana loses both legs in a mid-air accident. Nine months later he's back on the team.</p> <p>1971—New Hampshire's own Alan Shepherd uses a nine iron to whack a golf ball on the moon.</p> <p>1968—NVA troops in Soviet tanks overrun Lang Vei; 21 of 24 Green Berets are KIA, WIA, or captured.</p> <p>1919—A telegram telling Seattle shipyard owners not to raise wages goes to union leaders instead; a General Strike results. Workers control the city for a week. Union bureaucrats intervene to end the strike and maintain their own power while strikers are denounced as Bolsheviks.</p> <p>1858—Insults lead to blows between Galusha Grow [R-Pa.] and Laurence Keitt [D-S.C.] in the House; 30 Members join the brawl. It ends in laughter when the wig of William Barksdale [D-Miss.] is snatched off by John "Bowie Knife" Potter [R-Wisc.] and Cadwallader Washburn [ditto].</p> <p>1684—Rev. Joshua Moody, Portsmouth's first minister, is jailed by Lieut. Gov. Cranfield for refusing to administer the sacraments as per the Church of England.</p> <p>1557—In England, heretics Martin Bucer and Paul Fagius are burned at the stake. They've been dead for years.</p>	<p>2013—Mississippi abolishes slavery.</p> <p>1998—GOP-run Congress names Washington National after the guy who fired all our air traffic controllers.</p> <p>1991—IRA mortars 10 Downing St.</p> <p>1968—"It became necessary to destroy [the Vietnamese village of Ben Tre] in order to save it," an American major tells reporter Peter Arnett.</p> <p>1965—VC attack Camp Holloway near Pleiku killing 9 Americans and wounding 137. The U.S. responds by bombing North Vietnam.</p> <p>1950—Ex-Emperor Bao Dai [1926-1945], ineffective serial puppet of the Japanese and then the French, is recognized by the U.S. as ruler of the bogus State of Vietnam.</p> <p>1951—In Korea, Capt. Lewis Millett leads the U.S.'s most recent bayonet charge. This anachronistic victory earns him the Medal of Honor.</p> <p>1926—The First Negro History Week, precursor to Black History Month, is observed.</p> <p>1919—Michigan's Supreme Court dooms <i>Homo sapiens</i> by ruling that corporations must put profits for stockholders above all else.</p> <p>1848—<i>Le Représentant du peuple</i>, the first anarchist paper, is begun by Pierre-Joseph Proudhon.</p> <p>1821—John Davis becomes first person known to set foot on Antarctica.</p> <p>1812—The last, and most destructive, of the three big New Madrid, Mo. earthquakes causes the Mississippi to briefly reverse direction.</p>	<p>2015—Another two feet of snow fall on Portsmouth; that's a total of nearly six feet in less than a fortnight.</p> <p>1996—The Telecommunications Act gives corporations airwaves worth \$70 billion, eliminates ownership limits, deregulates cable rates, and protects licenses against citizen complaints.</p> <p>1971—ARVN invades Laos in Operation Lam Son 719: a chaotic disaster.</p> <p>1968—"Planet of the Apes" debuts; its once-blacklisted screenwriter inserts a tribunal that parodies HUAC.</p> <p>1968—State Troopers fire on black protesters in Orangeburg, S.C., killing three and wounding 27.</p> <p>1946—For taking down a sign about Jim Crow laws in a Bessemer, Ala. bus, honorably discharged former Marine Timothy Hood is shot by a streetcar conductor. The Police Chief arrests Hood, then shoots him dead. The Coroner calls it "justifiable homicide."</p> <p>1942—HUAC recommends concentration camps for some Americans.</p> <p>1924—Nevada becomes the first state to kill someone in a gas chamber: Gee Jon, a hit man for the Hop Sing Tong.</p> <p>1923—A coal dust explosion in Dawson, N.M.'s Stag Canyon No. 1 mine kills 123 miners, many of whom had been orphaned in 1913 by a coal dust explosion in the Stag Canyon No. 2 mine that killed 263.</p> <p>1887—The Dawes Act—enabling the division of Indian reservations into lots suitable for sale to white settlers—becomes what we laughably call "law."</p>
4:51 5:20	5:43 6:19	6:39 7:20	7:34 8:17	8:27 9:10	9:19 9:59	10:09 10:47
11:07 11:19	12:04	12:13 1:03	1:09 2:00	2:04 2:53	2:58 3:44	3:49 4:32
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
<p>2007—A Pentagon report concludes that Douglas Feith's policy office inappropriately manipulated intelligence on Iraq.</p> <p>2001—The <i>USS Greeneville</i>, demonstrating an emergency ballast-blowing maneuver to 16 "Distinguished Visitors," half with Texas oil and Bush connections, sinks a Japanese high-school fishery training ship off Hawaii, killing five adult crew and four high-school students.</p> <p>1982—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush denies ever having used the term "voodoo economics." NBC then plays him the tape.</p> <p>1980—Ted Bundy gets married and is sentenced to die. In Florida, of course.</p> <p>1971—Satchel Paige becomes the first Negro League player inducted into the Hall of Fame.</p> <p>1967—NYC cops bust cellist Charlotte Moorman for playing Matthews' "International Lullaby" while topless.</p> <p>1950—"I have here in my hand," says Sen. Joe McCarthy, "the names of 205 men that were known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping the policy of the state department." Years later he admits he held a laundry list.</p> <p>1945—<i>HMS Venturer</i>, submerged, torpedoes and sinks <i>U-864</i>, also submerged, off the coast of Norway.</p> <p>1919—Suffragettes burn W. Wilson in effigy in front of the White House.</p> <p>1737—Happy Birthday, Tom Paine.</p>	<p>2014—Donald Trump tells Fox "News," "When the economy crashes, when the country goes to total hell, and everything is a disaster, then you'll have riots to go back to where we used to be, when we were great."</p> <p>2010—Innovative tax protestor Joe Stack flies a fuel-laden Piper into the IRS Field Office in Austin, Texas, killing one other, injuring 13, and causing damage in the millions.</p> <p>2003—The G.W.[MD] Bush Administration touts plastic sheeting and duct tape as a first line of defense.</p> <p>1990—Benzene-laden Perrier Water is pulled from the shelves.</p> <p>1968—Westmoreland, top U.S. general in Vietnam, sends a cable to the Navy's top admiral in the Pacific. It's a request for tactical nukes.</p> <p>1964—<i>HMAS Melbourne</i> hits <i>HMAS Voyager</i>. Cut in half, <i>Voyager</i> sinks and 82 die. It's the first of two friendly ships <i>Melbourne</i> is destined to sink.</p> <p>1962—U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers is released by the Soviet Union during a spy swap in Berlin.</p> <p>1936—The Supreme Court rules that corporations which publish newspapers have First Amendment rights.</p> <p>1910—Five Bloomsbury Groupers, disguised as Abyssinian royalty, trick Royal Navy officers into giving them a tour of <i>HMS Dreadnaught</i>.</p> <p>1897—Bradley and Cornelia Martin throw a ball at the Waldorf in NYC. Spending per guest equals 65 times the average workman's weekly wage.</p>	<p>2014—An FEC report confirms: Republican Rep. Frank Guinta's mom and sis say he lied about "his" \$355K.</p> <p>2013—KRTV in Great Falls, Mont. announces that "the bodies of the dead are rising from their graves and attacking the living."</p> <p>2006—Dick "Dick" Cheney becomes the second sitting Vice President to shoot a man when he "peppers" his pal Harry Whittington in the face.</p> <p>1992—"I'd like to thank my family for loving me and taking care of me," says Johnny Frank Garrett (IQ under 70), as Texas prepares to poison him, "and the rest of the world can kiss my ass."</p> <p>1990—Nelson Mandela is released from prison after 27 years.</p> <p>1963—RIP Sylvia Plath.</p> <p>1963—The CIA creates a "Domestic Operations Division." What could possibly go wrong?</p> <p>1937—The Great Flint, Mich. Sit-Down Strike ends in victory for the workers. Good times start to roll.</p> <p>1926—The Mexican government nationalizes all church property.</p> <p>1919—Emma Goldman is arrested for the crime of telling women how birth control works.</p> <p>1861—The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously resolves not to interfere with slavery.</p> <p>1812—Massachusetts gets "gerrymandered" by Republican governor Elbridge Gerry.</p> <p>1790—Quakers petition Congress to emancipate the nation's slaves.</p>	<p>2004—<i>USA Today</i> reports that former top Texas Air National Guard officers say files were "cleansed" to protect George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>1999—N.H. Senators Gregg and Smith notwithstanding, the Senate finds President Clinton not guilty.</p> <p>1983—<i>SS Marine Electric</i>, a rusted, beat-up hulk whose lying owners faked inspections, sinks off Virginia; three survive from a crew of 34.</p> <p>1976—The New World Liberation Front bombs Hearst Castle.</p> <p>1975—Two top Nixon aides, Haldean and Erlichman, and AG John Mitchell, are sentenced to prison.</p> <p>1968—LBJ puts the kibosh on Westy's plan to nuke the NVA.</p> <p>1962—Bill Lancaster is discovered in the Sahara, mummified alongside his biplane, 29 years after disappearing.</p> <p>1947—Sixty protesters burn draft cards in New York City.</p> <p>1946—Black combat vet Isaac Woodward gets his honorable discharge and boards a bus in Georgia. Before he can get to N.C., he's beaten and blinded by white cops in Aiken, S.C.</p> <p>1917—A huge mob in Bisbee, Ariz. herds 1,200 members of the IWW into boxcars to be shipped off and dumped in the New Mexico desert.</p> <p>1874—Marines and sailors from the <i>U.S.S. Portsmouth</i> quell a riot in Honolulu to assure the election of a pro-American King.</p> <p>1839—The Aroostook War between Maine and New Brunswick begins.</p>	<p>2013—Justice Antonin Scalia goes to his final judgment.</p> <p>2008—The Senate tells the CIA to lay off the waterboarding.</p> <p>2007—An Al-Qaeda tape calls George W.[MD] Bush a drunk gambler.</p> <p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld's ex-assistant Ken Adelman predicts the Iraq War will be a "cakewalk."</p> <p>1991—A super-accurate, laser-guided U.S. bomb kills some 400 Iraqi civilians in a bunker in Baghdad.</p> <p>1985—Ronald Reagan suggests ameliorating the offensive sight of offshore oil rigs by parking mothballed freighters between them and the shore.</p> <p>1983—Radicalized WW II vet and anti-tax crank Gordon Kahl and his son Yorivon murder two U.S. Marshals and wound three other lawmen in a shootout near Medina, N.D.</p> <p>1981—Hexane gas illegally discharged from a Purina plant fills the Louisville, Ky. sewer system. A spark from a car causes two miles of sewer lines to explode. Purina denies liability.</p> <p>1968—Five soldiers are busted at Ft. Jackson, S.C.; they prayed for peace.</p> <p>1967—The National Student Association admits it's received \$3 million from the CIA over 15 years.</p> <p>1950—The crew of a burning B-36 jettisons its Mark IV A-bomb and bails out. With no plutonium core, it merely scatters 100 lbs. of uranium when it explodes over British Columbia. Five crewmen freeze to death.</p>	<p>2016—A cargo jet linked to the CIA lands in Harare, Zimbabwe carrying 67 tons of South African currency and the decomposing body of a black man.</p> <p>2016—With wind blowing 20 m.p.h., and the thermometer at -13°, the wind chill in Portsmouth falls to -38°.</p> <p>2015—Another 18 inches of snow fall on Portsmouth, making nearly eight feet in under three weeks.</p> <p>2004—The White House releases some of George W.[MD] Bush's military records, but they fail to prove he was present for duty.</p> <p>1973—The first American POWs released from North Vietnam arrive at Travis AFB, Calif.</p> <p>1971—Nixon's secret taping system is installed in the White House.</p> <p>1950—A U.S. bomber crew jettisons a Mark IV nuke off British Columbia before bailing out of their burning B-36. A non-nuclear explosion ensues.</p> <p>1945—Forty U.S. B-17s intending to firebomb Dresden miss by 90 miles and hit Prague, instead. Death toll: 701. Bomb weight per death: 433 lbs.</p> <p>1929—On St. Valentine's Day in Chicago, a cop asks Frank "Tight Lips" Gusenberg who shot him. "Nobody," he says, then dies.</p> <p>1884—Typhoid fever kills Teddy Roosevelt's mother. Hours later his wife dies, two days after giving birth.</p> <p>1873—Jack Gaffney is hanged for murder in Buffalo, N.Y. by Erie County Sheriff and future president Grover Cleveland.</p>	<p>2013—A previously unknown meteor or explodes over Chelyabinsk, Russia, injuring 1,500 people.</p> <p>2003—In the largest global protest ever, between 10 and 25 million people around the world denounce the coming war in Iraq.</p> <p>2000—"We ought to make the pie higher," says G.W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p>1989—After just a little over nine years in-country, quick-thinking Soviets pull out of Afghanistan.</p> <p>1973—Nixon tells the Joint Chiefs that the return of our POWs presents "an invaluable opportunity to revise the history of this War."</p> <p>1966—CBS broadcasts reruns of "I Love Lucy" in place of Senate hearings on the conduct of the Vietnam War, prompting news chief Fred Friendly to quit in disgust.</p> <p>1962—"I support Pres. Kennedy to the hilt [in Vietnam]," says Richard Nixon. "I only hope he will step up the build-up..."</p> <p>1944—Mistakenly believing it is full of Nazi troops, Allied bombers destroy the 1,415 year-old monastery at Monte Cassino. Fortunately its historic treasures had previously been moved to the Vatican in 100 trucks, by Nazis, accompanied by monks.</p> <p>1942—Japanese attackers, though outnumbered 2 to 1 by British and Australian defenders, take Singapore. Lt. Gen. Gordon Bennett escapes. His name becomes Aussie slang for "running shoes."</p>
10:58 11:34	11:46	12:21 12:36	1:08 1:26	1:58 2:19	2:49 3:15	3:44 4:15
4:39 5:19	5:29 6:06	6:20 6:52	7:11 7:40	8:04 8:29	8:59 9:21	9:59 10:17

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