

*The Fortnightly Rant***This Fortnight in “Democracy”**

Well, let's see—did anything worthy of note happen during this past fortnight?

Oh, yes, that's right: the third impeachment of a President of the United States came to a conclusion. Oddly enough, for an open-and-shut case—and despite the President's persistence in providing further evidence of guilt throughout the proceedings—members of his own party decided to leave him in office. Under the provisions of our exalted Constitutional system, the matter is now left up to we, the gerymandered people.

Come November, every American of voting age will have an equal opportunity to weigh in on the matter: does the President deserve another four years of collecting exorbitant fees for housing those who have sworn to die to save his life, while he cheats at golf?

It matters not whether we drive an imported sedan through a leafy suburb to a polling place with ample parking for our quick hit of paper-based democracy, or ride public transportation through a bustling inner city for the more immersive experience of standing in line for an hour or two, before pulling a lever and hoping the machine does not arbitrarily change our mind without notice. All of us are equal in the voting booth—assuming, of course, that we've successfully avoided the Scylla and Charybdis of persnickety voter registration requirements and draconian voter roll purges.

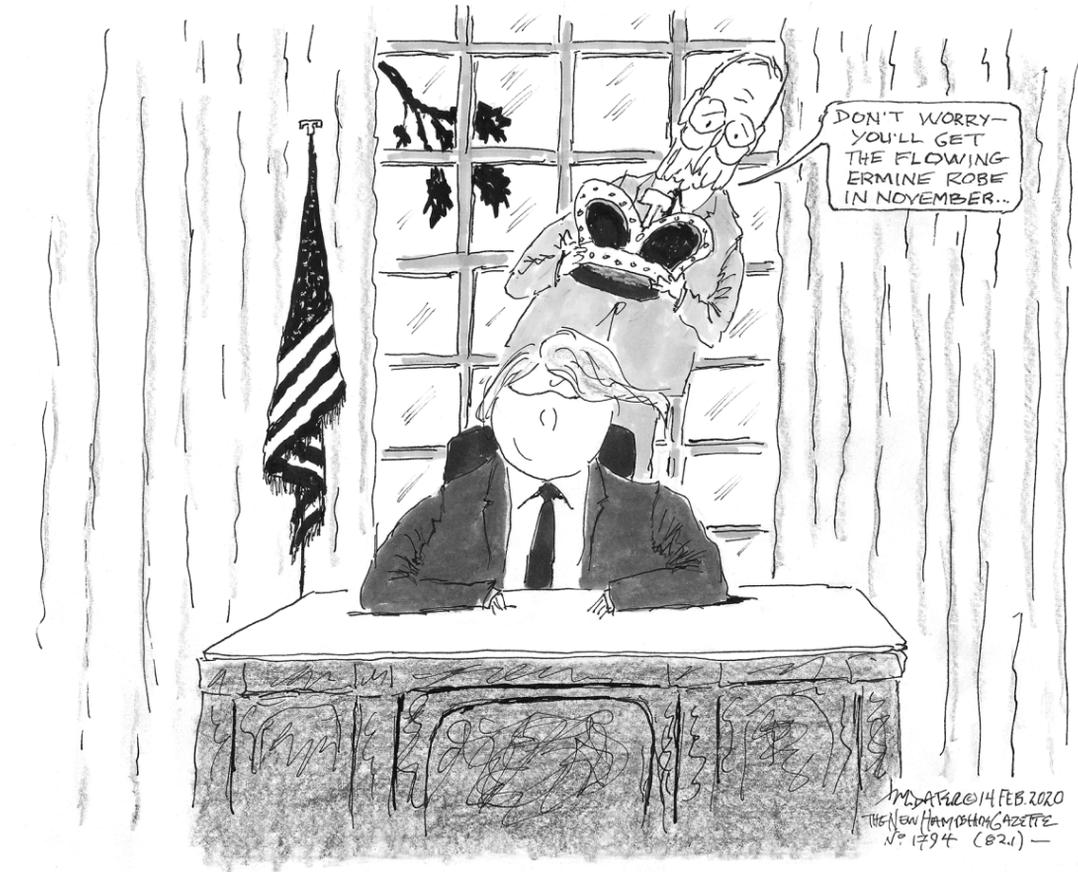
The stated intent of these burgeoning hurdles is to maintain the sacred purity of our precious elections against possible defilement by random miscreants. This policy is analogous to Ben Franklin's formulation of Blackstone's ratio: “It is better 100 guilty Persons should escape than that one innocent person should suffer,” only in reverse. It

might be stated thusly: “It is better 100 qualified UNH students be deterred from voting than that one sneaky Democrat get away with voting twice.”

Strangely, despite this rigorous array of protections against overly-enthusiastic fans of democracy, there appears to be an exemption, or loophole, when it comes to foreign meddling. This is particularly odd since the nation's intelligence community has warned that, after its tremendous success in 2016, Russia is, without question, continuing its efforts to determine the outcome of our presidential elections. It seems the non-intelligence community, led by spokesperson Sean Hannity, simply will not be denied.

On Tuesday—the same day Democratic Socialist Bernie Sanders won in formerly rock-ribbed New Hampshire—Kentucky Republican Marsha Blackburn blocked election-related bills in the Senate. One would have required campaigns to report foreign offers of assistance to the FBI and the Federal Elections Commission. The other would have provided federal funds to help local election officials enhance security, and ban any connection of voting machines to the internet. Her action brings to 10 the number of election security bills blocked under the leadership of Senator “Moscow Mitch” McConnell. The Majority Leader is also from Kentucky, soon to be the site of a huge aluminum plant, thanks to a \$200 million investment from Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska.

The next morning, to celebrate having beaten the rap, the President attended the National Prayer Breakfast, which he clearly mistook—yet again—for an Airing of Grievances, a la Seinfeld's Festivus. Further reinforcing the already prevalent theory that he reveals his



own crimes by projecting them on others, he complained he that had been “put through a terrible ordeal by some very dishonest and corrupt people... [who] know what they are doing is wrong, but they put themselves far ahead of our great country.” Through that harrowing experience, he apparently came to better understand his place in American history: “In the bitter cold of Valley Forge, Washington and his men had no food, no supplies, and very little chance of victory. It reminded me a little bit of 2016.” [Note: Based purely on statistical probability, the President is far more likely to have been chowing down on a McDonald's Filet-O-Fish® sandwich and watching Fox & Friends, than boiling shoe leather for breakfast.—The Ed.]

“[W]hat they did have,” the President went on and on, “was have [sic] an unwavering belief that God was with them. I believe that too.” In case anyone had not followed his

subtle metaphorical trip east across the Atlantic, and back eight decades, he repeated: “God is with the people in this room.” Why he failed to deliver that line in his grandfather's first language is anybody's guess.

Apparently still butthurt, the individual in question [Note: Please pardon the circumlocution. We're as tired of typing that name as anyone on Earth is of reading it.—The Ed.] then commanded an audience to appear before him in the East Room of the White House. There he made history by uttering, on camera, the phrase “it's all bullshit.” We checked the official White House transcript; it's there for the record. If he had been referring to his own Administration, of course, he would have deserved some credit for accuracy.

By Tuesday, the implications of his exoneration seemed to have begun sinking into the toxic pudding squatting atop El Presidente's nervous system. His Attorney General,

Roy Cohn... [Oops. There appears to have been an error. The Attorney General's name is William Barr. We regret the error, deeply.—The Ed.] intervened in the sentencing of Roger Stone.

The only man known to bear on his back a large tattoo of Richard Nixon—the only President to have resigned in disgrace, so far—Stone had been looking at a nine-year stretch for obstructing a Congressional inquiry into Russia's attempt to assist Trump's election campaign, of which Stone had been a central figure. In response to Barr's intervention, four prosecutors resigned from the case; one went so far as to resign from the alleged Justice Department.

According to a recent UMass Lowell poll, 62 percent of New Hampshire Democrats would rather see a giant meteor strike the earth and extinguish all human life than see President Trump get re-elected. The poll was non-binding.

*The Alleged News®***Iowa—How It's Not Done**

That was fun.

The highly-respected, breathlessly-anticipated Selzer Poll was scheduled to be released on Saturday night, February 1st, just two days before the Iowa caucuses. Then Pete Buttigieg's campaign called the manager CNN: a man in Iowa City reportedly told the campaign that the poll-taker who called him had failed to name the former South Bend mayor. CNN said it was “unable to ascertain what happened... and cannot determine if this was a single isolated incident,” so, on the basis of a single complaint, CNN and the *Des Moines Register* spiked the poll. The results leaked anyway, of course. They showed Sanders in the lead with 22%, followed by Warren at 18% and Buttigieg at 16%. Biden was fourth at 13%.

We rehash that little contretemps lest it be lost and forgotten in the tumult of the caucuses themselves—which many hope we shall never see again.

While the world awaited some kind of official tally, Mayor Pete strode into the spotlight and declared himself the winner. Apparently he had watched the 2000 Presidential race closely, though he was only 18 at the time.

Days later, when some actual numbers were released, it was learned that in the first round of voting, Bernie Sanders had won 6,000 more votes than Buttigieg. Because this was Iowa, there was a second round of voting. Again, Sanders outperformed Buttigieg, by 2,500 votes. Nevertheless, Buttigieg was awarded two more delegates to the Iowa

convention—because Iowa.

Late Wednesday night—the 12th, not the 5th—we checked the *New York Times* for the latest results: “analysis has revealed data inconsistencies for one in six of the state's precincts. The Associated Press said it was still unable to declare a winner.”

Beloved Metaphor Dying

Scientists have wanted to know for years what the conditions are at the grounding line of the Thwaites Glacier in Antarctica—the place where the bottom of that river of ice loses contact with solid earth and begins to float out into the Amundsen Sea. Using a hot water drill, an international team recently bored a hole through 2,000 feet of ice and lowered instruments down there. What

they found, New York University's David Holland told the *Washington Post*, was “really, really bad.” The temperature was two degrees above freezing, “not a sustainable situation for that glacier.”

“The biggest thing to say at the moment is, indeed, there is very warm water there, and clearly, it could not have been there forever, or the glacier could not be there,” Holland told the *Post*.

That's kind of a big deal, since Thwaites acts as a plug, holding back the vast West Antarctica Ice Sheet. If that were to let go, estimates of sea level rise range from four to 12 feet. The consequences on Portsmouth's tax base would be incalculable.

A 2008 report on recent Antarctic ice loss found that “losses are concentrated along narrow channels

occupied by outlet glaciers and are caused by ongoing and past glacier acceleration. Changes in glacier flow therefore have a significant, if not dominant impact on ice sheet mass balance.” Hack writers everywhere are mourning the pending loss of a beloved metaphor.

About a week ago, a thermometer at an Argentinian research station at the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula recorded a temperature of 65° Fahrenheit—the same as it was in Los Angeles and Huntsville, Alabama that day.

In Other Dismal News...

Mike MacFerrin, who goes by @IceSheetMike on Twitter, studies the Greenland ice sheet. He also

The Alleged News®

from page one

happens to be a Type-1 diabetic, and occasionally makes observations about that condition. Last summer, retweeting an image of what looked like a brewery, he wrote:

"This is how insulin is made. In giant vats w/ enzymes & bacteria, not unlike making beer (and for roughly the same price).

"You can pick up a 10 lb. 12-pack of beer for \$12, but the same amount of life-saving insulin costs \$154,000."

🔥 [Fire emoji, as in "burn"] the American medical corporatocracy."

\$*#@% the Troops, Part MMXXXV

On January 3rd, a certain stable genius ordered a Defense Department drone jockey piloting an MQ-9 Reaper [\$15.9 million ea., General Atomics] to fire a few Lockheed Martin Hellfire™ missiles [\$25,000 ea.] and blow up the head of Iran's Quds Force, along with whoever else was in the immediate vicinity, as he was leaving the Baghdad airport. Ten people died altogether.

Not surprisingly, Iran retaliated five days later, firing 18 ballistic missiles at the Ayn [Rand] Al Asad air base in Iraq's Anbar Province.

Members of the U.S. armed forces are stationed there because, after all, they're everywhere. Shortly after the missile attack, Mr. Large and In Charge said, "I'm pleased to inform you: The American people should be extremely grateful and happy no Americans were harmed in last night's attack by the Iranian regime. We suffered no casualties, all of our soldiers are safe, and only minimal damage was sustained at our military bases."

That was a lie, of course. Two days later, eleven service members were medevacked to military hospitals. Almost a week later, Defense Department [DoD] officials admitted those evacuations had taken place. Several subsequent admissions have raised the number of casualties, which now stands at 109.

The DoD noted that "nearly 70 percent of those diagnosed have returned to duty," leaving just two or three dozen people still suffering. On the bright side, a spokesperson added that "the department contributes as a leader in the treatment and research of brain-related injuries."

Yes, mostly by supplying patients.

If the DoD wants to put all that brain science to work, couldn't they take a look at the Commander-in-Chief?



\$*#@% the Troops, Part MMXXXVI

Stars and Stripes, the newspaper for members of the U.S. Armed Forces, reported on Monday that the Pentagon plans to cut its funding in the 2021 budget by 35 percent.

Max Lederer, the publisher of *Stars and Stripes*, was informed of the decision by telephone Monday morning. The call was placed after the *Wall Street Journal* had hit the streets with its own story on the matter.

"Most of *Stars and Stripes*' funding comes from sales, subscriptions and advertising," Corey Dickstein and Nikki Wentling wrote in the paper, founded in 1918, "but it depends on the Defense Department subsidy to cover the expensive and sometimes dangerous task of overseas reporting and distribution.

"Lederer said the loss in funding would 'definitely reduce' *Stars and Stripes*' news reporting abilities."

The *Journal* article is hidden behind a paywall, one too clever for

us to slither behind, but Chad Garland, a former Marine who reports for *Stars and Stripes* from Afghanistan and Iraq, tweeted an excerpt saying that the "proposed changes [are] intended to reflect 'the public's transition from print to more widely available alternative media sources'"—logic which was met with widespread incredulity.

The *Journal*'s Ben Kesling tweeted, "*Stars and Stripes* is a crucial news outlet for covering the Pentagon and the Department of Veterans Affairs."

War correspondent Kevin Knodell noted, "down range the print *S&S* is often the only actual news troops can get their hands on. There will always be someone who wants print."

Former *Stars and Stripes* reporter Heath Druzin wrote, "This is 100 percent a way for the Pentagon to silence journalists who look critically at what they do. *Stars and Stripes* does great work that the brass doesn't

always like and it needs to continue. Everyone who cares about journalism and accountability should push back on this."

According to the *Journal*, the budgets for 50 medical facilities will also be cut. [TBI clinics, perhaps?]

In an interview on NPR, *Stars and Stripes* Editorial Director Terry Leonard said, "There's a tendency in all large organizations to try to control the message. The biggest problem we have is not with the military interfering with what we report, but they try to control your access, and we're finding that in the current atmosphere, that access is getting tighter and tighter everywhere. You can't help but see that there's people that resent the fact that we're not playing ball with the team."

Propaganda Bus Alert

In an act of clueless arrogance utterly typical of their ilk, a small team of propagandists, casually burning money, attempted on Monday to in-



You never know who you're going to run into on the streets of Portsmouth. On Sunday, our Wandering Photographer bumped into historian and columnist William Marvel and his wife Ellen Schwindt, the noted fiddler.

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Sometimes Old is Good

The Fechheimer Building, one of the finest examples of a cast-iron facade in Portland, Oregon, was built in 1885. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it was restored in 1981 by Russell Fellows Properties, the principals of which enjoy a subscription to this newspaper.

THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE.
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"Happy to Support Progressive Journalism and The New Hampshire Gazette"
 — Joe Keefe

duce this newspaper to use its pages to subject its readers to a preposterous and pernicious fairy tale.

“Day 4 of Job Creators Network’s Pro-Capitalism New Hampshire Bus Tour,” read the email’s header. “CEO Alfredo Ortiz and CCO Elaine Parker on Radio Row.”

For a moment, there was consternation and confusion in the newsroom: could the former Beastie Boys percussionist actually have made such a bizarre career change?



As it happens, no. The Alfredo Ortiz in question is just another tool—appropriately enough, one subsidized by the multi-billionaire who, by creating Home Depot, destroyed thousands of hardware stores and lumber yards. “Job Creators Network”, or JCN—a brand name we will not grant the dignity of appearing without quotation marks—was established in 2014 by Bernie Marcus, who’s been consuming oxygen on this planet since before the Crash of 1929.

It’s a clever scam. *SourceWatch*, that invaluable repository of research on those who would do us dirty, explains it this way: “JCN is an association of corporate leaders best

known for its E2E employee [employee-to-employee] communications program, which encourages CEOs to pressure their employees to vote for and otherwise support the corporate political agenda.” In other words, it’s a system through which our corporate overseers get to coerce us into forging our own chains. The Australian, or secret, ballot was adopted to put an end to just this sort of practice.

As of Monday, this stooge, Alfredo Ortiz, [*Are we being too... something? We just binge-watched five episodes of “Who Killed Malcolm X,” and our appetite for being direct is suddenly overwhelming.—The Ed.*] was enduring a four-day bus tour of the state, “spreading the message that ‘Socialism Takes, Capitalism Creates’ alongside JCN’s Chief Communications Officer (CCO) Elaine Parker. A less-scrupulous relation of Bonnie, perhaps. Our condolences to anyone so unfortunate as to have been subjected to their act.

At this point they are no doubt on their way to South Carolina. Good riddance to them.

RIP, Market Square News

Without fanfare—though a dirge would have been more appropriate,



The Corporate-Owned Local Daily dwindles before our eyes—price increases notwithstanding—but still we’ll miss it when and if it finally fades away. In rather dramatic contrast, the Market Square News closed abruptly last week. A brief eulogy appears elsewhere on this page.

really—the Market Square News closed last week.

Formerly known as the News-Shop, hence the name on the hanging sign, it began as the Winebaum News Agency. Its founder, Harry Winebaum, was born in Russia, and worked in a Lawrence, Mass. woolen mill before coming to Portsmouth, according to a 1978 obituary in the *New York Times*. He became an agent for the *Boston Record* in 1917—while still a teenager. He is said to have built it into the largest news agency in northern New England.

When we brought the *New Hampshire Gazette* back to Portsmouth in 1999, Tom Rossi was running the place. We were looking for a reliable distribution service, and sought his advice. He put us in touch with the late Bob Mercier. We quickly signed with his Circle M Sales, and were happy to have done so. Bob, who had a lengthy career in newspaper distribution, would

remind us every month or so, “The newspaper business was built on the backs of ten-year old boys.” He was right, of course. Bob was a gentleman, and we miss him.

Between Bob and Tom, we heard a number of quite entertaining tales, passed down in the folklore, involving the old days of Winebaum News Agency back in the rough-and-tumble days: fist-fights at the railroad station, certain goods not on display, but available to customers in the know...

We would go into more detail but for hazy memory, and concerns over legal liability. Someone out there knows those stories far better than us. We invite them to drop us a line. We’d like to interview them.

Tea Talk: Medicine and Race

This Sunday, the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire (BHT-NH) will host a lecture and community dialogue on the topic of “Medicine, Health and Race,” exploring

how myths about racial inferiority and physical racial differences have operated across medical and social services.

The panelists, Shari Robinson, Dr. Daphne Robert and Kerri Osborne, will discuss how beliefs about race and racism have shaped the health of African Americans and the ways they receive healthcare. Since enslavement, racism has been at least partially responsible for the fact that Blacks and People of Color have had inadequate healthcare and poorer health status and outcomes. Panelists will also discuss new theories and methodologies for providing higher quality healthcare and for healthier lives.

This event will take place February 16th, from 2:00 to 4 p.m., at the Portsmouth Public Library, 175 Parrott Avenue, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and is free and open to the public. More information and the full series schedule can be found at blackheritagetrailnh.org.

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote

“News is what someone wants suppressed. Everything else is advertising.”

— Katherine Graham (1917-2001) publisher, Washington Post (1963-1991)

“Adults are always asking little kids what they want to be when they grow up ‘cause they’re looking for ideas.”

— Paula Poundstone

john@wordpraxis.com

“Politics doesn’t corrupt people. People corrupt politics.”

Judge Amy Berman Jackson,
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia,
sentencing former Trump campaign aide Rick Gates.

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.

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

How Our GOP Killed Conservatism in National Policy

To the Editor:

As a 1952 supporter of "Mr. Republican," Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, I do not know whether to laugh or to cry at the way our GOP has killed conservatism in national policy. We used to believe in the triad: fiscal integrity (pay for what you spend); respect for individual rights (keep Big Brother at bay); and realism (not ideology) in foreign affairs. All three are gone. Bill Buckley is rolling over in his grave. George Orwell is saying, "I tried to tell you." And his 1984 Big Brother has never had it so good.

We used to taunt Democrats as "tax and spend." That ended when the Reagan administration introduced the beyond-liberal "borrow and spend"—i.e., low-tax/high-borrow fiscal socialism. The national debt more than quadrupled—rising from \$995 billion (32.5 percent of GDP) at the end of Jimmy Carter's last fiscal year to over \$4.4 trillion (66.9 percent of GDP) at the end of the last fiscal year of Bush I. Bush I was so shocked at what was developing that he introduced a moderate tax increase. And we rewarded him by throwing him out of office. Clinton raised taxes a bit more; he, Gingrich and the tech bubble brought about four years of annual budget surplus at the end of the 1990's. The national debt plateaued at \$5.8 trillion (56.8 percent of GDP), and we began to talk about paying off the national debt.

But Bush II introduced Round 2 of low-tax/high-borrow fiscal socialism, more than doubling the national debt to over \$11.7 trillion (82 percent of GDP) in his eight years and ending up with a record annual budget deficit in excess of \$1.2 trillion (over 10 percent of GDP) in his final 2008-09 fiscal year (not including deficit related to the stimulus program). Annual budget deficits came down during Obama (ranging from \$483 to \$657 billion in his last four years) but very little of the Bush II tax cuts was rescinded (only \$75 billion of the \$475 billion of annual deficit attributable to the Bush II tax cuts) and national debt continued to rise—to \$20.2 trillion by

the end of Obama's last fiscal year. Enter Donald Trump—and Round 3 of low-tax/high-borrow fiscal socialism. The annual budget deficit for the recently concluded 2018-19 fiscal year is just shy of \$1 trillion again; deficit for the 12 months of 2019 easily exceeded \$1 trillion. During Trump's first two fiscal years national debt has increased by more than \$2.5 trillion to over \$22.7 trillion (106 percent of GDP). And Trump is now talking about a further tax cut, in advance of the 2020 election. In short, our GOP has abandoned fiscal integrity, substituted low-tax/high-borrow fiscal socialism, and projected us in the fiscal direction of the 'third world' countries. "Borrow & Bankrupt" may be profitable in the private sector; in the public sector it leads to disaster.

As for individual rights, our GOP has escorted Big Brother into the bedroom to dictate (A) with whom you may have sex, (B) how you may have sex, (C) whom you may marry, and (D) what to do if you become pregnant. Bye-bye to individual rights. Big Brother never had it so good.

And realism in foreign affairs? How do you spell I-R-A-Q? We know from the memoirs of the Bush II administration that WMD is not why they wanted to invade Iraq—they simply used that phrase to engender popular support. And then proceeded to invade another country, destroy its social, economic and political structure, torture prisoners, let loose a civil war locally and regionally which murmurs to this day and, in short, make us the NAZIs of the 21st century. Both Ike and my pal Bob Taft would be appalled. Why did the Bush II crowd want to invade? Was it oil? Was it the 1996 neocon document "A Clean Break" authored in part by Richard Perle and Douglas Feith? And PNAC? And WHIG? Clearly not realism.

And, as if forfeiture of fiscal integrity, individual rights and realism in foreign affairs were not bad enough, we are now called upon to forsake truth itself. Kellyanne introduces us to "alternative facts"—as George Orwell so eloquently warned us years ago after fighting the Fascists in the



Spanish Civil War. The Big Lie is now accepted by our GOP leaders as they refuse to get up off their knees before Big Brother. (Conservative radio host Craig Silverman of KNUS in Denver was recently fired midshow for not staying down on his knees.)

It is our GOP which has not only done this but is luxuriating in it. Taft would be ashamed. Ike would be ashamed. We should all be ashamed.

Richard Troy
New Canaan, Conn.

Richard:

It has been a long, long time since we've had a letter from a genuine Taft Republican. Welcome, sir.

You say he would be ashamed, and we believe you. We would be ashamed if we'd ever voted for a Republican... oh, wait—Pat Buchanan, in 1996; if you're going to let a fascist run in your primary, we're going to do what we can to saddle you with him.

The Editor

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The Annual Extortion Ritual

To the Editor:

The turmoil over impeachment and the Iranian crisis has obscured a cynical annual ritual—the January parade of price increases by the pharmaceutical industry. Tone deaf to feckless complaints by politicians and the suffering of patients, the industry has raised prices on 619 drugs with an average increase of 5.9 percent since the beginning of January. Most of the price hikes were targeted at the industry's most popular drugs ensuring a maximum return to the Pharma companies. Further increases are likely to be announced since several large pharma companies have not yet announced their plans for 2020.

Industry spokespersons continue to defend the increases as necessary to support the high cost of drug development. They claim that without high U.S. prices the industry could not continue to create innovative

breakthrough medications. The contention that high drug prices are related to large development costs has been thoroughly debunked. Several studies have demonstrated no relation between drug development costs and their price. In an article published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 2016, the authors reviewed several studies of drug pricing. They conclude that "there is no evidence of an association between research and development costs and prices; rather, prescription drugs are priced in the United States primarily on the basis of what the market will bear." This conclusion is confirmed by a former CEO of Pfizer who states that "It's basically the same as pricing a car—it is the anticipated income stream" (McKinell; *A Call to Action*). The assertion that high prices are the result of high development costs is also less convincing when you consider that nine of the ten largest pharmaceutical firms spend more on drug advertising than on research and development.

The argument that high drug prices are necessary to create new breakthrough products is also misleading. Pharma's research efforts are often focused on producing me-too drugs to compete against already existing drugs within a particular lucrative market (look, for example, to erectile dysfunction drugs) or incremental changes to drugs about to lose patent protection. Granting patents for this type of development does not protect new knowledge, rather it serves only to protect the market position of current competitors. Moreover, R and D focused on changes in existing drugs is much less risky than early stage research on potentially breakthrough drug technologies. Early stage research is inherently uncertain and has most often been pioneered by the National

Institutes of Health, other government agencies or university-backed research facilities that regularly operate on government grants. For example, the *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* reported in April, 2015 that 85 percent of basic cancer research in the U.S. was funded through government sources. The pharmaceutical companies usually acquire the rights to new technologies only after the riskiest research has been conducted.

The pharmaceutical industry is able to charge what the market will bear because prescription drugs are typically protected by patents and, unlike most European countries, the U.S. government does not regulate prices of patented drugs. Combined with the fact that these medications are critically important to the life and health of patients, there is little choice for the consumer (patient or insurance company) except to pay the going price (in economic terms, price inelasticity is extremely high). The result is what we see—skyrocketing prices that produce outsize profits for the pharmaceutical industry independent of the cost of development. The economics of the pharmaceutical industry clearly begs for government regulation of drug prices but the fact that much of the basic research that produces patented drugs is sponsored by public funds makes an ethical argument that the monopoly returns of the pharmaceutical companies are unjust. If our taxes have paid for the risky early stage research that has produced breakthrough technologies, what justification do the drug companies have to charge outrageous monopoly prices that benefit only their shareholders and executives? Should we not have a just return for our contributions?

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.

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Harrisburg, Pa.
 Robert:
 Thank you for once again providing a remarkably clear view of the operations of the ongoing criminal enterprise that is our pharmaceutical industry.

"What justification," you ask, "do the drug companies have to charge outrageous monopoly prices that benefit only their shareholders and executives?"

What more justification do they need?

Their advertising departments spend billions to camouflage their operations as altruistic efforts to relieve human suffering. Their true intent is to make as much money as the law will allow; and, since the law won't allow them to make as much profit as their CEOs and stockholders desire, they have to spend similar amounts lobbying to change the laws.

If our government functioned, and if it worked for the good of the people, writ large, we would not recognize this country.

The Editor

times, now and in their legacy of the past.

The New Hampshire Community Rights Network is a non-profit organization that started May 19, 2013 in Barnstead with the announcement of the Barnstead Declaration and joining in, with all the communities that passed Local Self Government Ordinances starting in Barnstead Town Meeting, 2006, followed by 12 municipalities in New Hampshire, four in the State of Maine through the decade and thereafter. NHCRN provides information, education, support and testimonies, all in what we stand for. We can be reached through our website nhcommunityrights.org, we want you to join with us to move forward in protecting our Bill of Rights and its purpose.

Douglas Darrell, member, Board of Directors of NHCRN
 Ctr Barnstead, N.H.

Picture This!

To the Editor:

Close your eyes and picture this! A picture of a smiling President Trump, with the following words above his picture:

"You think the guy who was forced to pay (a fine of) \$25,000,000 for running a fake university and (a fine of) \$2,000,000 for running a fraudulent charity for American Veterans really wanted to root out corruption in Ukraine?"

...and with the following words below the picture: "I love the uneducated."

Republican Congresspersons and Senators will have to answer to the public for the obvious incongruities in their unpatriotic arguments for not upholding their oaths of office and the U.S Constitution. Their recent failure to both impeach and remove from of-

face this most lawless and destructive president America has ever had, will leave a stain on our country with the damage and the loss of treasured core American values of fairness, justice, shared community and equality that President Trump has wrought. How could our country possibly survive four more years of this president?

Herb Moyer
 Exeter, N.H.

Herb:

Just for the record, we will note that this letter was received before President Bone Spur's personal Roy Cohn, the Attorney General, intervened in the sentencing of Roger Stone.

The Editor

Not a Partisan Issue

To the Editor:

Attention Democrats! Are you freaked out by the President's extreme post-impeachment behavior? So are a lot of mental health professionals. Freaked out, but not surprised.

If you go to the local ER and present with a hernia, a doc will (hopefully) identify your symptoms right away and do something to help you, regardless of your political persuasion. A hernia doesn't care who you vote for and neither does Narcissistic Personality Disorder.

For the APA's official list of 9 NPD diagnostic indicators, go online and Google "DSM-5, Narcissistic Personality Disorder." Read them and see if they remind you of anyone you know.

Unfortunately, a lot of people in Washington haven't read the DSM and are trying to interpret the President's actions from a legal or political perspective. No wonder they're confused. Be happy you're not.

Rick Littlefield
 Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

In a better world, we could be more picknickety about our humor. We could eschew any satirical references to our

so-called leaders showing signs of mental derangement, or senility, or signs of Adderall abuse, &c., &c. Under the circumstances, though, we're going to let this pass.

The Editor

From the Ministry of "Truth"

Hi Steven -

Reaching out to see if you or anyone on your team is planning to cover the networks' programming plans surrounding the coverage of the New Hampshire Primary on Tuesday, via TV highlights or a "where to watch" roundup?

If so, could you please include both FOX News and FOX Business Network's programming plans? Please see below for all details:

[URLs for the nation's two most pernicious propaganda outlets deleted for public mental health reasons.—The Ed.]

Thank you and please let me know, Julianna Mauriello
 Fox News

[A paragraph of legal boilerplate, engineered to deny responsibility, deleted so that the sending corporation might be properly exposed—if just this once—to the legitimate consequences of its staggeringly irresponsible actions.—The Ed.]

Julianna:

Morbid curiosity—and, of course, access to The Google—led us to suspect that you may be the Julianna Rose Mauriello who played Stephanie in the children's TV show "LazyTown." If so, you've gone from a 2006 Emmy nomination to handling PR for...well, our assessment is summed up in the Editor's Notes inserted into your email, above.

Life is not easy, and everyone must find their own path; ours has included more missteps than we care to reveal, or even recall. We encourage you to seek other employment—honest employment.

The Editor

An Omnidirectional Threat

Dear Editor:

Donald J. Trump is no friend of the environment, no friend of the elderly. He wants a 26 percent cut to the Environmental Protection Agency's budget (won't make it past our House) and no desserts in Meals on Wheels. Children

who need summer meals when school is out, because their parents don't earn enough on our neglected minimum wage? Donald J. Trump doesn't care about them either. He'd rather give a budget busting big tax break to the rich. Since the Republican-dominated U.S. Senate does his bidding, it's also their disdain for our environment (land, air, water) and their disdain for our elderly and our low-income school children reflected in his budget. Those Republicans won't deserve the pensions we'll be giving them when they're outta here, but they'll continue to milk the federal cow anyway.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
 Sanbornton, N.H.

Climate Fight Heats Up in Nottingham Corporate Interests Attack 2019 Ordinance
 To the Editor:

On January 13th, corporate interests filed a motion to overturn Nottingham's enforceable right to a healthy climate and freedom from chemical trespass ordinance. The law, adopted at a March 2019 town meeting, recognizes residents' rights to a healthy climate; clean air, water and soil; and the rights of ecosystems to exist, flourish and evolve. It also bans corporate activities that violate those rights, including toxic waste dumping.

The ordinance has not yet been enforced against any activity. However, G&F Goods LLC and its owner, a resident of Nottingham, filed a lawsuit against the town. G&F argues the ordinance unconstitutional discriminates against corporations, because the law "restricts the activities of corporate persons while imposing no similar restriction on similar activities undertaken by natural persons."

"Distinguishing between corporate 'persons' and living humans is not a flaw in the ordinance, but a central element of the ordinance's purpose," says Gail Mills of Nottingham Water Alliance (NWA), the local grassroots group behind the law. "We know exactly what we are doing: challenging the legal doctrine that represses peo-

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.
 to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Learning from Iowa

by William Marvel

By bungling their ridiculous substitute for a straightforward primary, the Democrats of Iowa inadvertently confirmed the ultimate wisdom of New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner. Conversely, they also demonstrated the absurdity of the criticism leveled against Gardner two years ago for shunning the very voting technology that made those Iowa Democrats look like idiots—assuming that the appearance of idiocy on their part is actually an illusion.

Democrats are the folks who were so frantic about Russian interference in American elections. Perhaps their concern depended on the hope that they could implicate Trump in such a foreign intrigue. Sophisticated electoral manipulation by outsiders should worry all of us, however, and Russia and China may not be the only foreign powers to watch out for. If wizards like Iowa's Democrats have charge of our elections, they could probably be hacked by

Tajikistan.

One alleged resident of Manchester ought to be pretty embarrassed by the Iowa fiasco. Kevin Colin O'Loughlin Van Ostern (to cover all his aliases) tried to supplant Gardner as secretary of state in 2018 with a single-issue campaign, insisting that we needed to expand the use of technology in our electoral system.

Granted, the guy was in desperate need of political work when he tried to unseat Gardner. He had been an executive councilor—running for office as Colin Van Ostern while he was registered to vote as Kevin O'Loughlin—but he got greedy and ran almost immediately for governor. After losing, he decided to try challenging Gardner, who was secretary of state before Van Ostern (for short) was born. To accomplish something like that, you have to drum up some controversy, and technology was the only issue he could think of.

Gardner has never taken a dime in campaign contributions, but Van Ostern decided to grab all he could,

collecting a quarter of a million dollars. He claimed he was going to pass it along to legislative candidates who might vote for him, which sounded a lot like bribery, but the last I heard he was being chastised for keeping the money for himself. Maybe he wants it for another political gambit, because one website lists him as a politician without portfolio, and says he has not yet declared his candidacy for anything in particular.

For all the stench of borderline impropriety that Van Ostern emits, he was the darling of Democratic partisans in the legislature, who wanted to have one of their own running our state's elections. All the new Democratic legislators in our local delegation appear to have voted for him and against Gardner (who is also a Democrat, but scrupulously nonpartisan). The more veteran Democrat, Ed Butler, joined those know-it-all newcomers in supporting Van Ostern. The technology issue was just a blind for trying to seize partisan control of New Hampshire's electoral process,

but Democrats made it their main issue, and now their fellow travelers in Iowa have left them looking as foolish as Van Ostern does.

Thanks to Bill Gardner, therefore—and no thanks to our Democratic delegation (with the glowing exception of Tom Buco)—many of us dinosaurs took paper ballots last Tuesday and filled them out by hand before submitting them for reliable tallying. Were there any doubt about a result, the ballots could be counted again, and we who have participated in recounts in the town of Conway have grown to trust both the accuracy and the integrity of the process. The same cannot be said of the recent bumbling in Iowa, or the hanging-chad controversy in Florida two decades ago, the Florida recount of 2018, or the disasters with electronic voting machines everywhere. In those cases, the real outcome will never be known.

Everyone went forth with confidence that their opinions would carry some weight, however uninformed those opinions were. Those

who supported Comrade Bernie and the Sanderistas, as the *Conway Daily Sun* did, may get what they wanted, and may get it good and hard. Those who believed the woe-fully inexperienced ex-Mayor Pete wangled a direct commission in the Navy Reserve in his late 20s for any other reason than to adorn a resume for the political career he was about to embark upon, tried to give him a boost—as his fellow Midwesterners did (or maybe didn't). Those gullible enough to doubt that Elizabeth Warren exaggerated her almost-nonexistent Indian heritage for professional advantage, or that she invented her senseless accusation about Bernie, voted for her; why should anyone work hard or make sacrifices, after all, just to attend college and the spring break orgies? And then there was Biden, a career politician of even greater longevity than Bernie. Say it ain't so, Joe.

As an unaffiliated voter, I had a choice. This time I took a Republican ballot, for a change.

=====

from page five

ple's power to use democracy to safeguard a safe, healthy, and livable planet for humans and ecosystems."

G&F calls the concept of Rights of Nature "radical" and argues that it "should be declared invalid," ignoring the growing Rights of Nature movement across the U.S. and around the world.

It argues that the community is "preempted" from adopting this latest ordinance by state legislative authority, ignoring the people's inalienable right to local self-government. That right is a basic tenet underpinning the state constitution and the state motto, "live free or die."

G&F also argues that heating a business with fossil fuels, disposing of simple packaging, and belching

cows, could all violate the Rights of Nature. "These arguments are ridiculous. G&F is attempting to divert attention away from the real purpose of the ordinance, which is to be proactive in protecting water from surrounding superfund sites, hazardous waste landfills, and new fossil fuel infrastructure," says Peter White of the NWA. The ordinance builds on Nottingham's existing 2008 Water Rights & Local Self-Government Ordinance.

"What does it mean that an individual can use corporate claimed 'rights' and privileges to veto a law that secures a 'climate capable of sustaining human societies?' Cor-

porations do not have veto power over democracy," said Michelle Sanborn, serving president of the N.H. Community Rights Network (NHCRN) and New England community organizer for the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF). CELDF is assisting in defending the ordinance. "The townspeople of Nottingham and a dozen other Granite State communities have passed community rights laws. They are making structural legal change. And they are not backing down."

NWA is part of the N.H. Community Rights Network, which in-

forms and empowers communities and elected officials about our individual and collective right of local self-governance in order to secure and protect the inherent and unalienable rights of all inhabitants of New Hampshire to economic, social and environmental justice, including the rights of nature. www.nhcommunityrights.org, info@nhcommunityrights.org

Michelle Sanborn
Alexandria, N.H.
NHCRN President
www.nhcommunityrights.org
info@nhcommunityrights.org
(603) 524-2468
Michelle:

We'll believe corporations are people when Texas executes one.

The Editor

=====

Trump Shoots Romney at Prayer Breakfast; GOP Shrugs

by Steve Klinger

President Donald Trump pulled out a handgun at the National Prayer Breakfast this morning and shot Utah Sen. Mitt Romney, fatally wounding him. A day earlier, Romney had become the first senator in history to vote to convict a president of his own party in an impeachment trial.

After the shooting law professor Alan Dershowitz persuaded federal marshals at the event not to apprehend Trump. "He believes it's in the nation's interest," Dershowitz shouted. "The president cannot be



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What's scaring the bejeezus out of billionaires?

by Jim Hightower

There's a new political army on the march in America: Tromp-tromp-tromp they came, it's the Billionaire Brigade!

It's actually a very small army—only 749 Americans rank as billionaires. But they have a lot of firepower—collectively, they've amassed some \$4 trillion in personal wealth and are now grabbing

nearly all of the new wealth that our economy generates. In response to the extreme inequality their greed has created, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and other Democratic leaders are proposing a widely-popular wealth tax on the opulence of this tiny group. And oh, what wails of anguish this has generated in the lairs of billionaires! They're indignant that fortunes above \$50-million would be assessed a teeny surtax

to help fund education, health care, infrastructure, and America's other essential needs.

So, with a rallying cry of "Save the Poor Rich," the Billionaire's Brigade seeks your pity: Mark Zuckerberg laments that taxing his gabillions would hurt charities; Michael Bloomberg suggests that the tax could turn America into Venezuela; and Wall Street baron Leon Cooperman actually teared up while

wailing that a wealth tax would harm his family. As one money manager said, "These tax proposals are scaring the bejeezus out of people who have accumulated a lot of wealth."

I don't think there's much Jesus in these people! The Biblical Jesus would bless Sanders, Warren, and the majority of Americans who favor a wealth tax to benefit the Common Good. No need to cry for

the few hundred haughty families whose love of money would be only slightly dinged by this tax—every one of them would still be fabulously rich. Plus, they'll be privileged to live in a country that's a little more closely aligned with its people's egalitarian values. And that's priceless.

Copyright 2017 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ehrlich (laura@jimhightower.com) for more information.

from page six

charged or prosecuted."

Trump began his appearance by grinning broadly and waving newspapers with headlines declaring "Trump Acquitted" before the crowd of elected officials and religious leaders at the event. He followed speakers who had urged everyone to forgive their enemies, but Trump said, "I'm not sure I agree with you," before producing the gun from his suit jacket and aiming it at Romney.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham defended Trump after the shooting. "I wouldn't be surprised if Romney was an agent of the Democrats," he charged. "The president's enemies will stop at nothing to keep him from being re-elected."

Back at the White House, Trump tweeted, "Lots of people are saying Treacherous Mitt conspired to throw the 2012 election to Barack Hussein Obama! What I did was perfect. Now Total Exoneration!"

Democrats quickly huddled to consider new articles of impeachment, but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, fighting back tears, conceded, "We're not finding anything in the Constitution that states premeditated murder is a direct cause for impeachment. We already know how the Senate feels about 'high crimes and misdemeanors.'"

Authors and presidential scholars Jon Meacham and Michael Bechloss agreed in a joint statement declaring the situation unprecedented: "These are extraordinary circumstances. We have never seen anything like this before in the behavior of a president of the United



States."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell tried to evade reporters requesting a reaction, but when cornered in an elevator, he shrugged and said, "In the immortal words of Dick Cheney, 'So?'"

Steve Klinger is a veteran community journalist and college English instructor based in southern New Mexico. Frequently skeptical about the capacity of the written word to inspire activism, he also writes songs, hoping to add the power of music to his topical lyrics.

The Love To All Project

Hello,

My name is Morgan Lee, and I'm a student at Phillips Exeter Academy. I serve as the Director of Outreach for Love To All Project, a clothing brand and publication run entirely by queer students dedicated to empowering LGBTQ+ youth.

We've raised nearly \$10,000 from the sales of over 400 shirts, and we'll soon be donating over 300 shirts to homeless youth. As a student from the area, I thought that the New Hampshire Gazette would be a perfect place to feature our story! Thank you for your time, and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Morgan Lee, Director of Outreach, Love To All Project
www.lovetoallproject.com
Morgan:

According to its website: "The Love to All Project is a student-run collective dedicated to helping the LGBTQ+ youth community through

fundraising, volunteering, and empowerment. We're centered around apparel, art, and design, with all of our artists being queer youth. Our first collection of original clothing sold out immediately, with all proceeds going towards the Trevor Project, a non-profit organization focused on suicide prevention efforts among queer youth. The Love Club is our digital journal that strives to strengthen the queer community by providing a platform for empowerment, education, and exposure. Here you will find educational resources, art and writing from queer youth, and interviews of leaders in the LGBTQ+ community. — Justin Li, Founder and Creative Director

Why is LTA's work important?

The Love to All Project empowers queer youth to work for the good of our fellow queer youth. The needs of LGBTQ+ are often overlooked and underfunded. From the lack of comprehensive sexual education in the American public school system to the alarming rates of LGBTQ+ youth homelessness, queer youth issues have gone unaddressed by the dominant society. The Love to All Project is largely made up of LGBTQ+ students, with various intersecting identities. Through our experiences as queer youth and our commitment to listen to LGBTQ+ youth voices, we aim to combine our passions for art and activism as a platform to help our peers. We also fundraise for LGBTQ+ charities and organizations by selling our original designs cre-

ated by queer student artists. Our blog, The Love Club, spreads our educational message and provides resources to our queer peers. — Elliot Diaz, Director of Outreach

Who is involved in LTA?

Run entirely by students, the Love to All Project is a diverse and welcoming collective, with international artists and writers on our team. Most of our members, including our models, directors, and artists identify as queer in some respect. We also have allies working with us, who are passionate about helping the LGBTQ+ community. LTA is always looking to expand and have more people join us! If you'd like to get involved, simply reach out to the any of our directors via email, social media, or the "Contact Us" page on our website. Anyone who's passionate about our cause and eager to make a change in the LGBTQ+ youth community is more than welcome to get involved! — Serene De Sisso, Editor-in-Chief of The Love Club

Where does LTA take place?

The Love to All Project was started by students at Phillips Exeter Academy. We are an independent project that looks to support the greater community at large. With lack of support for the LGBTQ+ youth community being a worldwide problem, we find it necessary to take a correspondingly worldwide approach. We are already international, and are always looking to expand! Currently, LTA is planning volunteer events, including a trip to a Boston LGBTQ+ youth

shelter. Above all else, the Love to All Project is for everyone, whoever and wherever you are. Our writers, artists and team members feature international and domestic leaders alike, bonded together by our common goal: to help and support one another. — Maureena Murphy, Director of Communication

How does LTA plan to achieve its goals?

We've separated our project into three main parts in order to achieve our goals: fundraising, education, and direct action. Through selling apparel designed by our queer youth artists, we raise funds for charities and organizations aiding the LGBTQ+ youth community. Through the organization of direct action initiatives such as volunteer events, we are able to make a tangible, concrete impact. Through our digital journal, The Love Club, we aim to create a platform for empowering and educating queer youth. We are working towards this goal by providing educational resources, interviews with impactful figures in the LGBTQ+ community, and opportunities for queer artists and writers to share their own stories and work. — Helena Chen, Director of Digital Affairs

"A function of free speech under our system of government is to invite dispute. It may indeed best serve its high purposes when it induces a condition of unrest, creates dissatisfaction with conditions as they are, or even stirs people to anger. Speech is often provocative and challenging. It may strike at prejudices and preconceptions and have profound unsettling effects as it presses for acceptance of an idea."

— William O. Douglas, 1949

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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

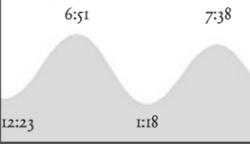
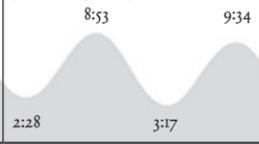
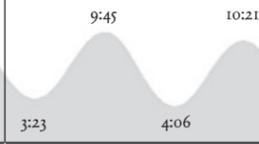
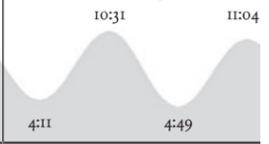
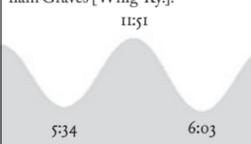
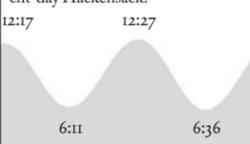
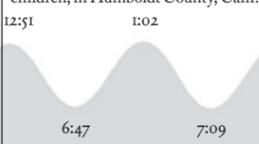
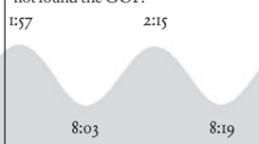
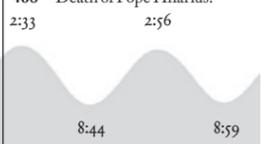
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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 16	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
<p>1982—Nancy Reagan says, via an aide, she'll no longer accept "loaned" threads from big name designers because she's "really...tired of people misinterpreting what she was doing."</p> <p>1978—The first computer bulletin board goes online in Chicago.</p> <p>1976—The <i>Village Voice</i> publishes excerpts from the House-suppressed Pike Report; among other sins, the CIA, the FBI, and the NSA have been illegally spying on U.S. citizens.</p> <p>1964—A week after security in Saigon is "tightened," a Viet Cong bomb in an American movie theater kills 3 U.S. soldiers and wounds another 50.</p> <p>1962—A two-day anti-nuclear march on Washington begins.</p> <p>1959—Fidel Castro becomes Premier of Cuba.</p> <p>1938—Guy Stewart Callendar publishes a scientific paper (drawing in part on the work of F.E. Fowle) showing that mankind's carbon dioxide emissions are warming the planet.</p> <p>1916—Emma Goldman is busted for lecturing on birth control.</p> <p>1899—French President Félix Faure has a fatal stroke while being fêlled in his office in the Élysée Palace.</p> <p>1868—"The Jolly Gorks" change their name to "The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks."</p> <p>1848—"Womens' Rights Convention, Seneca Falls, N.Y."</p> <p>1818—Charles W. Brewster begins his 50-year career as a Portsmouth, N.H. newspaperman.</p>	<p>2017—President Trump declares the press to be the enemy of the people.</p> <p>2015—A study finds that previous tallies of lynchings in the U.S. had under-counted by at least 800.</p> <p>2009—Donald Trump files his fourth petition for bankruptcy.</p> <p>2006—Six days after being shot in the face, Harry Whittington apologizes to the Vice President for "all that [Dick] Cheney] had to deal with."</p> <p>2003—Covert CIA agents grab Abu Omar in Milan, ruining an Italian surveillance program and leaving evidence that gets 23 agents convicted of kidnapping.</p> <p>2000—"I hate the g...ks," Sen. John McCain tells reporters. "I will hate them as long as I live."</p> <p>1985—Gen. William Westmoreland abandons his libel suit against CBS, which had reported he had covered up VC troop strength.</p> <p>1979—China invades Vietnam—again. Some countries never learn.</p> <p>1974—Disgruntled U.S. Army private Robert Preston steals a Huey from Ft. Meade and lands it 150 feet from the White House. After a quick trip back to Ft. Meade he returns to the White House and lands in a hail of bullets.</p> <p>1971—The U.S. Army's top enlisted man is indicted for conspiracy to defraud enlisted mens' clubs.</p> <p>1864—The <i>U.S.S. Housatonic</i> becomes the first ship to be sunk by a submarine, the Confederate <i>H.L. Hunley</i>, which also sinks.</p>	<p>2012—Indiana State Rep. Bob Morris [R] asserts that the Girl Scouts are using "feminists, lesbians, and Communists" as role models to promote a "homosexual lifestyle."</p> <p>2007—The <i>Washington Post</i> reveals the sordid conditions at Walter Reed Army Hospital.</p> <p>2001—Robert Hanssen, a devout Catholic, exhibitionist, patron of strippers, and ex-FBI Special Agent, is arrested for selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then to the Russians.</p> <p>1976—Jerry Ford accepts the CIA's word: if it breaks the law, it'll confess.</p> <p>1970—Although the Chicago Seven are found not guilty of conspiring to incite riots, five are found guilty of crossing state lines to incite riots.</p> <p>1962—"We are going to win in Vietnam," says Bobby Kennedy during a stopover in Saigon. "We will remain here until we do win."</p> <p>1954—Ike's A.G. OKs a memo saying the CIA need not report criminal activity by its employees.</p> <p>1916—Having admitted to poisoning his wife, expecting a life sentence, Oscar Comery is hanged instead by the State of New Hampshire. His underage girlfriend sealed his fate.</p> <p>1915—Pres. W. Wilson watches his first movie, also the first ever shown in the White House: <i>Birth of a Nation</i>.</p> <p>1820—"If you have a message you want to send to hell," screams Lavinia Fisher from Charleston, S.C.'s galleys, "give it to me, and I'll carry it!"</p>	<p>2009—Outraged that the government might assist homeowners, CNBC's Rick Santelli has a fit the floor of the Chicago Board of Trade. His convulsions spawn a Tea Party.</p> <p>2000—"I understand small business growth," says George W.[MD] Bush, "I was one."</p> <p>1988—Prosecutors in Passaic County, N.J., move to dismiss 1966 murder indictments against Rubin "Hurricane" Carter.</p> <p>1986—After due deliberation—37 years—Congress ratifies a UN treaty outlawing genocide.</p> <p>1975—Watergate burglar James W. McCord, Jr. admits that "basically, Martha [Mitchell]'s story is true"—she was abducted and drugged to cover up the break-in. Her abductor, Steve King, is later made an ambassador by Donald Trump.</p> <p>1965—Protests against the Vietnam War are held in 30 U.S. cities.</p> <p>1964—The CIA informs the State and Defense departments that South Vietnam is making little progress against the Viet Cong.</p> <p>1948—Sen. Harry Byrd [D-Va.] says Truman is like Hitler and Stalin because he supports civil rights.</p> <p>1945—In a Burmese mangrove swamp, several hundred Japanese soldiers are killed by crocodiles.</p> <p>1942—FDR puts 120,000 Americans into concentration camps.</p> <p>1847—Rescuers reach the leftovers of the Donner Party.</p>	<p>2016—In Michigan, an Über driver between fares allegedly kills six people in two separate shootings.</p> <p>2005—Dr. Hunter S. Thompson leaves as he lived—on his own terms.</p> <p>1950—Joe McCarthy delivers a five-hour, fact-free rant in the Senate; a four-month investigation ensues.</p> <p>1945—At Iwo Jima, Jacklyn "Jack" Lucas, 17, dives on one live grenade and pulls another under him. One goes off, one doesn't. He sets off metal detectors until dying at 80.</p> <p>1943—Hollywood embraces Office of War Information censorship.</p> <p>1939—Fritz Kuhn, a German veteran of WWI and naturalized U.S. citizen, leads 22,000 people in a pro-Nazi rally at Madison Square Garden.</p> <p>1893—The Reading Railroad fails, causing the free hand of the self-regulating market to go nuts, reach for the economy's throat, and squeeze—hard.</p> <p>1862—President Lincoln's son Willie dies of typhus at the age of 11.</p> <p>1815—Almost two months after the Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812, the <i>U.S.S. Constitution</i> captures two British sloops off the coast of Portugal.</p> <p>1725—Captain John Lovewell's soldiers take 10 Indian scalps in Wakefield, N.H., which they later redeem in Boston for £100 each.</p> <p>1524—In Germany, Count von Iggleheim is stoned to death by a mob angry at his refusal to let them board a three-story ark he had built to escape a predicted apocalyptic flood.</p>	<p>2012—Caught by the Piscataqua's mighty current during construction of the New Memorial Bridge, the tugboat <i>Miss Stacy</i> nearly sinks.</p> <p>2001—"You teach a child to read," says G.W.[MD] Bush, "and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test."</p> <p>1988—Televangelist Jimmy Swaggart interrupts his usual broadcast to confound an unspecified but heinous sin.</p> <p>1965—A week after his home was firebombed, Malcolm X is assassinated. The FBI knew it was coming but withholds that from the NYPD, which doesn't much care, anyway. One assailant, not the killer, is jailed, along with two innocent men.</p> <p>1934—The U.S.-backed Nicaraguan National Guard assassinates rebel leader Augusto Sandino. Legend says his head is then delivered to D.C.</p> <p>1931—In Arequipa, Peruvian revolutionaries make Pan Am's Byron Rickards the first pilot ever hijacked; 30 years later he's hijacked a second time.</p> <p>1930—Witnesses faint and Arizona abandons hanging after "Cheerful Eva" Dugan's accidentally-decapitated head rolls across the floor.</p> <p>1922—The Italian-made U.S. Army airship <i>Roma</i> crashes in Norfolk, Va., killing 34 in the nation's greatest aeronautical disaster to date.</p> <p>1437—"Fleeing assassins, James I of Scotland enters a sewer under his tennis court. Blocked by a grate he had installed days earlier to prevent tennis ball loss, he's stabbed to death.</p>	<p>2006—Clarence Thomas asks a question—the last one for 10 years.</p> <p>2004—A Pentagon document leaks: climate change may spell doom.</p> <p>1994—The FBI arrests a spy: CIA officer Aldrich Ames.</p> <p>1974—Samuel Byck, planning to crash an airliner into the White House, carelessly shoots the pilot before takeoff. He's then shot dead, too.</p> <p>1967—Operation Junction City begins in Vietnam—largest U.S. offensive operation of the War.</p> <p>1966—Barry Bondhus dumps human digestive byproduct on draft files in Elk River, Minn. He gets 14 months.</p> <p>1965—<i>The New York Times</i> calls the late Malcolm X "an extraordinary and twisted man [who turned] many true gifts to evil purposes."</p> <p>1965—Gen. Westmoreland asks LBJ for Marines to protect the Danang airbase. Despite Ambassador Taylor's qualms, LBJ says "OK."</p> <p>1965—Sam Lovejoy cuts down a weather tower for a proposed nuke plant in Montague, Mass.</p> <p>1945—Rep. John Rankin [D-Miss.] calls Rep. Frank Hook [D-Mich.] a Communist, whereupon Hook calls Rankin a "God damned liar." Rankin, 63 and 140 lbs., attempts to punch out Hook, 52 and 195 lbs., to little effect.</p> <p>1838—Penn. amends its Constitution to take the vote from free Black men.</p> <p>1837—In the White House, Andy Jackson celebrates Washington's Birthday with a 1,400 pound cheese.</p>
<p>4:43 5:21</p>  <p>11:03 11:18</p>	<p>5:46 6:30</p>  <p>12:10</p>	<p>6:51 7:38</p>  <p>12:23 1:18</p>	<p>7:55 8:40</p>  <p>1:27 2:21</p>	<p>8:53 9:34</p>  <p>2:28 3:17</p>	<p>9:45 10:21</p>  <p>3:23 4:06</p>	<p>10:31 11:04</p>  <p>4:11 4:49</p>
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29
<p>2016—GOP Senators deny Obama's Supreme Court nominee a hearing.</p> <p>2008—Because one maintenance crew fails to warn another that humid air confuses its sensors, a \$1.4 billion B-2 bomber crashes in Guam.</p> <p>2004—Rod Paige, U.S. Sec. of Education, calls the nation's largest teachers union a "terrorist organization."</p> <p>1974—Days after presiding over his paper's 100th birthday, and owing mobsters thousands, <i>Oakland Tribune</i> owner and ex-Sen. William Knowland (R-Calif.) shoots himself dead.</p> <p>1971—Lt. William Calley confesses to mass murder, and says his CO, Capt. Ernest Medina, ordered it.</p> <p>1942—The huge [356-foot] Japanese submarine <i>I-17</i> fires more than a dozen 5.5 inch rounds at the Richmond oil refinery near Santa Barbara, Calif.</p> <p>1922—Henri Landru is executed in France for having 11 wives. (Hadn't he suffered enough?)</p> <p>1915—The First Amendment doesn't apply to movies, say the Supremes.</p> <p>1868—In Great Barrington, Mass., W.E.B. Du Bois is born.</p> <p>1836—The siege of the Alamo begins.</p> <p>1775—"Give me liberty, or give me death," says Patrick Henry — maybe.</p> <p>1669—Diarist Samuel Pepys, visiting Westminster Abbey with his family, kisses and fondles Katherine of Valois, interred more than 200 years earlier.</p> <p>1455—In Mainz, Germany, Johannes Gutenberg gets started on the world's first print big job. It's a Bible.</p>	<p>2001—"My plan reduces the national debt, and fast," says G.W.[MD] Bush, "...economists worry that we're going to run out of debt to retire."</p> <p>1989—On United Airlines Flight 811 from Honolulu to New Zealand, nine are sucked out a hole in the plane.</p> <p>1988—Larry Flynt's right to portray Jerry Falwell losing his virginity to his mother in an outhouse while intoxicated is upheld by SCOTUS.</p> <p>1988—At 1:17 a.m., Capitol police carry Sen. Robert Packwood (R-Ore.) into the Senate chamber feet first to make up a quorum.</p> <p>1942—Turned away from Istanbul, <i>MV Struma</i>, a decrepit hulk carrying 791 Jewish refugees, is torpedoed by a Soviet sub. Sole survivor David Stolar, 19, lives to be 91.</p> <p>1942—Anti-aircraft guns in Los Angeles fire 1,400 rounds at a weather balloon. Three are trampled to death in the resulting panic and dozens more are injured.</p> <p>1922—Lewis Vernon Harcourt, 1st Viscount Harcourt and former British Secretary of State for the Colonies, commits suicide rather than face exposure as a pederast.</p> <p>1912—On orders from mill owners, Lawrence, Mass. cops beat the hell out of women and children for trying to get on a train to Philadelphia.</p> <p>1836—Rep. and N.H. native Jonathan Cilley [D-Maine], is killed in the 3rd volley of a rifle duel by Rep. William Graves [Whig-Ky].</p>	<p>2011—"[A]ny future Defense Secretary who advises the President to again send a big American land army into Asia or into the Middle East or Africa should have his head examined," says Defense Sec. Gates.</p> <p>2003—Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki warns that Donald Rumsfeld's plan to occupy Iraq dramatically underestimates troop requirements.</p> <p>1968—"I do not believe Hanoi can hold up under a long war," says Gen. William Westmoreland.</p> <p>1953—Ike advises vigilance, lest communist teachers sneak propaganda into math problems.</p> <p>1913—The IWW's Paterson, N.J. strike begins; Concord, N.H.'s Elizabeth Gurley Flynn helps organize.</p> <p>1899—Londoner Edwin Sewell, 31, is the first driver to die in a wreck.</p> <p>1870—Erstwhile minister Hiram Rhodes Revels (R-Miss.) becomes the first black U.S. Senator.</p> <p>1837—In Vermont, Thomas Davenport is granted the first patent for an electric printing press.</p> <p>1836—Colt patents the six gun.</p> <p>1836—Joice Heth, formerly exhibited by P.T. Barnum as George Washington's 162 year-old "Mammy," is autopsied before 1,500 paying spectators in New York City, at Barnum's behest.</p> <p>1643—Under orders from the Governor of New Netherlands, 120 Wecqueageek Indians are murdered in their sleep at Pavonia, near present-day Hackensack.</p>	<p>2019—Wawarsing, N.Y. cop Harold Nunuvero leaps a fence to escape a charging fox, trips, falls, and shoots himself in the bulletproof vest.</p> <p>2015—Sen. James Inhofe [R-Okla.] proves global warming is a hoax—or perhaps something else—by brandishing a snowball in the Senate.</p> <p>2003—Saddam Hussein tells interviewer Dan Rather he would like to debate George W.[MD] Bush on TV.</p> <p>1993—A truck bomb explodes beneath the World Trade Center in NYC; 6 are dead, 1,000 injured.</p> <p>1991—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush admits the U.S. has been supporting the Khmer Rouge.</p> <p>1974—A Senate report finds close ties between Ford Motor Co. and Nazis.</p> <p>1972—Pittston Coal's cheap-jack dam on Buffalo Creek in West Virginia collapses killing 118, injuring 1,121, and leaving 5,000 homeless. The company ends up paying less than \$15,000 per casualty.</p> <p>1970—NPR incorporates.</p> <p>1954—A C-119 "Flying Boxcar" buzzes the Huntingdon, Tenn., courthouse, then crashes, killing four on board and injuring two on the ground.</p> <p>1906—Pianist and Bolshevik Nikolay Barenin, with 15 comrades, robs the Helsinki branch of the Russian State Bank to fund the Revolution.</p> <p>1860—Egged on by the local paper, whites massacre about 150 Wiyot Indians, mostly old men, women, and children, in Humboldt County, Calif.</p>	<p>2014—Senate Republicans block a bill to fund veterans health care because it would cost too much.</p> <p>2003—"[T]he notion that it will take several hundred thousand U.S. troops to provide stability in post-Saddam Iraq, [is] wildly off the mark," says student deferment recipient & Dep. Sec. of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.</p> <p>2001—Rep. David Vitter [R-La.] skips a House vote honoring 28 Desert Storm KIA's to take a call from the D.C. Madam.</p> <p>1986—Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos are chased out of the Philippines by their own people.</p> <p>1975—The FDA recalls a batch of 1,241 GE pacemakers—after they've all been implanted.</p> <p>1973—The American Indian Movement occupies Wounded Knee.</p> <p>1970—<i>The New York Times</i> reports that the U.S. Army no longer conducts illegal domestic surveillance; untrue then, and now.</p> <p>1968—Walter Cronkite says on the <i>CBS Nightly News</i> that "we are mired in stalemate" in Vietnam.</p> <p>1962—Renegade South Vietnamese pilots use U.S. planes to bomb Saigon's Presidential Palace.</p> <p>1938—Britain and France recognize Franco's fascist government.</p> <p>1933—Nazis burn the Reichstag and blame the Communies.</p> <p>1902—Australian Lieutenant Harry "Breaker" Morant says to his firing squad, "Shoot straight, you bastards."</p>	<p>2003—An ex-gay male escort begins attending White House press briefings with an official pass issued to him under the pseudonym "Jeff Gannon."</p> <p>1997—A blue dress becomes soiled.</p> <p>1997—Two heavily armed—and armored—men rob a North Hollywood, Calif. bank. Twelve police are wounded; the two robbers die.</p> <p>1993—The ATF bungles an assault on a heavily armed colony of religious wackos in Waco.</p> <p>1991—"By God," says George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush, "we've kicked the Vietnam Syndrome once and for all."</p> <p>1986—Ronald Reagan calls reporters "sons-of-bitches" for asking questions during a photo-op; press aide Larry Speakes explains he really said, "It's sunny and you're rich."</p> <p>1958—In New York, a first batch of 27 people die after drinking "King Kong" moonshine.</p> <p>1947—Taiwanese civilians riot over corruption. Koumintang forces respond by killing thousands.</p> <p>1921—The Kronstadt Rebellion against bolshevism begins in Russia. "Shoot them down like partridges," orders Leon Trotsky.</p> <p>1893—Birth of Ben Hecht, author of <i>The Front Page</i>.</p> <p>1877—The U.S. seizes the Black Hills, in violation of a treaty.</p> <p>1854—A group of political activists meet in Ripon, Wis., and may or may not found the GOP.</p>	<p>2016—CBS chief Les Moonves says the presidential race is a "circus," but Trump's candidacy is "good for us economically." It "may not be good for America," he admits, "but it's damn good for CBS.... The money's rolling in, this is fun."</p> <p>1972—Columnist Jack Anderson reports that ITT "donated" \$400,000 to the Republican Party in exchange for a favorable Justice Department ruling.</p> <p>1968—The National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, aka the Kerner Commission, concludes that the U.S. is "moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal."</p> <p>1960—JFK proclaims a fake "missile gap" during his presidential campaign.</p> <p>1940—Hattie McDaniel wins a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her performance as "Mammy" in <i>Gone With the Wind</i>. She's made to sit in the back of the room, though.</p> <p>1924—Charles R. Forbes, head of the Veterans Bureau, is indicted for defrauding the federal government out of \$250 million.</p> <p>1704—French Canadians and Indians, seeking a church bell stolen by a profiteer, massacre 47 settlers in Deerfield, Mass.</p> <p>1692—The first accusations of witchcraft are lodged in Salem, Mass.</p> <p>1504—Chris. Columbus uses his knowledge of an impending eclipse to defraud Jamaicans of supplies.</p> <p>468—Death of Pope Hilarius.</p>
<p>11:12 11:42</p>  <p>4:54 5:27</p>	<p>11:51</p>  <p>5:34 6:03</p>	<p>12:17 12:27</p>  <p>6:11 6:36</p>	<p>12:51 1:02</p>  <p>6:47 7:09</p>	<p>1:23 1:37</p>  <p>7:24 7:43</p>	<p>1:57 2:15</p>  <p>8:03 8:19</p>	<p>2:33 2:56</p>  <p>8:44 8:59</p>



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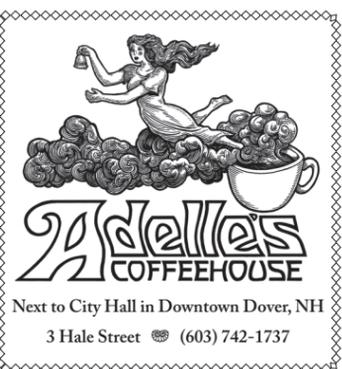


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