

*The Fortnightly Rant***A Chronicle of Deaths Foretold**

Well, well, whaddya know? In hindsight it seems the best investment opportunity of 2019 would have been packing a storage unit full of small bottles of hand sanitizer. Formerly the most mundane of items, these have now attained the status of fetish objects. Naturally, those who had already been favored by the Invisible Hand of the Market® have been exercising their Constitutional right to deploy their disproportionate share of fungible assets however they please, and have been acquiring them at any cost.

The shortage inspired Governor Andrew Cuomo to order New York's manufacture its own brand of hand sanitizer, to be provided free of charge to school districts and municipalities. He can afford to do that because the stuff is being made by inmates who get paid sixty-two cents an hour,* and are barred from having soap in their cells.

New York's Attorney General slapped a cease-and-desist order on Man of God and convicted felon Jim Bakker on Monday, telling him to quit claiming his Silver Solution™ will probably clear your system of Covid-19 in a matter of hours. The AG herself may be contributing to the problem. Drinking enough of that stuff will turn your skin ashen gray, then blue—guaran-

* That rate is unchanged since 1993, when Cuomo's father was Governor. David C. Fathi, Director of the ACLU's National Prison Project, told *The Gothamist's* J.B. Nicholas in 2017, "Convicted prisoners can be forced to work for any or no amount of money, and they can be disciplined for refusing to work." Prisoners are not allowed to form unions, Fathi added, and neither are they protected by federal or state minimum-wage laws. Nor do prisoners have a right to workers' compensation if they are injured on the job." New Hampshire pays from \$0.25 to \$1.50 for "regular (non-industry) jobs," and from \$0.50 to \$1.50 for jobs in state-owned businesses, i.e., "correctional industries." [*PrisonPolicy.org*.]

teed to keep people at a safe distance.

On March 5th, Rick Santelli—who shot to fame eleven years ago by inspiring the Tea Party with a trading-floor rant blaming the financial collapse on people so ill-informed that they fell for the lies told by crooked mortgage brokers and rah-rah pundits like himself—expressed his dismay that a pending global pandemic was messing with his numbers.

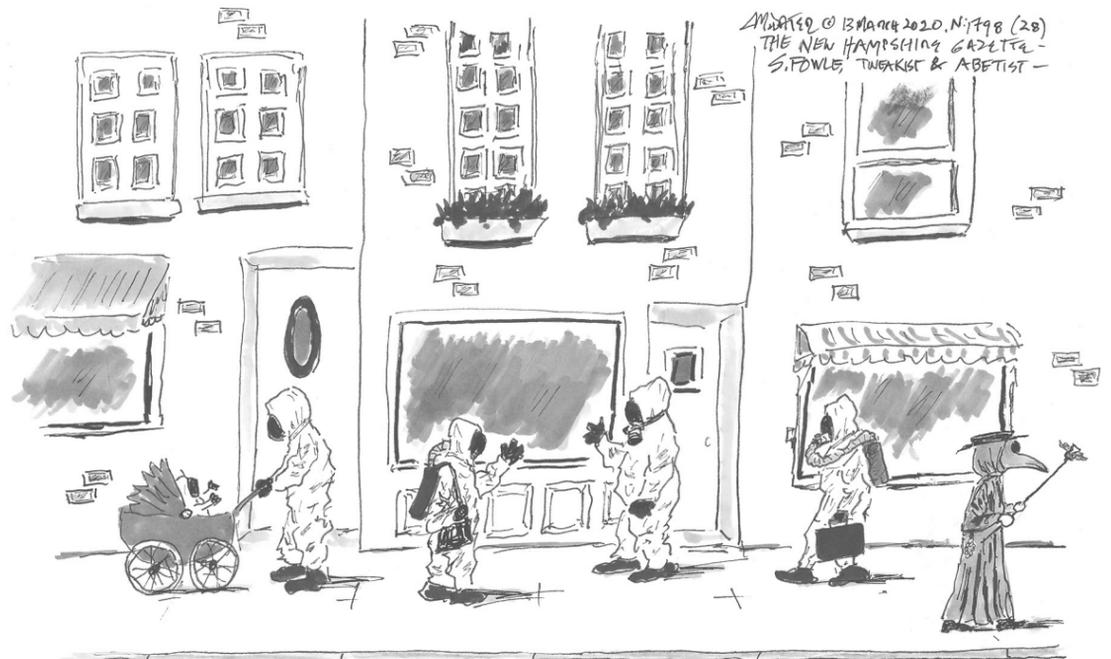
"Maybe we'd be just better off," he whined, "if we gave [the virus] to everybody, and then in a month it would be over because the mortality rate of [Covid-19] probably isn't going to be any different if we did it that way than [in] the long-term picture, but the difference is we're wreaking havoc on global and domestic economies."

[*At this point, late on Wednesday, the Editor, returning to the Rant after pattering around with the Alleged News for a day and a half, makes the mistake of hitting Twitter.*]

What the hell? Did Trump just fire Pence and put Santelli in charge of the pandemic response? Kushner? Oh, God—that's worse. And Stephen Miller?

Of course—now that story in Tuesday morning's *Miami Herald* makes sense: immigration courts across the country received orders to take down posters, produced by the CDC, giving instructions on how to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Thank the gods they don't know any history, or they'd be passing out smallpox blankets.

Of course, if this were a functioning society, the emergence of Covid-19 would result in the nearly immediate adoption of what Aisha Alexander [@AishaThinker] called for Monday: healthcare for all, paid family leave for all, and paid sick leave for all. But, then, if this were a



JUST ANOTHER DAY IN AMERICA, 2020

functioning society, we'd have had all that already.

Meanwhile Rich Lowry, of the *National Review*, proudly representing the Uncivil Wing of the Republican Party, has joined with a number of sitting Members of Congress who insist on calling Covid-19 "The Wuhan Virus." Gotta earn those racist points where you can.

[*Insert boilerplate disclaimer here: not wishing potentially-fatal illness on anyone, not even those whom you loathe the most.*]

The Conservative Political Action Conference went off as scheduled, February 26th through 29th, when Covid-19 was "still just a hoax." It's like Coachella, but for the terminally uptight. Our germophobic President and gynophobic Vice President both went, as did now-former Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney. A video clip shows Mulvaney coughing, wiping his mouth with bare hands, and shaking hands with chronically-wrong economist Stephen Moore.

Considerable attention is now

being paid to certain Members of Congress who attended: which ones are self-quarantining, which ones are going around wearing comically-huge gas masks to "own the libs," and so forth. Given the average age of our Republican statesmen, the rate at which this pestilence is spreading, and the difficulty of preventing infection, it's only a matter of time before one of them... receives a lot of media attention he would not have sought in life.

For every anti-government, Trump-enabling, elected official we lose, with a solemn media send-off, we're bound to lose hundreds, and probably thousands, of anonymous but useful citizens. As in life, so in death.

The World Health Organization finally declared a pandemic Wednesday. We look forward to learning whether that triggers the payout of the World Bank's controversial high interest pandemic bonds. A total of \$425 million worth were issued in 2017, and come due in July. The catch is, if there's a pan-

demic, you lose your principal. Presumably the dividends stop as well. Aaron Brown claimed in *Bloomberg News* that they're "precisely the right solution for two big problems: funding a pandemic threat response and improving the financial health of underfunded pension plans." Not being financial geniuses, we don't understand how losing its principal helps a pension fund. What we can see, however, is a \$425-million disincentive for declaring a pandemic. Nor do we understand why, in 2018, when Ebola hit the Congo, the bonds didn't pay off. Something in the fine print, we presume.

Wednesday night the nation's #1 washed-up reality TV star, looking rather sickly, announced his latest series of mistakes. How strange, that the fate of so many people should rest in the little-bitty mitts of a man who is fixated on hugeness, yet so petty he thinks this is all about him—and who may be brought down himself by a microorganism so tiny that 17 million would fit on the head of a pin.

*The Alleged News®***The Other Pandemic; Our Home-Grown Stasi; &c.**

Want to get your mind off what may be the worst pandemic in a century? You've come to the right place. Unfortunately we have nothing particularly encouraging to report. We can, however, offer different varieties of distress. Let's start off with the other pandemic—the one you haven't heard about.

Researchers led by Dutch scientist Johannes Lelieveld* and German cardiologist Thomas Münzel set out to learn how many people are killed by air pollution every year. They just published their results in the journal *Cardiovascular Research*. The short answer: about 8.8 million.

Lelieveld told the European Society of Cardiology, "It is remarkable

* Lelieveld is a real scientist, not some industry stooge hired to appear on Fox News. He's Director of the Atmospheric Chemistry Department at the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz, Germany.

that both the number of deaths and the loss in life expectancy from air pollution rival the effect of tobacco smoking and are much higher than other causes of death. Air pollution exceeds malaria as a global cause of premature death by a factor of 19; it exceeds violence by a factor of 16, HIV/AIDS by a factor of 9, alcohol by a factor of 45, and drug abuse by a factor of 60.

"Since the impact of air pollution on public health overall is much larger than expected," Münzel said, "and is a worldwide phenomenon, we believe our results show there is an 'air pollution pandemic.' Policy-makers and the medical community should be paying much more attention to this. Both air pollution and smoking are preventable, but over the past decades much less attention has been paid to air pol-

lution than to smoking, especially among cardiologists.

"In this paper we distinguished between avoidable, human-made air pollution and pollution from natural sources such as desert dust and wildfire emissions, which cannot be avoided. We show that about two-thirds of premature deaths are attributable to human-made air pollution, mainly from fossil fuel use; this goes up to 80 percent in high-income countries. Five and a half million deaths worldwide a year are potentially avoidable.

"It is important that policy-makers and the medical community realize that air pollution is an important risk factor for heart and blood vessel disease."

By our calculation, with 7.8 billion people on earth and air pollution costing each one three years of

life, that's a cumulative theft of 23.4 billion years of life. That's impressive, considering that the universe is only 13.8 billion years old.

Given the political impotence of the fossil fuel industry, and the alacrity with which the world's governmental bodies respond to the needs of their citizens, we expect to see rapid action taken to address this pressing issue.

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**Meet the New Stasi...**

There used to be an organization in this country called The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, or ACORN. At one time, according to *Wikipedia*, it had "over 500,000 members and more than 1,200 neighborhood chapters in over 100 cities across the U.S., as well as groups in Argentina, Canada, Mexico, and Peru." The organization

was a "collection of autonomous community-based organizations that advocated for low- and moderate-income families by working on neighborhood safety, voter registration, health care, affordable housing, and other social issues"—so, clearly a dire threat to public safety.

A young Rutgers grad named James O'Keefe, and an accomplice, Hannah Giles, through the use of ludicrous costumes, secretly-recorded videos, and deceptive editing, made it appear as if ACORN personnel were encouraging criminal behavior. The videos were then released on Andrew Breitbart's propaganda site, *BigGovernment.com*. This weaponized smear was thus available for use by any Right

**The Alleged News®**  
from page one

Winger who felt like attacking a remarkably effective community organization. After all—how dare these people demonstrate the effectiveness of individuals working together? That’s an outrageous assault on the nuclear family, each one of which just happens to require its own automobile, refrigerator, freezer, flat screen TV, lawn mower, leaf blower, and, if they know what’s good for them, a classroom blackboard and church-approved encyclopedia for the home-schooled, un-vaccinated kids.

As it turned out, the nation’s belfries were full of people eager to believe that ACORN was the Fifth International. Many of them understood exactly how the media game could be played—which is more than you can say for ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, or MSNBC. Soon it was impossible to turn on the news without seeing O’Keefe’s rodent-like face. True to Twain’s dictum, the lie went around the world before the truth got its boots on. In about a year, ACORN in the U.S. was history. Mission accomplished.

O’Keefe calls his enterprise—or

grift, if we skip the euphemism—Project Veritas, because it’s the height of fashion to call something the opposite of what it truly is, and nothing is more pretentious than Latin. While it continues to operate, it has had little impact. Its problem may be in its business model: firing at targets which don’t exist, e.g., its 2012 campaign against voter fraud in New Hampshire.

According to a story in last Sunday’s *New York Times*, the oligarchy’s welfare system for propagandists is trying to help out. Erik Prince, of Blackwater infamy, has become O’Keefe’s recruiter. Using connections he forged during his career as a mercenary and war profiteer, he’s hiring ex-spies, British and U.S.-icans, to assist O’Keefe and his minions. They’re not just infiltrating groups trying to clean up neighborhoods, though. They’re “infiltrating Democratic congressional campaigns, labor organizations and other groups considered hostile to the Trump agenda....”

Since Prince is Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos’s baby brother, it should come as no surprise that “[one] of the former spies, an ex-MI6 officer named Richard Seddon, helped run a 2017 operation to copy



*“In Memory of Geoffrey B. Coughlin—Writer, Poet, Musician, and good friend to all.” Has it really been nearly 12 years? City workers installed a new bench in Market Square a fortnight ago, bearing a plaque in honor of an exemplary human being.*

files and record conversations in a Michigan office of the American Federation of Teachers, one of the largest teachers’ unions in the nation. Mr. Seddon directed an undercover operative to secretly tape the union’s local leaders and try to gather information that could be made public to damage the organization....”

Just last month O’Keefe successfully hatched ABC’s David Wright, who was suspended for his comments on a video shot at the Doubletree in beautiful downtown Manchester, N.H.

According to a transcript, Wright said, “We’re not disciplined enough to cut [Trump] off and we second-guess ourselves because we’re sensitive to the accusation that we’re in the tank for the Democrats. And so that enables them, and so we enable them. And every time we take the bait on it and that’s what he wants.”

“It’s totally an abusive relationship. He’s [Trump is] the nightmare spouse that you can’t win an argument with.”

The interrogator asks, “Why don’t

you like him?” Wright answers, “Cause he’s a dick.”

Suspended for that? Clearly, ABC News can’t handle the truth.

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**The Prayer Corner**

These times are pretty stressful. Many people seem to find religion a comfort. It’s not exactly our *métier*, but we can steer readers to an uplifting item in March 7th’s *New York Post*.

Larry Getlen reviewed Marcello Stanzione’s *The Devil is Afraid of Me: The Life and Work of the World’s Most Famous Exorcist*. He includes an excerpt in which “a young, slim peasant man was escorted into the small room” where Father Gabriele Amorth conducted his exorcisms in Rome. Amorth, the founder of the International Association of Exorcists, “felt immediately confronted by evil.”

We’ll cut to the chase, here:

“Unclean spirit!’ Amorth bel-lowed. ‘Whoever you are and all your companions who possess this servant of God...I command you: Tell me your name, the day and the

hour of your damnation.’

“The man fixed him with a glare and snarled: ‘I am Lucifer.’

“Amorth was shocked.”

We were shocked, too, when, the very next day, Max von Sydow, who played Father Lankester Merrin in “The Exorcist,” died.

Oh, dear. That wasn’t much help after all, was it....

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**Let’s Worry About Bolivian Elections!**

Perhaps we can find solace by poking our noses in someone else’s troubles. Let’s try Bolivia.

Internationally-minded readers will recall that Evo Morales, the first indigenous President of that country, won a controversial election last October. Every story about the election on NPR seemed to mention that country’s term limits, making it appear that Morales was flouting the law. If a ruling which threw out that term limit was brought up, the Supreme Court of Justice making the ruling was itself denigrated.

Did we mention that Morales is a socialist? Perhaps that isn’t necessary; the tone of the coverage would

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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.

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— Joe Keefe

have made that obvious. Despite his adherence to that scandalous brand of politics, the poverty rate in Bolivia has dropped by 25 percent since his inauguration in 2006, while extreme poverty dropped by 45 percent. The *Financial Times*—hardly a Marxist rag—called Morales, “one of the world’s most popular leaders.”

Clearly, here was cause for concern. Never fear, though—the U.S. corporate media, empowered by the Monroe Doctrine, never sleeps.

Jeff Mackler and Lazaro Monteverde describe recent events in “Bolivia: Anatomy of a Coup,” published at *CounterPunch.org* on November 29, 2019. It begins,

On Sunday, October 20 Evo Morales was re-elected president of Bolivia with 46.85 per cent of the vote against his nearest competitor, Carlos Mesa, who received 36.74 percent. In anticipation of a Morales victory the U.S. corporate media launched a fake news disinformation barrage nine days earlier aimed at discrediting the result and setting the stage for a well-orchestrated fascist-led coup. Presented to the world as a popular democratic revolution against a dictator, the coup was led by fascist groups in alliance with Bolivia’s defecting police and army. The relentless media watchdog, *Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR)*, aptly reported: “The New York Times’ editorial (No-

vember 11, 2019) accused Morales of ‘brazenly abusing the power and institutions put in his care by the electorate. The Washington Post (November 11, 2019) alleged that ‘a majority of Bolivians wanted [Morales] to leave office’—a claim for which they provided no evidence—while asserting that he had ‘grown increasingly autocratic’ and that ‘his downfall was his insatiable appetite for power.’ The Wall Street Journal (November 11, 2019) argued that Morales ‘is a victim of his own efforts to steal another election,’ saying that Morales ‘has rigged the rules time and again to stay in power.’ FAIR’s corporate media accounting goes on to list several major media outlets in the country that dutifully sang the same song. Not a single major daily challenged these baseless accusations. These “manufacturing consent” specialists were unanimous in denouncing Morales and his re-election long before the votes were tallied. The Bolivian coup was conceived as a relatively quiet U.S.-supported regime change endeavor in comparison to the overt and monstrous full court failed coup that U.S. imperialism conducted against the Venezuelan government of Nicholas Maduro several months earlier.

After the votes were tallied, it was the Organization of American States’ turn. It audited the Bolivian election, and turned up its nose.



Thus emboldened, anti-Morales forces coalesced to hound him out of the country. Police units charged with protecting Morales left him unguarded; Jeanine Áñez, an opposition senator, graciously agreed to take his place. During these extra-Constitutional machinations, tut-tutting from the U.S. corporate media was...subdued.

On Tuesday, the Center for Economic and Policy Research [CEPR] turned the table on the OAS and audited its audit of the Bolivian election.

CEPR found that while the OAS regularly organizes observation missions which are generally conducted in a relatively impartial and professional way, “the OAS’s observation activities in Bolivia’s 2019 general elections are the latest example of a deeply problematic observation mis-

sion whose dishonest, biased, and unprofessional conduct has caused serious damage to the country’s democracy.”

According to CEPR, “the OAS has alleged that serious irregularities occurred during the vote count...with the implication that there was deliberate manipulation of the results that changed the final outcome. In previous papers, we have shown how the very data on which the OAS based its initial allegations clearly contradicted these allegations. Jack Williams and John Curiel, two researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Election Data and Science Lab, have replicated our findings, and concluded that ‘we cannot find results that would lead [...] to the same conclusion as the OAS.’”

Surprise, surprise: one day after

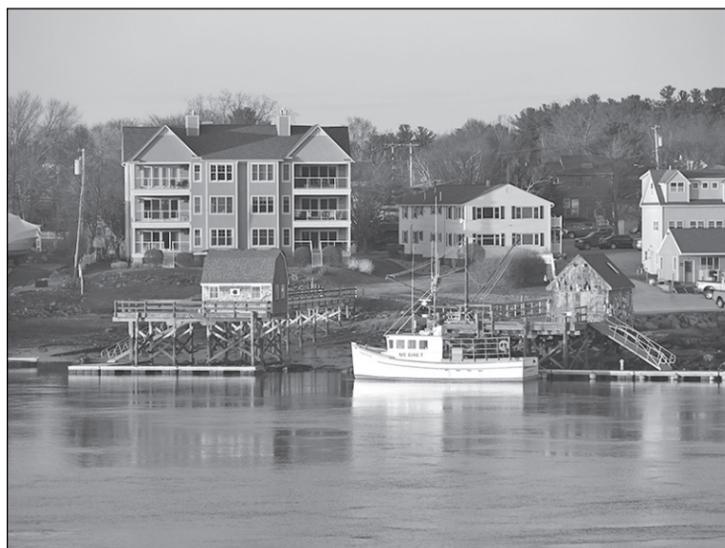
taking office, President Áñez recognized Juan Guaidó as acting president of Venezuela. Guaidó declared himself President of Venezuela in January, 2019, but hasn’t been able to make it stick. Locked out of the National Assembly, at last report he was trying to gin up streets protests.

**The View From Pyongyang**

This just in from our good friends at @DPRK\_News: “Time change’ is western population control measure, in which unneeded humans are killed through depression and illness in winter, and by sleep-induced automobile accidents in springtime.”

**See You Next Fortnight?**

These times are fraught; the future is uncertain. We aim to go on, but if you don’t see us on the streets, look for us at *NHGazette.com*.



The rays of a setting sun cast their glow on a boat, hinting of the promise of warmer days to come.

**Murph’s Fortnightly Quote**  
 “Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history.”  
 — Dwight Eisenhower (1890-1969)

“With breathtaking rapidity, we are destroying all that was lovely to look at and turning America into a prison house of the spirit. The affluent society, with relentless single-minded energy, is turning our cities, most of suburbia and most of our roadways into the most affluent slum on earth.”  
 — Eric Sevareid  
 john@wordpraxis.com

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 — Attributed to Ghandi  
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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**Medicare 4 All**

To the Editors:

“Medicare for all, as a human right” — what a wonderful idea. But we hear so many opinions of how much it will cost and how we will pay for it.

The cost should be determined by negotiating the reimbursement rates for services and procedures that will keep all facilities and providers solvent. This needs to realize that private insurance reimburses at rates that average 2.41 times the current Medicare rates. [1] Also, these negotiated rates must be such that facilities and providers that have shut down due to red states’ unwillingness to accept Medicaid expansion [2], [3], [4], [5] will be able to re-open. We will need all the medical help we can enlist in our battle to improve health outcomes and lower our overall costs. And we should include in our estimate an allowance for an increase in demand. This is the only way to accurately estimate the cost of a successful program such as this — and we will have to continually adjust cost projections based on experience.

Only when we have a fact-based estimate of the cost of “Medicare for all,” can we decide how we are going to pay for it.

I find the proponents of “Medicare for all” remiss in providing cost figures and payment plans that do not follow this methodology, and I worry that the uncertainty that the various candidates espouse—both as arguments for and against “Medicare for all”—will cause voters not to vote, or worse yet, vote for a candidate that does not support “Medicare for all.”

It would be a shame and a disgrace if we were not able to institute a single-payer, universal health insurance plan at a time when we are being told how wonderful the economy is, don’t you think?

[1] <https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2019/05/13/hospital-prices-rand>

[2] <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/10/29/more-rural-hospitals-closing-in-states-refusing-medic-aid-coverage-expansion/>

[3] <https://www.statnews.com/2018/01/08/medicaid-hospital-clo->

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[4] <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2019/07/rural-hospitals-are-shutting-down-in-states-that-didnt-expand-medicaid/>

[5] <https://www.gq.com/story/rural-hospitals-closing-in-red-states>

Paul Cully  
Dover, N.H.

Paul:

*The first item which ought to be tallied—in our allegedly humble opinion—is the full cost of not having Medicare for All. As with our so-called “Defense Budget,” though—which generally leaves out such trifles as a) the cost of veterans health care, b) lost productivity ensuing from participation in crackpot wars, and c) interest payments on money borrowed to conduct said crackpot wars—we’re not optimistic that such an accounting will be forthcoming.*

The Editor

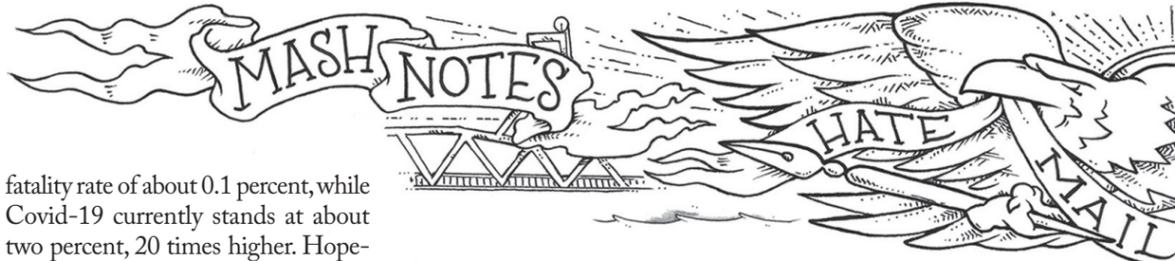
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**Corona Virus: Immune to Lying Bullies**

Dear Sir:

America is possibly dealing with a perfect storm, a novel Corona virus that spreads easily from person to person, with a case fatality rate currently at about 2 percent, and an incompetent, anti-science Administration in charge of the public health response. This was clearly on display when Mr. Trump, during his recent press conference, demonstrated his ignorance about basic science, disagreed with his public health officials, attacked political opponents and the press, and appointed Mike Pence to lead the federal government’s response to this potentially catastrophic situation.

Mr. Trump was shocked to learn that influenza kills between 25 and 69 thousand Americans every year, even with a vaccine, while a vaccine for Covid-19 is at least a year away. This is something most people are aware of, and you would expect a person in his position to know it, or at least not openly demonstrate his ignorance by saying it was news to him. He tried to use this information to downplay the Covid-19 disease impact, saying that this new disease is nothing worse than the flu. Unfortunately, that may be very wishful thinking. Influenza has a case



fatality rate of about 0.1 percent, while Covid-19 currently stands at about two percent, 20 times higher. Hopefully this number will come down as the epidemiology of the disease is more clearly understood, and we see that there may be many asymptomatic or mild cases that are currently not being counted.

Placing Mike Pence in charge of the response is very troubling. Mr. Pence has no medical or public health training or experience. As Governor of Indiana, he helped the spread of a large HIV outbreak in his state, by refusing to approve a needle exchange program to stem the epidemic. It appears that Mr. Pence’s major role in leading the federal response is to control the information that is disseminated by federal health agencies like the CDC and NIH. Mr. Trump is so concerned that the stock market is reacting negatively to the Covid-19 news, fearing that it could hurt him politically, that he very much wants to control the message in as positive a way as possible, even if it may not be fully accurate. In fact, the driving force behind Mr. Trump’s having the news conference and appointing Pence, was mostly due to the stock markets’ large losses in response to the Covid-19, not public health.

What Mr. Trump seems not to understand is that a virus cannot be bullied like he bullies anyone who stands up to him. This virus will only respond to the laws of nature, and do what is necessary for it to survive and propagate. Political games, lies, distortions, cover ups, personal attacks, and cronyism will have no influence on how this virus works, except to possibly enable it to be more lethal. This virus will exploit every opportunity that politicians give it by placing political considerations above science, like when Mr. Trump eliminated key National Security Agency staff dealing with global pandemics, and cut the CDC’s global pandemic surveillance, including in

China, by 80 percent. Now we will pay the price for those decisions.

Rich DiPentima, BA, BSN, MPH  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

*Regarding the President displaying his ignorance, you wouldn’t expect him to look directly at the sun, either, but we’ve all seen the photo.*

The Editor

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**Corruption Is The New Normal**

Dear Editor:

Is it possible Donald Trump, and the Republican Party he seems to have successfully hijacked, have, together, made corruption the political “norm” in the United States? I’m asking for a friend.

Joel Stein (*Los Angeles Times*) asked a similar question. “Why did President Trump pardon a rogue’s gallery of white-collar criminals?” Stein went on to state; “many people assume he commuted former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich’s sentence and pardoned junk bond king Michael Milken, tax cheat Bernard Kerik, and others, simply because they were friends or because he owed them a favor.”

In Trump’s world view (which we Americans have witnessed with our own eyes and ears), cheating is neither here nor there, it’s irrelevant, and these white collar crooks he pardoned had been unfairly persecuted for doing what everybody else does: it’s no big deal.

Blagojevich is calling himself a “political prisoner,” even though he was caught, among other crimes, demanding that the CEO of a children’s hospital give his campaign \$50,000, or see its public funding cut off.

Stein states succinctly in layman’s terms, “it’s clear who benefits from accepting corruption as normal and inevitable—the strongmen trampling

democracy around the globe.”

Clearly Donald Trump fits that genre; in fact, it’s not only characteristic of Trump, he excels at it. In Trump’s world (and that of those he surrounds himself), truth is inconsequential, totally unimportant. Conversely Trump seems to take extraordinary pride in his own lies, the number and severity of which are legend.

It was a severe blow to our system of checks and balances that Trump remained in office following his impeachment, dodging justice by disregarding the Constitution and refusing to comply with subpoenas.

Our government’s inability to oversee the Executive Branch, coupled with Trump’s disdain for truth and justice, has substantially crippled our government and contributed significantly to making corruption normal and acceptable. This is a severe threat to our most fundamental institutions and to the very foundations of our democracy.

By remaining silent, or by supporting Donald Trump in any way, shape or form, we become (either knowingly or unwittingly) accomplices, co-conspirators in the devaluing and ultimate death of America’s most cherished and treasured moral standards and guiding principles. Are you willing to let that happen? God help us.

David L. Snell  
Franklin, N.C.

====

**God’s Unholy Spokesperson Weighs In**

To the Editor:  
I think the coronavirus is God’s political contribution to the Democratic Party. What a sick ward of contenders for the White House! It is no surprise to see a man’s male wife, a carpetbagging career politician, a communist, a socialists [sic] and assorted *quid pro*

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quo spendthrifts growing in the Democratic Party's presidential petri-dish. They should all be quarantined indefinitely!

The petries call President Trump a racist and unfit for office for doing what he promised the American people he would do if elected President, while doing nothing themselves in the House but trying to undo his election for their own personal benefit.

President Trump is no saint; except when compared to his gun-grabbing anti-life tax and tax democratic rivals (and Mitt Romney on an off day).

Sincerely,  
Michael W. Jarvis  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Michael:  
Thank you for reminding us once again why we're proud to be the antithesis of a Trump supporter.

The Editor

====

**So You Think Pres. Trump Has Your Back?**  
An Open Letter to Mr. Jerry Flynn (Executive Director, New England Police Benevolent Association):

Dear Mr. Flynn,

As you well know, Portsmouth is, and has for a long time now, been a welcoming city for both visitors and new residents alike. Despite occasional disagreements, we remain a city that gives everyone some joy and happiness for just being here (perhaps there is something in the water). That is why I was very disappointed with you and your organization's event, held recently in Portsmouth, which brought rudeness and vitriol to our city on behalf of President Trump. Surely, you know that most residents of our city are not supporters of the President. Not because we hate him, but because he has promoted hateful and divisive messages nationwide, and because we ques-

tion his abilities and fitness to serve as our President. It is hard to respect a President who almost daily disrespects most Americans.

In addition, your personal attacks on one of our most respected local office-holders, Police Commissioner Joe Onosko, was quite an arrogant affront. His suggestion to you, that with the current politically polarized atmosphere in the country, a presidential endorsement by a law enforcement organization might not be beneficial to your union's membership, was good advice and not meant to be insulting. After all, if residents of our city feel that, despite the oath that our officers take, their first loyalty is the President and not the rule of law, this would surely generate significant mistrust of our police department in our city. Most of us still believe, that no one is above the law, including the President.

To call for Mr. Onosko's censure and resignation was outrageous. Just in case you are unaware, here in Portsmouth we choose our Police Commissioners, and they are the ones to oversee the police department, not the other way around.

I would also like to comment on the language that you used both at your press conference and in your opinion piece. Some examples were: disrespectful and untruthful comments about President Obama and Vice President Biden—"law enforcement is under attack," "previous administrations sat silent when important issues of law enforcement arose," their administration "was predicated on hate and divisiveness and glorified street thugs," (these comments are untruthful and seem more appropriate to President Trump, who behaves this way daily on Twitter and in public). Your comments about Mr. Onosko are equally insulting and untruthful—"his

vile attempt to browbeat union members, and use fabricated anti-police rhetoric is a violation of our union's freedom of speech." No, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Onosko's comments did not include such threats and in fact underscored your right to freedom of speech (as well as his).

Reading your comments, however, brought back flashbacks to me of the good-old bad days of corrupt union leaders nationwide who had strong ties to the mafia. Your words were the same kind of rhetoric that was used by those union bosses back then to intimidate and believably threaten those they did not agree with.

I don't think it is a good idea, in any country for law enforcement or the military to make presidential endorsements. Of course, as the executive director, you have the right to make that decision. But you should keep in mind that law enforcement is critically dependent on the trust and good-will of those they serve, and losing that trust could undermine much good work done.

In fact, in some communities such action could indeed put officers in greater danger. Here in Portsmouth, because of the good work done by Police Chief Merner and his staff, we are currently enjoying a very good relationship between the community and the police department. However, if we were to discover that a majority of our police employees have a greater loyalty to the President, than they do to their community, mistrust would increase.

In countries where this happens, societies have seen military dictators and authoritarian leaders take over the government and ignore the rule of law. My family and I have lived in such a country. If law enforcement organizations give the President a pass when it comes to enforcing the law (e.g. would they arrest him, if he shot someone on 5th Avenue in N.Y.C.?), then we must seriously question why this country

fought a revolution against a dictator/king? Perhaps President Trump harbors such authoritarian ambitions, when we see him trying to be a buddy to dictators in North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Russia?

I sincerely hope that our local political leaders, i.e. city councilors, police commission members and others, will push back against any attacks on Commissioner Onosko and underscore that here in Portsmouth we plan to enforce the rule of law, and that our law enforcement deserves the trust of our community.

In light of your law enforcement responsibilities, Mr. Flynn, just consider some of President Trump's actions to date: blatantly telling falsehoods, almost daily, threatening witnesses involved in trials that could affect him, witness tampering attempts to offer pardons for those who protect him and his actions, issuing threats against judges who are hearing relevant cases, attempting to intervene in the sentencing recommendations from the Department of Justice for those he considers his allies, and denouncing jurors who decided against a case of interest to him. Such actions, if undertaken by regular citizens, would result in arrest by law enforcement, prosecution, and prison sentences. So how, Mr. Flynn, can your organization endorse someone involved in such actions?

Finally, I am also disappointed that Governor Sununu and former Senator Ayotte shared the stage with you and associated themselves with your self-serving and outrageous comments.

Rep. Peter Somssich,  
34 Swett Ave. Portsmouth, N.H. 03801  
tel. 603-436-5382 (h)

====

**What Next?**

To the Editor:

The current Washington scene raises the question: *What's Next?????* Mandatory classes to learn the marching goosetstep in cadence with a "Hail Trumpster" chant, and one hand raised approximately 45 degrees, palm down???

The current resident at 1600 Penn-

sylvania Ave. is using some of the same tactics that ruined Germany prior to WW II and are still used by modern-day dictators around the world.

The word *freedom* encompasses many things. Lying, cheating, and corruption are among the few not included. Bowing to a false idol, constantly tooting his horn and bragging "How Great I Am!!!" are enough to cause a sensible person to toss his/her cookies.

Wesley Keep  
Whitefield, Maine  
Wesley:  
*We feel your dyspepsia.*  
The Editor

====

**A Call for Impartial Elections**

To the Editor:

Superdelegates. Cancelled primaries. Closed pollsites. Caucus counts gone awry. When the electoral process itself becomes an issue, something's gone badly wrong. Primaries and caucuses serve the state purpose of nominating a field of candidates. Political parties are not disinterested regarding that state purpose. The Supreme Court has held that governing the nominations process is the state's responsibility, stressing that granting a party power to control a primary is the state's decision, not the party's (*New York State Board of Elections v Lopez Torres*, 552 US 196 [2008]). Ballot lines are public property. While parties can endorse, only states can nominate.

But every state still grants parties control of ballot lines. Each state's dominant party appoints election officers and decides primary process. Ballot access is by party. National party conventions then throw out all states' results, using solely their own votes to decide "their" ballot lines. Party even determines access to general-election debates.

And every state still grants parties power to nominate its Electoral College electors; some let parties appoint them outright.

Political parties are private corporate entities, not accountable to voters, members or donors. The

*Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.*

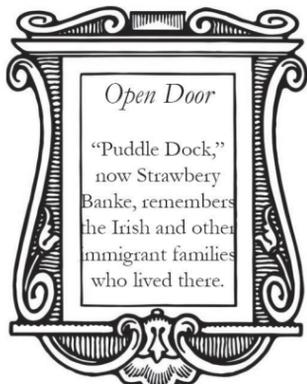
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*The Northcountry Chronicle***Panic, Inc.**

by William Marvel

Isn't it strange how the same population reacts to different crises, regarding some of the worst potential threats with virtual indifference but recoiling in horror from lesser dangers. A cynic might conclude that the proportionality of public reaction to any emergency directly reflects the degree of media attention, rather than the actual peril. The intensity of news coverage has its own direct effect on events, as the phenomenon of copycat crimes best illustrates. School shootings, for example, remained relatively uncommon until Columbine, which attracted a media frenzy that helped launch a generation of similar crimes, each of which received intense attention that kept the cycle going.

Just as the television performers who pose as weather experts attract viewers with dire warnings about this month's "storm of the century," news outlets hunger for stories of tragedy or terror to secure

the attention of their audiences. If nothing better arises, the possibility of a potentially lethal and highly communicable disease is always sure to grasp public attention, especially if it can be associated with political shortcomings or the failure of medical systems. Cue the dazed orphans and the weeping parents, burying their dead.

Five and a half years ago, a serious outbreak of the Ebola virus erupted in extreme West Africa. By September 5, 2014, some 1,900 people had died from it; by the end of September, that number had doubled, and one case had reached Dallas. On October 14, the World Health Organization counted 4,447 deaths from the epidemic, estimating the fatality rate for Ebola as high as 70 percent. Containment seemed to be the best preventive measure, with travelers from the affected region tested frequently and quarantined.

The case in Dallas caused some concern, especially when a nurse who had been infected by that patient hopped on a plane for Ohio.

Still, calm prevailed. In fact, the media seemed to decide that the real Ebola news story was how ridiculous it was to worry about it. A Maine nurse who had volunteered to treat Ebola patients in West Africa defied Governor LePage's request that she observe a quarantine period when she returned, or even have herself tested again. In order to show the governor who was boss, she made a point of going out and about. As a nurse she thought she knew more about the disease than LePage did, which was very likely true, but she seemed perfectly willing to take the risk of being wrong—or rather, to impose that risk on the public. Despite the extremely deadly nature of Ebola, she clearly won the battle for media sympathy.

Ebola never created widespread paranoia here in the States. That happened to be the appropriate response, although some additional preventive measures would not have been an unreasonable expectation, but the absence of media hype may have reflected distraction, rather

than good sense. As it happened, in the fall of 2014 there was already quite a bit of sensational news out there to choose from. In August, Russian-American relations reached their lowest point since the Cold War after the Russian army invaded the Ukraine in support of rebel fighters. The Syrian civil war was then creating a massive refugee crisis across Europe, and American forces had begun engaging Islamic State forces inside Syria in September. Meanwhile, the biggest domestic news in U.S. in the late summer and early fall of 2014 was still the shootings of black men by police. Why go stirring up a fuss over a deadly epidemic in an isolated region of Africa when you have all that to choose from?

But what about during a news drought, or when the public has tired of an attenuated narrative that never seems to go anywhere? That was the situation here when the coronavirus leaked out of China. The seemingly interminable effort to make Russian collusion stick against Donald

Trump had long since fallen flat, and an investigation of the investigation was not going well for the guys and girls at the FBI. Desperate efforts to find something worthy of impeachment had also just failed, and had done nothing but create greater sympathy for Trump among his fans—and even among some of those who neither like him nor trust him.

That may have something to do with the intensity of media coverage about a disease only 1/35 as deadly as the epidemic of 2014. That coverage, in turn, probably explains the panic reflected by a plummeting stock market. Two percent mortality could yield quite a death toll with so contagious a virus, but that's almost nothing compared to Ebola. Yet because of the media coverage, I wonder how much popular support that Maine nurse would find today if, having just come back from the heart of the epidemic, she decided to go strolling around in public.

—==—

from page five

Southern District of Florida dismissed *Wilding et al. v Democratic National Committee and Schultz*, 16-61511-Civ-Zloch (2016). Donors maintained that the DNC had defrauded them by falsely stating in public and in its charter that in campaigning processes, primaries and its convention it required impartiality and evenhandedness regarding candidates. The party's filings suggested that its charter was optional: "We don't have to run an evenhanded primary, even if we say we're going to...[W]e could have voluntarily decided that, Look, we're gonna go into back rooms like they used to and smoke cigars and pick the candidate that way." The District held that the plaintiffs could only seek redress through "the ballot box, the

DNC's internal workings, or their right of free speech—not through the judiciary." Since the complaint alleged electoral fraud and a party's internal workings are only available to those members in a position to take an active role in its governance, the decision effectively limited most of the plaintiffs to complaining in the media. Their appeal failed.

When will we stop accepting partisan government? Adversarial government is no accident. It's a form of corruption. We can reduce its force in government dramatically by removing party power from states' electoral process.

Nominations cases relying even in part on state law have been failing

this season: where both statutory and constitutional questions are raised courts must decide on statute if possible. Over time corruption has also influenced precedent. But there is a constitutional case for state governance of the full electoral process. States have an interest in "protect[ing] the integrity and reliability of the electoral process itself" and ensuring "orderly, fair and honest elections." *U.S. Term Limits, Inc. v Thornton*, 514 US 779 (1995). In *Gray v Sanders*, 372 US 368 (1963) the Supreme Court found that the primary is an integral stage of an election. In *Smith v Allwright*, 321 US 649 (1944) it found that pri-

maries serve a state purpose and are operated under state authority. Amendment XXIV includes federal primaries in its list of elections in which government may not abridge or deny the vote. And in *e.g. Alaskan Independent Party v Alaska*, 545 F.3d 1173, 1180 (9th Cir. 2008), the Ninth Circuit held that the "State's interest in eliminating the fraud and corruption that frequently accompanied party-run nominating conventions is compelling."

Any state can take back control of its full electoral process. RepairRestoreSafeguard, Inc., a government-accountability reform organization, has a free model bill any state can customize to remove

electoral functions from party control.

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# Will Democrats Be Democrats, or Fraidy Cats?

by Jim Hightower

As an old saying puts it, “Where there’s a will—there are a thousand won’ts.”

Sure enough, here come the won’ts, opposing the public’s demand for bold action to stop inequality. The corporate powers are frantically trying to scare the public away from big ideas like Medicare for All, free college tuition, and a

wealth tax by branding them with the hoary old, right-wing bugaboo: “Socialism!”

However, they’re facing one huge problem in selling this scare tactic: such progressive ideas are quite popular. A July poll shows that Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s idea of a new tax on fortunes greater than \$50-million is favored by two-thirds of Americans, including 55 percent of Republicans. Nearly six out of 10

people favor Medicare for All, including a majority of high-income Americans. And nearly 60 percent of us—including 72 percent of independent voters—favor free tuition.

Ironically, the major barrier to passing such changes is not the one thrown up by big money lobbyists and Republican congress critters. Rather, it’s the meekness of establishment Democrats who don’t have the courage of their party’s dem-

ocratic convictions. They whimper that it will be hard to pass the sweeping changes Americans need and want, plus those ideas might offend some of the party’s big donors. So rather than respond to the grassroots will for real change, those weak-kneed forces are opposing strong advocates like Warren and Bernie Sanders. They say the party should back off from its core values and fighting spirit, urging it instead

to offer small, incremental adjustments in the status quo that might win support from Republicans and corporate chieftains.

If the meek ever inherit the earth, these timid do-nothings will be land barons! If Democrats don’t stand for the people, why should people stand for them?

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from page six

dance with the laws of this State. An interest group, coalition, or political party may endorse candidates but will not nominate candidates.

“Section 2. This State’s Electoral College electors for President and Vice President of the United States will be nominated during the United States congressional primary elections and elected during the United States congressional general elections. This State’s ballot lines for President of the United States will be determined by nomination at primary elections held during the congressional primary elections. This State’s eligible voters will state a preference for a ticket of President and Vice President during the United States congressional general elections.

“Section 3. No third party will be used to circumvent this law.”

In fourteen states (AZ, AR, CA, CO, ID, MO, MT, NB, ND, OK, OR, SD, UT, and WA) this can be done by ballot initiative. Either way, if your legislature refuses, interested voters of any state can file for a writ of mandamus to enjoin their state to take back its primary.

It’s high time states began controlling nominations and elections themselves.

Michelle Nappi  
New York, N.Y.  
Analyst, RepairRestoreSafeguard.org

twitter.com: @repairrestores1  
Michelle:

Thank you for this pleasant surprise: a novel approach for creating the legal hammer, suitable for vigorous applica-



tion to our perennially malfunctioning political machine.

The Editor

## On International Women’s Day, Say No to Drafting Women—or Anyone!

by Rivera Sun  
March 8th is International Women’s Day. It’s a day to work for women’s equality in all sectors of our world. Yet there’s one peculiar effort toward fake equality that must be vehemently opposed by feminists of all genders . . . drafting women - or anyone - into the US military.

On March 26th, the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service will issue a recommendation to Congress on whether to expand the US military draft and draft registration to women - or abolish it for everyone. Their report is several years in the making, and was triggered when the male-only US military draft and draft registration was ruled unconstitutional by the courts. On March 26th, we’ll discover whether they think women’s equality means having to live in equal terror of the scourge of the military draft, or if they have the rare foresight to assert that people of all genders should regain/retain their freedom from conscription.

It is important to be clear that women’s equality cannot be won through conscription. It cannot be gained through drafting us into the illegal, immoral, unending wars launched by the US government. War is an abomination that causes

unequivocal harm to women, their children, and their families. War destroys homes. It bombs children. It destabilizes economies. It causes hunger, starvation, disease, and displacement. We cannot bomb our way into global women’s equality - if nothing else, the travesty of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown that all too clearly.

It is not war, but peace that supports women’s rights. The processes of waging peace - not militarism - have been shown to advance gender equality. Women are some of the world’s greatest advocates and makers of peace. Repeated studies have shown that women are pivotal for peace efforts’ success. When higher percentages of government officials are women, the rates of working for peace, instead of war, increase.

For those reasons alone, on International Women’s Day, we should all be demanding that the US government abolish the military draft and ensure freedom from conscription for all genders. Drafting women into the US military is a false equivalency - one that has deadly consequences around the world and negatively impacts women’s rights in any country where war and militarized violence are present. Women should not be drafted into the grave injustices of the US military. We should organize to liberate our brothers and non-binary fellow citizens from the specter of the draft.

As CODEPINK put it: “Women’s equality will not be

achieved by including women in a draft system that forces civilians to participate in activities that are against their will and harm others in large numbers, such as war. The draft is not a women’s rights issue, as it does nothing to advance the cause of equality and functionally limits freedom of choice for Americans of all genders. While we demand equal pay for women in all areas of our economy, it is irresponsible for the fight for women’s rights to seek equal moral injury, equal PTSD, equal brain injury, equal suicide rates, equal lost limbs, or equal violent tendencies that military veterans suffer from. When it comes to the military, women’s equality is better served by ending draft registration for everyone.”

There are numerous reasons why the military draft system is entirely unnecessary for US defense, why it’s immoral, why it’s dysfunctional, why it won’t slow or stop wars, and so on. A bill is currently being introduced to the US Congress that would abolish military conscription for all genders. Supporters can sign the petition here.

In a time of “Forever Wars,” it is more important than ever that the advancement of women’s rights proceed hand-in-hand with the efforts toward peace and demilitarization. War and violence wreak havoc on women’s rights and well-being around the globe. While a recent spate of “woman warrior” films glorifies the violence-wielding, gun-toting female assassins and

soldiers as a form of “empowered women”, the reality is that war is horrific. Women - and their children and families - suffer horribly. No feminist of any gender should advocate war or militarism as a form of women’s advancement. It comes at the steep price of an industry that automatically diminishes the safety and well-being of everyone it encounters.

The slogan of International Women’s Day 2020 is #EachforEqual, meaning that each one of us must work for equal rights. As we do so, we must speak up for the truth that equality for all women around the world is found not through the shallow concept of drafting US women alongside young men. It can only be found by abolishing military conscription for all genders, demilitarizing, and ending war. Peace is the greatest advocate of equal rights for all genders. As feminists, as women, as mothers and daughters, sisters, friends, and lovers, we must make waging peace an unshakeable pillar of our work for women’s rights.

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

“Military glory—that attractive rainbow that rises in showers of blood.”

—Rep. Abraham Lincoln [R-Ill.], speaking in opposition to the Mexican War, January 12, 1848

“Resist much, obey little.”

—Walt Whitman poet, newspaper editor



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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

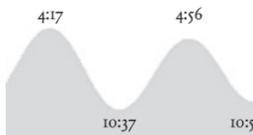
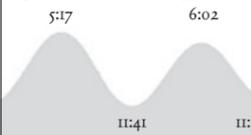
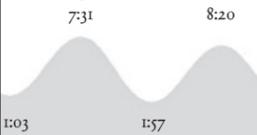
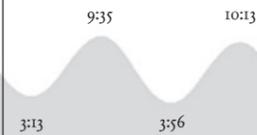
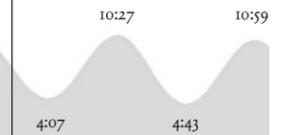
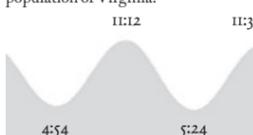
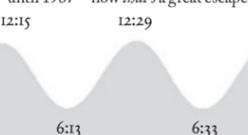
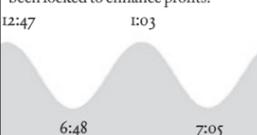
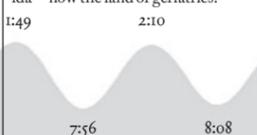
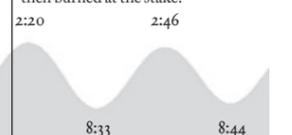
whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

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, MARCH 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       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| <p><b>2018</b>—Six people die and eight are injured in Miami by the collapse of a bridge designed by the same firm as the new Sarah Mildred Long Bridge.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) says the White House hid an audit showing a \$108 million overcharge by Halliburton in Iraq until after the presidential election.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—<i>Geophysical Research Letters</i> publishes the "Hockey Stick" graph; corporate liars get a career boost.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—To flatter veterans without incurring actual additional expenses, the Veterans Administration is elevated to Departmental status.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Donald Trump gets a New Jersey casino licence—normally a months-long process—in hours.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—A <i>Boston Globe</i> editorial about a speech by Jimmy Carter is headlined, "Mush from the Wimp."</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The National Security Council OKs the Nixon/Kissinger plan to illegally bomb Cambodia.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Flying Tiger Flight 739 from Travis AFB to Saigon disappears with 107 soldiers and crew on board.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—"Without superior air power America is...easy prey to any yellow dwarf with a pocket knife," says LBJ on the floor of the House.</p> <p><b>1940</b>—<i>Grapes of Wrath</i> hits theaters.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—A French "protectorate" takes over in Annam (Vietnam).</p> <p><b>1760</b>—Governor Benning Wentworth, 64, marries his housekeeper, Martha Hilton, 23.</p>            | <p><b>2008</b>—JPMorgan buys Bear Stearns, with the New York Fed's \$30 billion.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—On "Meet the Press," Dick "Dick" Cheney claims that Saddam Hussein "has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons," and that "we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators."</p> <p><b>1993</b>—"The Storm of the Century" kills 318 on the East Coast.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—On his deathbed, GOP campaigner Lee Atwater claims to repent; no lie detectors are present, though.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Kurds in Iraq are gassed with ingredients Saddam Hussein bought from the U.S. and Europe.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Sen. Roman Hruska (R-Neb.) defends G. Harrold [sic] Carswell as nominee to the Supreme Court: "there are a lot of mediocre judges and people and lawyers. They are entitled to a little representation, aren't they?"</p> <p><b>1968</b>—GIs in Vietnam kill hundreds of civilians at My Lai.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Alice Herz, 82, self-immolates in Detroit to protest the Vietnam War. She dies 10 days later.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In Montgomery, Ala., police attack civil rights marchers.</p> <p><b>1914</b>—Henriette Caillaux, wife of the French Minister of Finance, pumps four slugs from a Browning .32 into Gaston Calmette, editor of <i>Le Figaro</i>. He dies, she skates.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—Four years of digging by hand pays off in Brighton, England; a 1,285-foot deep well hits water.</p> <p><b>1846</b>—Jurgis Bielinis is born, inspiring Lithuania's Book Smugglers Day.</p>      | <p><b>2017</b>—In the White House, President Trump argues with Vietnam veterans about <i>Apocalypse Now</i>, confusing Agent Orange with napalm.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—His habit of hiring high-priced hookers exposed, New York Governor Eliot Spitzer resigns.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—<i>The Navy Times</i> reports that Fox News guest and U.S.M.C. Corporal Matt Sanchez had an earlier career as a gay porn star.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Local narcs and off-duty cops celebrate St. Patrick's Day by duking it out in the parking lot at Paddy's on the Peace Tradeport.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—George W.[MD] Bush tells Saddam Hussein that Iraq isn't big enough for the both of them. Hitler 2.0 has 48 hours to get out.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Dick "Dick" Cheney and two other members of G.H.[H.]W. Bush's cabinet admit they wrote rubber checks on the House bank.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Genial of Ike signs off on a clandestine plan to overthrow the government of Cuba.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—Waterbury cops halt a meeting to prevent editor Carlo Tresca from reading the Connecticut Constitution's Declaration of Rights.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Washington, D.C.'s suburbs are littered with racist propaganda dropped by the Klan from a biplane.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—Checka officers use machine guns to encourage Bolshevik troops to charge across the ice-covered Neva River into machine gun fire from rebellious sailors at Kronstadt.</p>                                                                                      | <p><b>2004</b>—At Gilley's, Portsmouth narcs and off-duty cops hold round two of a fight begun at Paddy's on St. Pat's Day.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—"Why should we hear about body bags and death and how many?" asks Barbara Bush. "It's not relevant... why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?"</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Two L.A.P.D. undercover cops have a road rage shootout; one, Kevin Gaines, ends up dead in a big SUV that belongs to the estranged wife of Death Row Records' "Suge" Knight. Exposure of massive corruption at the Rampart Division ensues.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Fake cops bluff guards and steal Rembrandts and a Vermeer from Boston's Gardner Museum.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The U.S. begins secretly bombing Cambodia.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—The State Dept. orders its overseas libraries cleansed of books by authors of "suspect" loyalty.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—A school in oil-rich New London, Texas, heated by un-scented waste gas to save money, explodes. More than 300 die, mostly students.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—A tornado kills 695 along a 235-mile path from Mo. to Ind.</p> <p><b>1871</b>—Communards take Paris. Two months later they're massacred.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—At the barricades in Berlin's Alexanderplatz, revolutionaries briefly gain the upper hand.</p> <p><b>1741</b>—Fort George, the center of colonial government in New York, is torched as part of a conspiracy among blacks and poor whites.</p>                                                                                                            | <p><b>2011</b>—The U.S. and France attack Libya—for its own good, of course.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—<i>USA Today</i> admits that its Pulitzer-contender Jack Kelley ought to have competed in the fiction category.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—George W.[MD] Bush starts a pre-emptive war with 40 Tomahawk missiles in a residential Baghdad neighborhood. Civilians die.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese endorses drug testing for schoolteachers.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—On "Diff'rent Strokes," Nancy Reagan tells "a true story" about "Charlie." "Burned out on marijuana" at 14, he "brutally beats" Sis when she won't steal to buy him weed.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—The U.S. government burns books by Wilhelm Reich.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Nobel Prize winner Mme. Irene Joliot-Curie is released from detention on Ellis Island; her work against fascism made her suspect.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Off Japan, Kamikaze attacks kill 800 sailors on the <i>U.S.S. Franklin</i>.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Clarence "Frogman" Henry is born in New Orleans.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—Over 100 are injured in a Harlem riot. A study blames police brutality; Mayor LaGuardia suppresses it.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Eight U.S. Army biplanes go after Pancho Villa.</p> <p><b>1840</b>—Sixty-five Comanche men, women, and children, attend a San Antonio peace conference; 35 are killed by Anglos, and 30 imprisoned.</p> <p><b>1687</b>—French explorer Robert de La Salle is murdered in Texas by mutineers fed up with his haughty ways.</p> | <p><b>2017</b>—FBI Boss Jim Comey tells Congress the Trump campaign and Russia may have colluded.</p> <p><b>2012</b>—One of the two loaded .45 pistols Rep. Kyle Tasker [R-Northwood] legally carries in shoulder holsters drops to the floor of a packed hearing room in the State Capital.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—U.S. troops invade Iraq to protect The Homeland from Saddam's endless drug testing for schoolteachers.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—UN weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus says Iraq has agreed to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Press Baron William R. Hearst's granddaughter Patricia is convicted of bank robbery.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—"If the [Vietnamese] Communists continue to suffer the losses they have been taking," says French Chief of Staff Gen. Paul Ely, "I don't know how they can stay in the battle."</p> <p><b>1933</b>—"Get to hell out of here, you son of a bitch," would-be FDR assassin Giuseppe Zangara tells the chaplain before he's zapped for killing Chicago's mayor. "All capitalists lousy bunch of crooks. Goodbye to all poor peoples everywhere! Push the button!"</p> <p><b>1905</b>—An old boiler explodes at the Grover Shoe Factory in Brockton, Mass. and shoots through the roof. The building collapses, trapping hundreds of workers; naphtha barrels burn; 58 die and 150 are injured.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—Gender pioneer Martha Place becomes the first woman to die in New York's electric chair.</p>     | <p><b>2003</b>—Richard Clarke, senior U.S. counter-intelligence officer since G.H.[H.]W. Bush, says G.W.[MD] Bush ignored al-Qaeda until 9/11.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Mississippi ratifies the 13th amendment outlawing slavery. Failure to register nullifies the action, though.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—In Mobile, Ala., two Kluxers conduct the last recorded lynching. RIP: Michael Donald, 19.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—"Gents, this is an educational project," says condemned murderer Frederick Wood in New York. "You are about to witness the damaging effect electricity has on Wood."</p> <p><b>1960</b>—South African police kill 89 unarmed black protesters in the Sharpeville Massacre.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—DJ Alan Freed throws the Moondog Coronation Ball in Cleveland — the first rock concert.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—The GOP's Red Scare running rampant, Truman orders a "loyalty screening" in political self-defense.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—Police in Ponce, P.R., executing orders from the Governor, machine gun peaceful, marching protestors; 21 die, 235 are wounded.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—Tennessee bans the teaching of evolution in public schools.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—At a White House screening, Woodrow Wilson is enraptured by the racist masterpiece <i>Birth of a Nation</i>.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—Slavery's the cornerstone of the Confederacy, says Veep A. Stephens.</p> <p><b>1556</b>—Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury, is burned at the stake for heresy.</p> |
| 4:17      4:56<br><br>10:37      10:53                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 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| SUNDAY, MARCH 22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       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| <p><b>2006</b>—<i>MV Queen of the North</i>, a Canadian ferry four miles off course, hits an island at 17 knots and sinks with a loss of two lives. Union reps deny crewmembers were having sex at the time.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The chief officer of <i>RMS Milheim</i>, getting out of his chair while on watch, catches his trousers on a lever, falls and hits his head, losing consciousness. The ship runs aground at Land's End in Cornwall, a total loss.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—The <i>Mobro 4000</i>, a barge toting 3,168 tons of garbage, leaves NYC. After a 162 day, 6,000 mile journey, it returns to NYC, where its contents are incinerated.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—The U.S. executes its first Vietnam vet in Fla.'s electric chair: David Funchess, a black former Marine with a Purple Heart and PTSD.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—A worker looking for air leaks with a candle starts a fire causing \$100 million in damages at the Brown's Ferry nuclear power plant in Alabama.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—An Undersecretary of Defense warns his boss bombing North Vietnam is useless.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Germany opens its first concentration camp at Dachau.</p> <p><b>1820</b>—Two U.S. Navy Commodores meet at the Bladensburg Dueling Grounds. James Barron, disgraced in the <i>Chesapeake-Leopard</i> Affair, mortally wounds Stephen "Our Country, Right or Wrong" Decatur.</p> <p><b>1622</b>—Powhatans slaughter 400 English settlers—about one-third of the population of Virginia.</p> | <p><b>2016</b>—Tay, a Microsoft™ AI chatterbot, is released on Twitter. She's pulled 16 hours later for being a Nazi.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—In a Senate office building, 19 Members of Congress watch a golden crown being placed on the head of convicted tax cheat and <i>Washington Times</i> owner Rev. Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—A lost U.S. Army convoy is ambushed near Nasiriyah, Iraq: 11 KIAs, five WIAs, &amp; six POWs, including Pvt. Jessica Ryan. An Air Force A-10 kills six to 10 U.S. Marines. A U.S. Patriot missile downs an RAF fighter jet over Iraq.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Acting president R. Reagan touts space-based anti-missile missiles, as 1940's <i>Murder in the Air</i>, in which he played Lt. "Brass" Bancroft.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Support from the [Catholic] Centre Party trumps leftist opposition: the Reichstag passes the Enabling Act; Hitler becomes a dictator.</p> <p><b>1914</b>—For helping organize Colorado coal miners, "Mother Jones," 76, is thrown in the Huerfano County Jail.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—U.S. troops capture Filipino rebel leader Emilio Aguinaldo, whom the U.S. had earlier backed in his fight against Spanish colonial powers.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—Mormon leader John D. Lee is executed by a firing squad for his role in the Mountain Meadows Massacre. He leaves 19 wives and 56 children.</p> <p><b>1842</b>—The House of Representatives censures Congressman Joshua R. Giddings [W-Ohio] for introducing a resolution opposing slavery.</p> | <p><b>2016</b>—Microsoft's AI Twitterbot Tay is taken offline after 16 hours; its tweets are too racist and pro-fascist.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—At a black-tie dinner, President George W.[MD] Bush cracks up A-list broadcast journalists with gags about "his" failed search for WMDs. Less amused: families of dead GIs, of which there are 691 at this point.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Exxon demonstrates its commitment to the environment in Prince William Sound via the <i>Exxon Valdez</i>.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—Shot by a Soviet sentry while peeping at a tank shed in East Germany, U.S. Army Maj. Arthur D. Nicholson is touted by the Pentagon as "the last casualty of the Cold War."</p> <p><b>1972</b>—At Washington, D.C.'s Mayflower Hotel, E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy try to score an "LSD-type drug" from an ex-CIA doctor. They even fail at that.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports stolen FBI documents show mailmen, a Swarthmore switchboard operator, and a local police chief have been spying on Philadelphia activists.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Operation Lam Son 719, the ARVN invasion of Laos, ends. Casualties: huge; winners: none.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—At Stalag Luft III, 76 POWs get away via "Tunnel Harry"; three get away, 50 are shot. Not so great, really.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Parachute <i>kaput</i>, RAF tail-gunner Nicholas Alkemade jumps from 18,000 feet over Germany. Pine trees and snow break his fall; he lives until 1987—now <i>that's</i> a great escape.</p> | <p><b>2003</b>—George W.[MD] Bush signs an Executive Order giving Dick "Dick" Cheney unprecedented power to classify information.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Four Air Force generals are sacked over a massive rape scandal.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Florida's "Old Sparky" sets Pedro Medina on fire as it kills him.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Execs at the Ford plant in Argentina begin doing the new military junta's bidding. Work incentives include torture, kidnapping, &amp; murder.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Three dairy co-ops get \$600 million in milk price supports for a \$427,000 "contribution" towards Dick "Original Dick" Nixon's re-election.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—"Of all the forms of inequality," says MLK Jr., "injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Fifteen WW II and Korean War veterans burn discharge papers in NYC to protest the Vietnam War.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In Montgomery, Ala., 25,000 civil rights marchers arrive at the state capitol, thanks to the National Guard.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—U.S. Customs seizes Allen Ginsburg's "Howl" as "obscene."</p> <p><b>1947</b>—A Centralia, Ill. coal mine, long the subject of ignored complaints and warnings, explodes, killing 111.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—In Alabama, the Scottsboro Boys are arrested on bogus charges.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—RIP, Ida B. Wells: daughter of slaves, her pen helped end lynching.</p> <p><b>1911</b>—The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire kills 146 sweatshop workers in New York City. The factory's fire doors had been locked to enhance profits.</p> | <p><b>2006</b>—Justice Antonin Scalia is photographed on the steps of a Boston church, making an obscene gesture.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev returns to Earth, where the USSR that sent him into orbit is no more.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Bob "Bob Dole" Dole calls Ford, Carter, and Nixon "Hear no evil, see no evil, and evil."</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Ground is broken for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Gen. John D. Lavelle loses two stars and command of the 7th Air Force for following Nixon's secret orders to bomb North Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Malcolm X and MLK shake hands in Washington, D.C.—their first and only meeting.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—After the rope breaks, James Johnson tells his executioners in Poplar Bluff, Mo., "Hurry up, boys, and get me out of my misery." They do.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—Walt Whitman, the great American poet, utters his last words, "Hold me up, I want to s..."</p> <p><b>1812</b>—The gerry-mander is born, in a <i>Boston Gazette</i> cartoon.</p> <p><b>1804</b>—President Thomas Jefferson throws a party. It features a mammoth loaf of bread to accompany the remnants of a 1,235 lb. cheese that's been hanging around since January 1, 1802 and is "very far from being good."</p> <p><b>1669</b>—In New Castle, Jane Walford, the Editor's great x 8 grandmother, recovers damages for an unproven allegation of witchcraft.</p>                                                                                        | <p><b>2003</b>—Iraq "can really finance its own reconstruction and relatively soon," U.S. Undersecretary for Defense Paul Wolfowitz tells Congress. "There's a lot of money to pay for this that doesn't have to be U.S. taxpayer money."</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Congress slashes welfare while approving \$100 million for a drug gang called "The Contras."</p> <p><b>1980</b>—A Norwegian oil platform collapses in the North Sea. Of the 212 on board, 123 perish.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—History's 2nd largest earthquake hits Anchorage; 115 die.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—So their forged ID's might avoid Nazi detection, openly gay Dutch artist Willem Arondeus and others bomb the Amsterdam Public Records Office. It works.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—RADM John W. Wilcox, Jr., commanding a task force bound for Scapa Flow, is washed off his flagship and lost one day out of Casco Bay.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—Having drunk Parisian tap water three weeks earlier to prove that it was safe, British novelist Arnold Bennett dies of typhoid fever.</p> <p><b>1814</b>—A (severed) nose count shows General Andy Jackson's troops, with a 3-1 advantage, massacred 85 percent of their Creek opponents at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa.</p> <p><b>1800</b>—Federalist Senators find <i>Aurora</i> editor W. Duane in contempt for publishing the truth about them.</p> <p><b>1513</b>—Searching for the Fountain of Youth, Ponce de Leon sights Florida—now the land of geriatrics.</p> | <p><b>2007</b>—Phyllis Schlafly explains to Bates students that a married woman "has consented to sex, and I don't think you can call it rape."</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Two U.S. "Warthog" aircraft mistakenly strafe British tanks in Iraq, killing one soldier.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—"The enemy we're fighting [in Iraq]," General William S. Wallace admits, "is different from the one we'd war-gamed against."</p> <p><b>1979</b>—An automatic emergency cooling system activates after a stuck pressure-relief valve dumps too much coolant, but it's overridden by operators who fail to see a hidden indicator light: the core of a nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania partially melts, releasing 43K curies.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—The RAF bombs the <i>Torrey Canyon</i> to mitigate an oil spill in the Channel; mostly they miss.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Brits disable a Nazi dry dock at St. Nazaire by ramming it with an explosive-laden destroyer.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—On Palm Sunday, 38 tornadoes in 8 states kill 380 people.</p> <p><b>1884</b>—A mob in Cincinnati tries to lynch a white murderer. Thwarted, the mob grows to 10,000. Gunbattles rage. Order is restored by the State Militia: 56 dead and 300 wounded.</p> <p><b>1757</b>—"The day will be hard," says Robert-François Damiens as he's hauled from his cell. For trying to kill Louis XV, his arms and legs are pulled off by horses. His still-living torso is then burned at the stake.</p>      |
| 11:12      11:39<br><br>4:54      5:24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 11:52<br><br>5:36      6:00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  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                                                                                                                                      | 12:47      1:03<br><br>6:48      7:05                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            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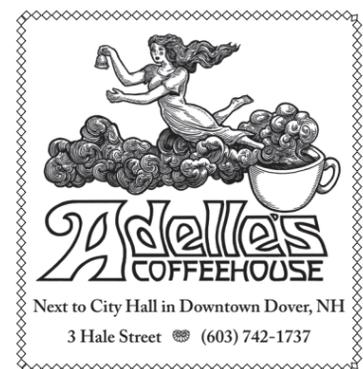


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