

The Fortnightly Rant

The Big X-Ray

Last weekend Covid-19 was killing a thousand Americans a day. If the death rate doubles every six days or so, this weekend we'll say goodbye to 4,000 more.

This is, of course, quite terrible. It certainly seems so right now. All things being relative, though, and the laws of mathematics being as they are [the exponential function has a power that Bill Barr can only envy] a month or two from now we may look back and see these as the good old days.

Remember the bumper sticker, "Giant Meteor 2016—Just End It Already"? The comet never came, but we got the next-worst thing: umpteen trillion itsy-bitsy blobs of ribonucleic acid are giving this country its biggest X-Ray ever.

Lo and behold, we're a total wreck. "How can this be happening?" some might ask. So might an English peasant have cried in 1348, as he discarded a chicken bone next to his hovel, where it was seized by a flea-infested Norway rat. We've been walking into this fateful ambush for more than a century.

Our non-paper* of March 27th carried the following item for April 8th:

"1917—At the U.S. Embassy in Bern, future CIA head Allen Dulles gets a call from I.V. Lenin, begging for an immediate meeting. Dulles, who has a date with buxom Swedish twins, puts him off. Lenin boards a train to Petrograd and starts a Revolution."

On April 13th—less than a week later—this happened:

"1917—Prescient President W. Wilson establishes the Committee on Public Information, 67 years prior to 1984."

* For the record, it is our intention to survive this mess and resume our longstanding love affair with newsprint just as soon as we possibly can. — The Ed.

As the sordid life of Allen Dulles[†] demonstrates, the Prime Directive of the U.S. Government has been to defend capitalism against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

After letting the world's #1 Bolshevik scamper off to overthrow the Russian Empire, Allen, the inveterate horndog and unregenerate conspirator, joined his staid and stuffy brother John Foster at Cromwell & Sullivan, the world's most powerful corporate law firm. Their clients, *ipso facto*, were the world's most powerful corporations.

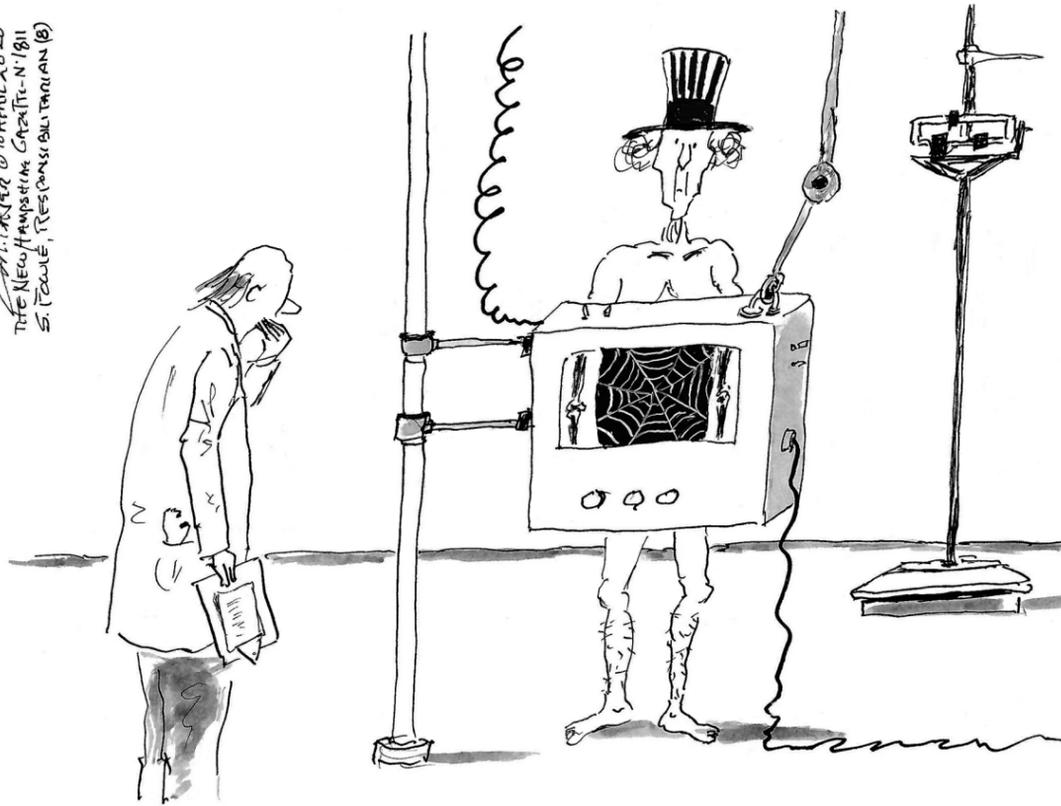
Even after purportedly leaving corporate law—Allen becoming Eisenhower's CIA Director, John Foster his Secretary of State—they continued serving the same clients. This diabolical duo overthrew insufficiently-capitalist governments from Guatemala City to Kinshasa, and from Saigon to, most likely, Washington, D.C.

The Dulles brothers were unique, of course, only in their fraternal partnership. The vast majority of American politicians have been enthusiastic capitalists, particularly since the rapid proliferation of railroads in the period following the Civil War. It's difficult to resist so remunerative an ideology on a mere Congressman's pay.

Having learned our history from Hollywood, we tend to see the time between the Civil War and World War I as one long western movie. In fact it was fifty years of Congressional corruption, urbanization, widespread factory-based wage slavery, and Jim Crow laws, all within an economy wracked by cycles of boom and bust. In the absence of foreign adventures, our military establish-

[†] Talbot, David. *The Devil's Chessboard: Allen Dulles, the CIA, and the Rise of America's Secret Government*. New York: HarperCollins, 2015.

John Foster
Allen Dulles
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THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE-N°1811
S. FOWLE, RESISTANCE/ANTICAPITALIST (B)



ment, amounting mostly to state militias, kept in shape by using rifle butts to beat striking workers into submission.[‡]

President Woodrow Wilson barely won re-election in November, 1916. The slogan, "He kept us out of war" may have given him the edge. "Yet within a very short period after America had joined the belligerents," said a 1940 report by the Council on Foreign Relations [CFR], "the nation appeared to be enthusiastically and overwhelmingly convinced of the justice of the cause of the Allies, and unanimously determined to help them win."

The CFR report attributed the change in attitude to "the work of the group of zealous amateur propagandists, organized under Mr. George Creel in the Committee on Public Information [CPI]. With his associates he planned and car-

[‡] Beatty, Jack. *Age of Betrayal: The Triumph of Money in America, 1865-1900*. New York: Knopf, 2007.

ried out what was perhaps the most effective job of large-scale war propaganda which the world had ever witnessed." Our titans of industry, noticing this stunning achievement, began investing millions in the public relations racket—at the pinnacle of which stood Sigmund Freud's nephew, CPI alumnus Edward Bernays.

America's anti-Communist crusade was briefly suspended as the Soviet Union lost 13 percent of its population fighting Nazis on the Eastern Front. Approximately one day after victory in Europe, the U.S.—on its way to losing 0.32 percent of its population—rounded on its former ally and resumed hostilities. Preventing foreign countries from succeeding under anti-capitalist systems is quite expensive—but it's cheaper than letting Americans start getting strange ideas.

Working stiffy who survived the war were like peasants who made it through the Black Plague: for once

they were in a slightly better bargaining position. Many men with high school educations could work a factory job, buy a house, and support a family—largely because they could join unions. Even some Black men got in on the action. Obviously, this all had to stop. Neoliberal policies made sure it did.[§]

With collaboration from feckless Third Way Democrats, Republicans led the way, crushing unions and gutting the Government. Arthur "The Curve" Laffer ludicrously claimed that lowering tax rates would increase tax revenue. It did not. Grover "Drown The Government In The Bath Tub" Norquist was honest about his intentions, at least.

Yesterday, Reuters' Heather Timmons tweeted, "Art Laffer is being floated as head of a new task force to 'reopen' the U.S. economy."

[§] "Neoliberalism: A political approach that favors free-market capitalism, deregulation, and reduction in government spending...." — Lexico.com.

The Alleged News®

The New, Improved Five O'Clock Follies

Noted epidemiologist, Vietnam War draft dodger, and President, Donald J. Trump now conducts televised daily briefings on the Federal Government's response to the coronavirus pandemic—and whatever other random thought-substitutes may then be fluttering around, bat-like, in his belfry.

We hope that scientists in the future—if there is one, and there are any—will study this phenomenon and confirm or deny the following theory, which is ours: when he gets in front of the cameras and talks, the nation's collective IQ plummets.

Collective intelligence is not exactly a commodity which we have in surplus. He should be grateful to the President's handlers, though, for inducing him to accept these briefings as a substitute for campaign rallies.

If they had continued, those hate-fests might eventually have counterbalanced through attrition the voter suppression efforts which keep Republicans in power. More likely, though, they'd have just raised the death toll, right across the board. There's that bipartisanship for which everyone's been clamoring.

As the victim of a cruel disability (a worm hole in that part of his brain which, in normal people, detects irony) he holds these events at 5:00 o'clock. During the war that he skipped out on, that was the time when the Pentagon's Public [Dis] Information Officers tried in vain to convince war correspondents that everything was going according to plan. Their method was way ahead of its time: they employed drone warfare. Not in the sense we use it today, though. They stood at

a podium and read in monotone an endless list of meaningless statistics which, according to then-current algorithms, proved conclusively that the light at the end of the tunnel was not on the front of an oncoming locomotive.

During Tuesday's episode, the President—who dithered for months as this pandemic gained momentum—tried to lay some of the blame off to the World Health Organization. The italicized text below comes directly from the White House transcript:

Trump — "But we want to look into it—World Health Organization—because they really are—they called it wrong. They called it wrong. They really—they missed the call. They could have called it months earlier. They would have known, and they should have known. And they probably did

know, so we'll be looking into that very carefully.

"And we're going to put a hold on money spent to the WHO. We're going to put a very powerful hold on it, and we're going to see. It's a great thing if it works, but when they call every shot wrong, that's no good."

Three thousand words later, a journalist asks a question:

Journalist — "Thanks. A quick follow-up on that. So is the time to freeze funding to the WHO during a pandemic of this magnitude?"

The President — "No, maybe not. I mean, I'm not saying I'm going to do it, but we're going to look at it."

Journalist — "You did say that you're going to —"

The President — "We give a tremendous —"

Journalist — "You said you'd put a hold on it."

The President — "No, I didn't. I said we're going to look at it. We're going to investigate it. We're going to look at it. But we will look at ending funding."

[Emphasis (bold) added.— The Ed.]

Strictly speaking, this is not news, but, for the record: when the President speaks, a series of sounds tumble from his mouth. Trying to assign any fixed meaning to them is a chump's game. If he were where he belongs, that is, standing in a public park in Queens, orating at pigeons, with a loved one, if one can imagine such a thing, watching to make sure he comes to no harm—this would not be a problem. Tragically that is not the case. This man is supposedly the leader of what used to be called

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from page one

the free world.

WHO funding matters, of course. So does Covid testing. In March, Trump was promising millions of tests "soon." They never materialized. NPR reported Wednesday that "Some local officials are disappointed the federal government will end funding for coronavirus testing sites this Friday. In a few places those sites will close as a result. This as criticism continues that not enough testing is available."

If you don't test, of course, if you won't get as many positive results as you would if you did test. That will create a false impression: the problem will not look so bad, and, by extension, it will look like the President is doing a better job. Those temporary, illusive benefits, all of which accrue to the President, will come at a cost, though—i.e., more people will die.

Article 25 of the Constitution, provides, under Section Four, that whenever the Vice President and a majority of the Cabinet transmit their written declaration to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of

Representatives that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President. As yet they have not done that, though, and it's hard to imagine at this point what it will take to convince them. Perhaps they're waiting for CNN to broadcast footage of his head rotating 360° on-camera, followed by a torrent of green vomit.

Meanwhile, *Foreign Policy*, a highly respected magazine not given to alarmist speculation, published an article yesterday headlined, "The Normal Economy is Never Coming Back." Alan Tooze wrote, "America's economy is now widely expected to shrink by a quarter. That is as much as during the Great Depression. But whereas the contraction after 1929 stretched over a four-year period, the coronavirus implosion will happen over the next three months. There has never been a crash landing like this before. There is something new under the sun. And it is horrifying."

A Teachable Moment?

Let's look at the bright side: yes, a highly contagious new disease has been unleashed on the world, to



Advancing decrepitude notwithstanding, our Wandering Photographer still shambles around town from time to time, mumbling about exercise; he wants a ready excuse if he's braced by the quarantine police. Usually camouflaged by the crowds, he's not used to such lack of cover. On Saturday afternoon, April 4th, the closest thing to bustle was this cluster of half a dozen vapers loosely congregated at the corner of Hanover and High streets.

which no one was immune, and for which we have no vaccine; and, yes, the effects on our economy have already been such that we're only just beginning to figure out how bad it might become. But at least people are paying some attention to a few things that have hitherto escaped their notice.

The value of the work performed by nurses and grocery store check-out clerks, for example. Exposed all day long to a dangerous pathogen, they're used to working for relative peanuts. If they're risking their lives to keep us healthy and fed, don't they deserve a living wage?

The unemployment rate has absolutely exploded. How many of the recently unemployed just lost their health insurance, too?

Thousands of insurance workers do nothing but deny health care benefits to sick people. How, exactly, are they helping matters?

Medicare for All is the obvious answer to these problems. The answer is always, "How will you pay

for that?"

Congress just tossed \$2.2 T-T-Trillion to Jared Kushner and Steven Mnuchin, as far as anyone can tell, to dole out as they see fit. There was to have been an Inspector General, but he's been fired. The money could end up anywhere, so keep your eyes open.

One place it won't go is the Post Office, speaking of previously unsung heroes. One might think that since it rates a line of its own in the U.S. Constitution—Article I, Section 8, Clause 7, empowering Congress "To establish Post Offices and Post Roads"—the Postal Service might get a little respect from self-styled "Constitutional Conservatives." One would be wrong, though, of course. Democrats put money for the Postal Service in the bailout package. Trump yanked it out.

In 2006, Congress passed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act. Anyone familiar with Congress' ways will immediately realize its true intent was not

to enhance, but to weaken and undermine the Postal Service.

As Oregon Rep. Pete DeFazio recently explained, the law "require[d] the USPS to prefund 75 years worth of retiree health benefits in the span of ten years—a cost of approximately \$110 billion. Although the money is intended to be set aside for future Post Office retirees, the funds are instead being diverted to help pay down the national debt.

"No other private enterprise or federal agency is required to prefund retiree health benefits on a comparable timetable. The mandate is responsible for all of USPS's financial losses since 2013."

As for accountability, the bill passed in the Senate by unanimous consent, and in the House by a voice vote—in other words, anonymously. Republicans held the whole dang Government at the time. DeFazio got a bill through the House which would end the retirement mandate. God only knows how it would get past McConnell.

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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

A Message from the D.M.

Speaking of our good friends at the U.S. Postal Service, whom we hope to see again sooner rather than later, here's a message from the District Manager, about how to make life a little easier and safer for your local mail carrier:

During these challenging times, postal employees are working hard to ensure residents stay connected with their world through the mail. Whether it's medications, a package, a paycheck, benefits or pension check, a bill or letter from a family member, postal workers understand that every piece of mail is important. While service like this is nothing new to us, we need our communities' help with social distancing.

For everyone's safety, our employees are following the social distancing precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health officials. We are asking people to not approach our carriers to accept delivery. Let the carrier leave the mailbox before collecting the mail. With schools not in session, children should also be encouraged to not approach a postal vehicle or carrier.

If a delivery requires a signature, carriers will knock on the door rather than touching the bell. They will maintain a safe distance, and instead

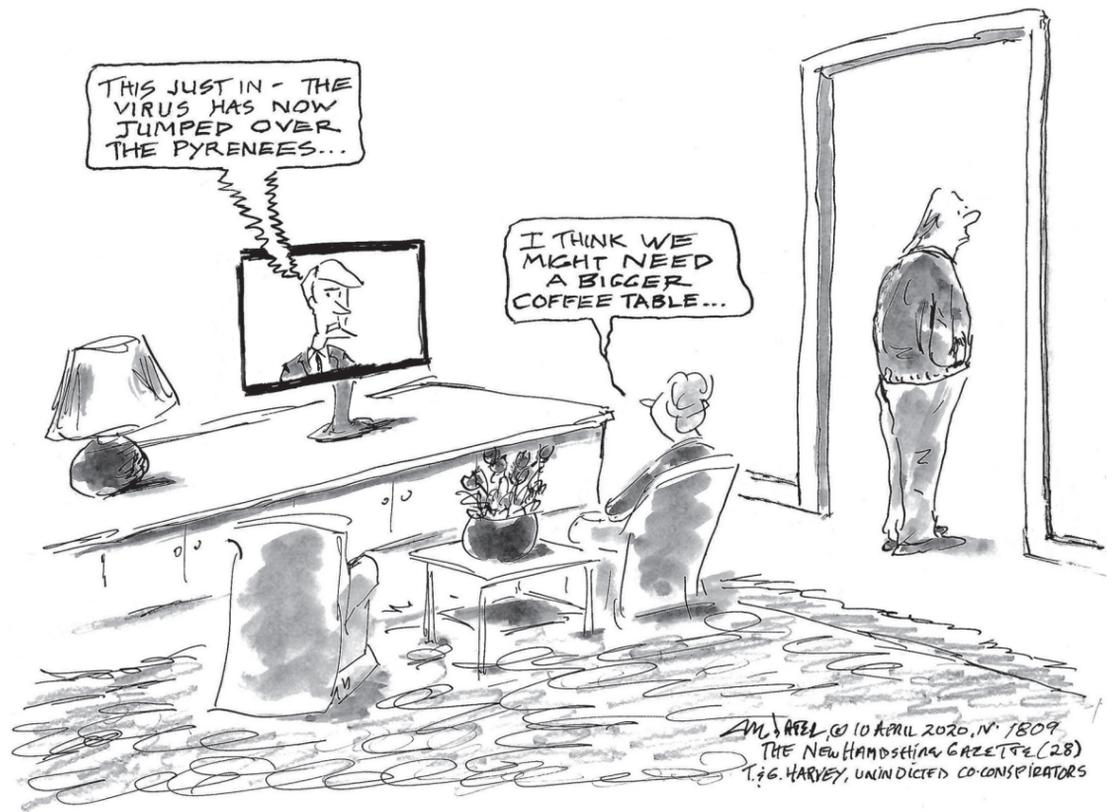
of asking for a signature on their mobile device, they'll ask for the resident's name. The carrier will leave the mail or package in a safe place for retrieval.

We are proud of the role all our employees play in processing, transporting, and delivering mail and packages for the American public. The CDC, World Health Organization, as well as the Surgeon General indicate there is currently no evidence that COVID-19 is being spread through the mail.

With social distancing, we can keep the mail moving while keeping our employees, and the public, safe.

Regina Bugbee, District Manager, U.S. Postal Service – Northern New England District.

Fine, Frugal Folks Left Money for Medics
Sam Yarnold was born in New Hampshire around 1908. The son of poor immigrants, he began working at an early age, mostly in the blueberry fields and cranberry bogs of New Jersey. His nephew, Stephen H. Roberts, remembers that Sam and his wife Alice (nee Pinkham) were "quiet, sincere, and kept pretty much to themselves. Sam was very frugal and would only read a newspaper left over from a neighbor." The Yarnolds retired to Rollinsford in 1958. Their 52 year marriage ended with



Alice's death in 1991; Sam survived her by three years.

As a tribute to their doctors, the Yarnolds left a legacy of \$800,000 to fund scholarships in the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000 for New Hampshire residents already in the process of post-secondary education pursuing careers in nursing, medicine, or social work. This year's applications are due by May 23, 2020; scholarships will be awarded this fall. Applications may be requested from the Alice M. Yarnold and Samuel Yarnold Scholarship Trust, 127 Parrott Ave., Portsmouth, N.H., 03801.

Life and Travels of Mrs. Nancy Prince
The office of the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, at 222 Court St. in Portsmouth, will remain closed for regular business until Monday, May 4, 2020. The staff, however, are working remotely to adjust their programs to our new reality. Though visiting is currently out of the question, you can always sign up for JerriAnne Boggis' newsletter at info@blackheritagetrailnh.org. You

never know what you might learn.

For example, we had never heard of Nancy Gardner Prince. JerriAnne's brief mention made us want to know more: "Despite a bleak beginning selling picked berries to survive, this author and traveler would go on to serve in the court of Czar Alexander I, start a business in St. Petersburg, Russia, establish a school in Jamaica, and publish her autobiography, *A Narrative of the Life and Travels of Mrs. Nancy Prince*. The full text is available online from the New York Public Library at <http://digilib.nypl.org/dynaweb/digs>.

Who could resist this?
"I was born in Newburyport, September the 15th, 1799. My mother was born in Gloucester, Massachusetts—the daughter of Tobias Wornton, or Backus, so called. He was stolen from Africa, when a lad, and was a slave of Captain Winthrop Sargent; but, although a slave, he fought for liberty. He was in the Revolutionary army, and at the battle of Bunker Hill. He often used to tell us, when little children, the evils of Slavery, and how he was stolen from

his native land. My grandmother was an Indian of this country; she became a captive to the English, or their descendants. She served as a domestic in the Parsons family. My father, Thomas Gardner, was born in Nantucket; his parents were of African descent. He died in Newburyport, when I was three months old. My mother was thus a second time left a widow, with her two children, and she returned to Gloucester to her father. My mother married her third husband, by whom she had six children. My step-father was stolen from Africa, and while the vessel was at anchor in one of our Eastern ports, he succeeded in making his escape from his captors, by swimming ashore. I have often heard him tell the tale. Having some knowledge of the English language, he found no trouble to pass. There were two of them, and they found, from observation, that they were in a free State. I have heard my father describe the beautiful moon-light night when they two launched their bodies into the deep, for liberty..."

OK, then—that's going on top of the "Read Next" pile.



In agricultural terms, this town has been practicing something dangerously close to monoculture for decades now: we have more restaurant seating than people. Then there are the hotels—how many of those rooms were filled by traveling foodies? Lately, though... Oh, well. At least we'll always have the history. And Gilley's is still open for takeout!

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"Every infectious agent only goes as the hosts go."
Dr. Ogonnaya Omenka, assistant professor/public health specialist at Butler University

"Dogs ain't like folks. They got hearts. Folks has only got souls. I guess dogs has the best of it, at that."
Albert Payson Terhune (1872-1942), American journalist and author
john@wordpraxis.com

"Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world."
— Dolores Huerta, labor leader and civil rights activist
— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Concord Public Library, 45 Green St.
Franklin Pierce Law School, 2 White St.
Hanover:
Hanover Public Library, 13 South St.
Keene:
Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.
Lebanon:
Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

We Must Remember This...

To the Editor:

If this pandemic has any redeeming value, it's the reality that the United States needs to adopt some major changes to become a just, healthy, and economically fair society for all of our citizens.

Suddenly, issues such as universal healthcare, universal childcare, a \$15/hour minimum wage, paid family and medical leave, and collaboration across borders seem more important and don't seem so unrealistic or even unobtainable. I hope we remember this when the pandemic finally comes under control.

Judy Ullman
Portsmouth, N.H.

Judy:
Amen.

The Editor

=====
King Trump

Dear Editor:

"The state is me," famously said France's King Louis XIV—absolute monarch during France's classical age. His ornate and gold-filigreed style is also the style of President Trump's New York City penthouse. Trump is attracted to Louis XIV. Now Trump has criticized the Governors of Washington state (Inslee) and Michigan (Whitmer) for not being "appreciative enough" of his late-come efforts against the coronavirus. He's called it "unpatriotic" to criticize him. He confuses himself with our nation that existed long before him and hopefully will have a life after him. Trump told V.P. Pence "not to call" those two Governors who've had too much difficulty getting medical supplies, like ventilators, for their state's coronavirus-ill people. Now they should expect no help from the federal government, a.k.a Trump, as a vengeful punishment. What kind of icky-goopy reasoning powers does this President show? Please, no more of him after November elections.

And best of luck to the Governors of states who stand up for their people against our President's inanities and self-serving decisions, his sick focus on "being liked"—more important

to him than people's lives—and more important than the obvious and heroic sacrifices our medical people are making as they serve. Thank you to our public servants who are doing their jobs and to our citizenry who are helping as they can.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:

Remember when some on the Right were dressing up like Minutemen? What ever happened to that anti-royalist sentiment?

The Editor

=====
Words of Wisdom

To the Editor:

I think that if this era could be summed up in one word, it would be fear. Right now, that fear has manifested in a global pandemic which has shut down basically every facet of our daily life, keeping us locked in our homes while our elected representatives in government fail to provide leadership and resources to a crippled country. Like many of the readers of this paper, I find myself lying awake at night, anxious about how I'm going to pay for expenses when service jobs are drying up faster than California's reservoirs, or whether my education will be irrevocably hindered by the closure of my school.

This fear is nothing new. Millions of Americans have experienced these anxieties for decades. This is not a people-friendly society; government policy has privileged and continues to privilege the bottom lines of corporations at the expense of working people. There was at one point such a thing as a middle class; at least, that's what stories from my grandparents say. Now, I doubt I will ever be a homeowner. I'm not alone. Donald Trump tapped into a public who correctly saw the current state of things not working for them, giving him control of the White House. Of course, his brand of populism has only exacerbated America's culture of dread, whether by demonizing immigrants, embracing pugilistic partisanship, or continuing the very same policies which gave rise to our problems in the first place. This is our



normal now.

In this time of fear, however, the solution should come not from further isolation but a greater degree of care for your fellow American. In our homes, we should not shut ourselves out from the world, but reach out to those who are experiencing this crisis as well and turn that understandable fear to action. Reach out to those who are struggling from loneliness, offer whatever aid you can to those who cannot work or now find themselves without a job, hold accountable those in power who would seek to downplay the effects of this virus and its consequent recession—all of these send a real message of disapproval of a dysfunctional status quo. It's certainly a start, at least.

As America begins to experience physical distancing, it might be worth considering imagining a social solution. After all, Covid-19 is just one disease, but we have quite a few social ills to deal with.

Teagan Hudzik
Hollis, N.H.

Teagan:

With young folks like you as involved as you are, perhaps there is hope.

The Editor

=====
Covid-19 and the State's Booze Biz

To the Editor:

I have been deeply concerned about many N.H. policies and actions regarding our response to Covid-19, but the State Liquor Store policy is one of the most dangerous, unjustifiable, and fraught with moral, legal and ethical problems. Some thoughts to consider:

1. What is the State policy if a worker refuses to work under the conditions that the State admits that a worker, "may bear a heightened risk of exposure to and community transmission of Covid-19 to a degree not inherent to the performance of other state services?" Are they fired, placed on leave without pay, asked to take

vacation/sick leave, etc? Taking such personal risks was not a condition of employment when the individual was hired.

2. Are workers at high risk of Covid-19 complications due to their age or underlying health conditions given special considerations and protections?

3. What is the liability to the State, the Liquor Commission and the Governor, if, as a result of this policy a worker contracts Covid-19 as a result of their employment and suffer serious illness and, or death?

4. What is the liability if a worker contracts Covid-19 at work, and subsequently infects others in their home or community, and, who then develop serious disease or worse?

5. Is the State knowingly and willingly allowing unnecessary community transmission of Covid-19?

6. Is a 10 percent raise going to protect these workers?

7. How can the State consider open retail store liquor sales an "essential business," when such a business is not life sustaining? Retail grocery store workers are getting infected with Covid-19, however, at least supplying food is a life sustaining "essential" business, and these stores are not operated by the state.

8. Why has the State, knowing and admitting to the associated increased risks associated with keeping State Liquor Stores open, continued this practice when there is an alternative way to supply liquor to customers in a manner that protects the workers and the public? Other businesses have successfully transitioned to curb-side pick up service. Liquor can be ordered on line or by phone, paid for with a credit card, and when arriving at the store call in and have the liquor brought to their car for ID check and delivery.

Obviously, this is not as easy as the normal retail process, but this situation requires unusual and creative ways of doing business to protect the employees and the public.

The State has a legal and moral obligation to protect its workers and the public, as well as the taxpayers who will ultimately pay for any legal and financial liabilities the State incurs as a result of this unjustified policy. I implore the state to do what is morally and legally right.

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

Rich:

Hard for the State to get righteous all of a sudden when it's been peddling booze by the side of the road to to Mass... residents for decades.

The Editor

=====
Ewing Concerned, Yet Conflicted

To the Editor:

It's **unacceptable** that the U.S. might have 80,000 to 200,000 CoronaVirus-caused-deaths! It's also unacceptable to have 20 million infected Americans, four million suffering with serious symptoms, and almost one million hospitalized. Nevertheless, these are Dr. Fauci's and Dr. Birx's projections with the current level of mitigation.

Obviously that mitigation level is **inadequate! We Must Do Better!**

Americans want to protect ourselves, our families, co-workers, neighbors, doctors, nurses, other healthcare workers, and others.

We need to know how to better protect everyone, and we need frequent reminders to change lifelong habits.

The primary exposure is breathing droplets containing the CoronaVirus

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into our lungs. (Droplets are primarily created by sneezing, coughing, and speaking.) Droplets can hang in the air for three hours or more. To keep these droplets out of our lungs we **must wear facemasks!** If you don't have a facemask, make your own, perhaps make some for others: <https://tinyurl.com/wjtv98u>.

Wear a facemask if you're sick, when indoors unless at home, and when outdoors unless you maintain the recommended at least 6 feet separation from others. The use of facemasks must be added to the President's Guidelines.

Every U.S. newspaper should highlight the President's key guidelines plus use of a facemask on the first page of every issue until this virus has been conquered. The full guidelines should be printed inside.

Every radio and TV station should repeat the key President's Guidelines plus use of a facemask, and identify [coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for details in their news reports, or more frequently.

Stores should require their workers to wear facemasks, ask customers to wear facemasks, and perhaps provide paper towels for customer in-store use as facemasks. Things can be done to better protect people during checkout. (Some stores have begun, thank you!)

Faithful following of the President's Guidelines plus facemask use will save lives! Wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your face, fully cover sneezes and coughs to reduce the spread of droplets, disinfect frequently used items and surfaces, keep at least a six foot physical distancing, and use a facemask especially when indoors except at home. See [coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for details.

We are Americans. We defeated the Nazis, the USSR, and sent men to the moon. We can do **great** mitigation. If

everyone (*i.e.*, media, stores, and individuals) does their part, their hard work and sacrifice will be rewarded by saving many thousands of lives, perhaps including the lives of their own loved ones.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

Good to see that you seem to actually care about your fellow Homo sapiens. We feel for you, trying to pass along good advice while #45 is elbowing Dr. Fauci aside so he can spew nonsense.

The Editor

[Gasp!] Trump's Leadership is Wanting?

To the Editor:

The U.S. military has a century of experience allocating and distributing scarce resources. The GSA (Government Services Administration) has decades as well. The company Walmart has experts as well. We are in a pandemic and medical supplies the states need are scarce. The National stockpile is severely limited and needs to be distributed wisely. Who did President Trump pick to allocate that stockpile? Jared Kushner, a trust [fund] baby with no medical knowledge, or any expertise in anything. His only qualification is being married to one of Trump's daughters. This is no time for cronyism. This is no time for stupidity. This is costing people their lives.

We have a nationwide shortage of medical masks, gowns and face shields. Most come from China. Instead of seeking China's help in getting these he insults the country by calling Covid-19 "the China virus." His defense was viruses are named after countries. His examples SARS, Ebola and MERS. None are countries.

State Governors are trying to compensate for the president's incompe-

tence, but this is creating a bidding war and hoarding. This country needs national leadership. Trump should appoint competent people, step back, let them do their job, let them do the talking.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

The Karma of Justice

Dear Editor:

Preventive steps were needed back in January, like ramping up the production of testing equipment, masks, ventilators, and hospital capacity. President I-knew-it-was-a-pandemic-long-ago did **nothing!**

Actually, he did something; he minimized and denied the problem.

The growing numbers of virus cases and deaths is alarming, and enraging, considering that much of the damage and death was preventable, **if** the Corona Criminal had followed the recommendations of our own government's health professionals. With the projection of more than 100,000 deaths from the Trump virus, the President qualifies as a mass murderer. Let's hope the Karma of Justice is swift and thorough.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Lt. Dan Checks In With a War Story

To the Editor:

When I was a brand new 2d Lieutenant in an engineer unit in Korea, I once told my platoon how we were going to build a bridge. As I was walking away my platoon sergeant said to the troops "What the Lieutenant meant to say was..." Of course, being a new Lieutenant, I took umbrage and went back to set the troops straight. We built the bridge my way. Three months later, the bridge washed out just as Sgt. Gould had said it would.

This embarrassing but life-altering lesson was brought to mind when I listened to our Glorious Leader expound

on some element of his Covid-19 response, and then Dr. Fauci had to come on and essentially say "What the President meant to say was..." The worrisome thing is that now Dr. Fauci is being shunted aside, and I wonder if this bridge will be washed away in three months.

My four recommendations on protecting yourself from Covid-19 are: (1) Wash your hands frequently, (2) Avoid crowds, (3) Listen to Dr. Fauci if he is allowed to speak, and (4) Don't listen to any Republican politician, especially Trump or Pence.

Dan Mannschreck, MD
Col., U.S. Army (Retired)
Barrington, N.H.

Col. Dan:

War stories are a notoriously tricky genre, ranging from the lugubrious to the sublime. Thank you for sending us a perfect example of the better sort.

The Editor

Let Us Put Aside Differences

To the Editor:

It was heartening to read in the *New York Times* that scientists around the world are collaborating to combat the coronavirus. They have put aside all other work to simultaneously focus on the pandemic and are sharing information across borders on all forms of coronavirus research, including viral genome sequencing, vaccine testing, clinical trials, and medical treatment. Dr. Francesco Perrone of Italy said, "I never hear scientists—true scientists—speak in terms of nationality." Dr. Yazdan Yazdanpanah of France describes the spirit which unites them, "What is important is to come up with a solution for everyone. The way to achieve that is to collaborate."

In our own country, we are in crisis mode, struggling together with this unprecedented challenge, and doing the best we can to care for everyone. Hopefully, when it is over, we will put political, economic, religious and racial differences aside to focus on what we have in common and collaborate to figure out what national "preexisting conditions" can be altered to mitigate the effects of future pandemics. History and science tell us they are inevita-

ble and coming faster and faster—we need to be prepared next time.

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.

Naming and Framing

To the Editor:

Please consider using and promoting the use of the phrase "physical distancing" instead of the somewhat misleading "social distancing."

"Social distancing" is one of the steps everyone has been and is being advised to take to slow the spread of the corona virus. What the experts actually want us to do is practice "physical distancing." As you may know, the SARS COV2 virus (technical name for it) is transmitted through physical contact and proximity—touching the eyes, lips, or nose with something contaminated with the virus, like your dirty fingers, or inhaling droplets from a sneeze or the exhalation of someone who has the virus.

After just a few days of self-quarantine—staying home and keeping away from family and friends, many people replaced the face-to-face interactions that matter the most (business or personal) with social media and other electronic means. Deeper into the shelter at home directive, those who are lucky enough to have access to the Internet have transferred a good part of their lives online to cope with the isolation and disconnection, and the logistics of a challenging situation.

Our social lives can carry on, just at a safe distance. I've made friends with people in Europe and Australia through a common interest in something unrelated to the pandemic. I've had "water cooler" online meetings with colleagues to chat about anything but work. I have almost daily video chats with my siblings. Whether we are on our own, with family, friends, and/or pets, most of us do better with a certain amount of emotional and psychological support.

Monique Yaptenco
Boston, Mass.

Monique:

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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HOWLERS AND HUMOR

What do we choose to remember with memorial markers, buildings and community projects?

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The Northcountry Chronicle

America as Alcatraz

by William Marvel

Meningitis broke out at Fort Polk, Louisiana, in the early weeks of 1969, where thousands of young men undergoing basic and advanced infantry training were packed into wooden WWII-era barracks. I knew only that meningitis could kill, and I felt a little uneasy as we formed ranks to hear the protocols we must follow. All the windows would remain open six inches, top and bottom, and trainees would make their bunks with the heads and feet alternating. In the chow line and at sick call, we had to stand two paces apart.

That was it, I think. In all other aspects we were thrown together like rugby players in a scrum. I developed a hacking, “productive” cough diagnosed as bronchitis, but I don’t remember worrying much about it. It didn’t make me a pariah in my platoon, either. We heard rumors of deaths here and there, but I figured we were all dead meat anyway, and meningitis somehow seemed less

terrifying.

Not so with our latest plague. Fed daily doses of worst-case scenarios, we seem so thoroughly convinced that Covid-19 will end life as we know it that we have decided to combat it by—well—ending life as we know it. A friend who moved to Europe 40 years ago recently told me he doubted that Americans would ever accept the specter of martial law and universal house arrest currently imposed in France. I had to remind him that since 9/11 a majority of Americans have shown a disturbing, sheep-like willingness to tolerate significant levels of coercive control and intrusion for the illusion of safety.

In New York—a world already turned upside-down—the burglar is released from jail while the homeowner is arrested for going outside. We have become a nation of prisoners mainly because of our society’s medical achievements, for which the ventilators employed to treat the worst respiratory cases serve as a convenient metaphor. We are asked

(or ordered) to stay home in part because there are not enough ventilators available, and “flattening the curve” may prevent the initial wave of infections from overwhelming the system. We are therefore confined to our homes simply because those ventilators exist, for without them there would be much less “system” to overwhelm. Victims of the disease might have almost as much chance of recovery at home as in a hospital, exactly as they did during the influenza epidemic that was raging when my mother was conceived, early in 1919.

Back before American citizens expected eternal life as a basic right, endemic diseases and periodic epidemics gave human existence a more precious flavor. People of the 19th and early 20th centuries clearly feared death less, but they fretted more over virulent outbreaks of diphtheria and cholera than about the endemic diseases that were more likely to kill them. We appear to accord equally disproportionate fear to the latest mutation of coronavirus,

and it yields astoundingly destructive precautions because we have come to fear death so much more.

Notwithstanding the high death rate among Italy’s older and more nicotine-addicted population, a little searching yields some persuasive arguments that mortality statistics for Covid-19 are grievously exaggerated. John Lee, a British pathologist, explained in a March 29 article how inadequate testing leaves the number of infections vastly underestimated, and how the number of deaths has been heavily overestimated by ignoring other underlying illnesses—many of which would have killed the patients even if they had not contracted Covid-19. Applying more realistic and relevant criteria to the calculations, Lee showed that the UK’s apparent 6-percent death rate (as of March 28) might actually be as low as .13 percent in the overall infected population. That’s about the same as the seasonal flu in the U.S.

All 3,711 passengers on the virus-ridden *Diamond Princess* cruise ship were tested, but only 17 percent

came up positive. More than half of those still showed no symptoms weeks afterward, while 1.9 percent of the symptomatic patients died. That’s still a death rate of barely .9 percent for all those who contracted the virus, even within a population that was almost entirely beyond middle age.

As vulnerable as I may be personally to this particular pandemic, I have to wonder if turning the entire country into a vast prison will not do more harm than good. How many cancers will turn irreversibly lethal because diagnostic procedures have been postponed? How many suicides will prolonged isolation induce? Are we prepared to respond with the violence necessary to quell an uprising of the urban poor, sequestered in squalor by millions with no source of income? Have Americans grown so craven that the slightest mortal risk will convince them to allow open-ended suspension of all civil liberties? Is this how freedom dies?

from page five

Good advice—we hope Don Ewing and Teagan Hudzik don’t mind our changing their terminology.

We also checked out the YouTube videos from Dr. Duc C. Vuong. He’s excellent! We highly recommend checking them out: not just informative, but very entertaining.

The Editor

—==—

Criticism is Patriotic

To the Editor:

“These are the times that try men’s souls.”—Thomas Paine.

I sense that the American public has not been so challenged and stressed since the days of World War II. Covid-19 was an act of nature. It has been made worse by the actions and decisions of President Donald



Trump. The following quotations are taken from the *Washington Post* (March 20, 2020):

“U.S. intelligence agencies were issuing ominous, classified warnings in January and February about the global danger posed by the coronavirus while President Trump and lawmakers played down the threat and failed to take action that might have slowed the spread of the pathogen....

“Donald Trump may not have been expecting this, but a lot of other people in the government were—they just couldn’t get him to do anything about it,” this official said. The system was blinking red....

“I think it’s going to work out fine,” Trump said on Feb. 19th. ‘I think when we get into April, in the warmer weather, that has very negative effect on that and that type of virus....’

“The Coronavirus is very much under control in the U.S.A.,” Trump tweeted five days later....

“We have a very small number of people in the country, right now, with it,” he said four days later. ‘It’s around 12. Many of them are getting better. Some are fully recovered already. So, we’re in very good shape.’ (Offstage voice). “Hey, Patton, knock it off. I thought we were sup-

posed to rally around our leader in a time of crisis.”

Sir, I think that the American public can walk and chew gum simultaneously. We can do our part to prevent the spread of Covid-19, and we can raise our voices to prevent President Trump from making even more mistakes.

Covid-19 patients are presently dying due to a lack of ventilators. It took weeks of intense criticism by the nation’s Governors to get President Trump to use the Defense Production Act to increase the production of ventilators by General Motors. The Governors’ outcry corrected a mistake by Trump.

President Trump suggested that citizens of New York State be quarantined and prevented from traveling to Florida. That caused an uproar in the legal community and ended a bad idea. He proposed that restrictions on citizens’ behavior, such as personal distancing, be selectively relaxed in time for Easter. Virtually all the nation’s health experts rose to oppose Trump’s plan, saying it is premature and would only spread the virus further. Their pressure is causing Trump to reconsider his plan. Staying silent in a time of crisis is not the patriotic thing to do, if you know that what the leader is doing is wrong.

Meanwhile, the truly patriotic thing to do is to curtail the spread of the virus by our personal behavior. Stay at least six feet away from

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Captain Crozier Deserves a Medal

by W.D. Ehrhart

Let me get this straight: Captain Brett Crozier, commanding officer of the U.S.S. *Theodore Roosevelt* has been relieved of his command for “poor judgment,” “unprofessional conduct,” and damage to his “national security mission” because he wrote a letter asking the U.S. Navy for resources to help his crew of nearly 5,000 sailors deal with a coronavirus outbreak on his ship.

Meanwhile, his and our Commander-in-Chief got elected at least in part through the help and intervention of Russian President Vladimir Putin, a man for whom our president often expresses affection and admiration. Our Commander-in-Chief has gone through Secretaries of Defense and National Security Advisors as if they were itinerant peddlers, at least one of whom is now a convicted felon. He has handed over one of the most sensitive areas of diplomacy, the Middle East, to a 30-something relative with absolutely no diplomatic experience. He has murdered in cold blood the second most powerful man in the Iranian government.

Our Commander-in-Chief be-

lieves that a few years at a military school is pretty much the same thing as being in the armed forces. He has expressed the thought that he ought to award himself a Purple Heart Medal (perhaps for bone spurs miraculously discovered by podiatrist Larry Braunstein, who rented an office in a building owned by the father of our Commander-in-Chief). He ridiculed former prisoner of war John McCain, saying, “I like people who weren’t captured.”

Our Commander-in-Chief has alternately threatened and cuddled up to that pudgy pompadoured man in North Korea. He threatened to withhold vital military aid to an ally at war with Russia unless the president of Ukraine took action to enhance the domestic political career of our Commander-in-Chief. He continues without skipping a beat his support for the Saudi ruler responsible for the murder of a U.S. resident whose children are American citizens. He has alienated our NATO allies repeatedly, those countries that most support and reflect our most admirable American aspirations of freedom, tolerance, and democracy.

Our Commander-in-Chief has

made a mockery of American diplomatic integrity, withdrawing from, pulling out of, or outright abrogating the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the Paris Agreement on Global Warming, the Transpacific Partnership, and the Iran Nuclear Arms Pact. What sovereign nation will ever again in our lifetimes trust the signatures of U.S. leaders on any diplomatic document or treaty?

Indeed, our Commander-in-Chief utterly dismisses global warming as “fake news,” ignoring the overwhelming scientific evidence to the contrary, and even dismissing his own military leadership’s concerns about the national security implications of global warming. He has placed in charge of the Environmental Protection Agency a succession of advocates for the fossil fuel industries, and repeatedly rescinded federal restrictions on the exploitation of our environment.

Our Commander-in-Chief dispensed with the National Security Council’s pandemic unit several years ago, and when the coronavirus outbreak began, he insisted first that it wasn’t a threat, then that it was no worse than the common flu, then that he knew it was a pandemic all

along, then that we should stop social isolating and all go back to work to save the economy, meanwhile offering federal assistance only to those states whose governors, in his words, “Treat me well.” At the same time, he now considers himself a “wartime president,” and insists on calling coronavirus “China virus” (perhaps because it’s less exciting to be at war with a corona—whatever that is—than to be at war with the Chinese).

Our Commander-in-Chief has left dozens of countries without a U.S. ambassador, and even embassies with ambassadors are frequently badly understaffed. There has been a massive exodus of career civil servants from the State Department since January 2017. He has publicly and repeatedly undermined and questioned the integrity of both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency.

I won’t even go near the Commander-in-Chief’s taunting of the physically disabled, his flagrant disparagement of women, his serial lying, his grotesque boasting about how intelligent he is and how extensive his vocabulary is and how successful he is in business since these

things may not bear directly on issues of national security (though even these things certainly fall under the categories of poor judgment and unprofessional conduct).

And certainly just about everything else I’ve discussed here very much touches on the security of the United States of America in addition to issues of judgment and conduct. Yet Captain Brett Crozier has been relieved of his command for acting in the best interests of the men and women for whom he is responsible.

Would that our Commander-in-Chief would show such concern for the men and women to whom he is responsible. He could start by awarding Capt. Crozier the Navy & Marine Corps Medal, the highest decoration available for heroism not involving armed combat.

—==—

W. D. Ehrhart holds a doctorate from the University of Wales at Swansea and an honorable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps. He recently retired from the Haverford School for Boys as a Master Teacher of History & English, and is the author of Thank You for Your Service: Collected Poems (McFarland, 2019).

from page six

other people. Stay in our homes as much as possible. Wash our hands frequently. Clean surfaces with disinfectant. Order take-out from local restaurants to keep them afloat financially. Donate money to food banks. Make masks for our first responders to protect them against the virus.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases predicts a second wave of Covid-19 will occur next winter, after the present one has subsided. That will take place after the next General Election in November. We have the opportunity to prevent more mistakes by President Trump. We can vote him out of office.

Gary Patton
Hampton, N.H.

—==—

A Genuine Mash Note

To the Editor:

Thank you for continuing to publish during this time made even crazier by the coronavirus.

Thank you, too, for your generous offer to extend my subscription until you go back to print, but please keep my renewal date the same (November.)

Yes, I love the feel of freshly printed cellulose between my fingers, but if I’ve gotten it, even in digital form, you don’t owe me. Please take the small amount that my subscription represents and use it to keep the commentary rolling.

Stay well,
Nan Graves
Cape Neddick, Maine
Nan:
Aww...
The Editor

—==—

Who’s making our medicine?

by Jim Hightower

[Originally published in 2009, this somehow seems relevant. — The Ed.]

—==—

Let’s talk pills. To treat everything from allergies to heart problems, half of Americans take a prescription medicine every day, and nearly all of us reach for the pill bottle on occasion.

It’s perfectly safe, though, because the Food and Drug Administration regulates the ingredients that go into those medicinal compounds, right? Yes—assuming they’re produced in the U.S.A.

Uh, aren’t they?

Mostly, no. Take antibiotics. *The New York Times* reports that ingredients for the majority of these bacteria fighters are “now made almost

exclusively in China and India,” as are the components of dozens of other major drugs. Unbeknownst to most Americans (and to our doctors), China has become the world’s pre-eminent supplier of medicines. As one major drug company puts it: “If tomorrow China stopped supplying pharmaceutical ingredients, the worldwide pharmaceutical industry would collapse.”

What’s at work here is mindless globalization and deregulation. Our politicians threw open the U.S. market to drug imports, while also letting foreign manufacturers go uninspected and unregulated. So, companies located in China can cut corners and undercut our own regulated pill makers. America’s last producer of penicillin’s ingredients, for example, shut down in 2004, leaving

us dependent on China.

FDA—our supposed watchdog—doesn’t even know where a drug’s ingredients come from. Why? Because drug companies say they don’t like to reveal their sources—so they don’t. *The Times* found that one federal database lists the existence of about 3,000 foreign drug plants that ship to the US, while another lists 6,800. No one knows which is correct, if either.

This is ridiculous. For the sake of America’s health, security, and economy, let’s regulate all pill makers and rebuild our own industry.

“Drug Making’s Move Abroad Stirs Concerns,” *The New York Times*, January 20, 2009.

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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, APRIL 12	MONDAY, APRIL 13	TUESDAY, APRIL 14	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15	THURSDAY, APRIL 16	FRIDAY, APRIL 17	SATURDAY, APRIL 18
<p>2007—The George W.[MD] Bush White House announces that official messages about the firing of eight U.S. Attorneys were among five million sent via private Republican National Committee servers—and are “lost.”</p> <p>2001—Vice President Dick “Dick” Cheney files his 2000 tax return which shows that \$5.1 million of his \$36 million adjusted gross income came from Halliburton.</p> <p>1961—Yuri Gagarin goes for a spin.</p> <p>1937—Sixty thousand U.S. students demonstrate against war.</p> <p>1933—In Oakland, brothers George and William Besler test fly a Travel Air biplane powered by a Doble steam engine; nearly-silent, it works fine.</p> <p>1867—William Bullock, inventor of the web-fed rotary press, dies of complications after his leg is crushed in a web-fed rotary press.</p> <p>1864—Hundreds of Union soldiers, black and white, are massacred at Fort Pillow by thousands of Confederates led by Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, future founder of the Ku Klux Klan.</p> <p>1862—Union spies steal <i>The General</i>, a Confederate locomotive, in Georgia and head north; but conductor William A. Fuller, on foot, on a handcar, and finally in another locomotive, chases <i>The General</i> down.</p> <p>1861—Confederate gunners begin a 34-hour bombardment of Ft. Sumter.</p> <p>1782—American militia troops massacre 100 neutral, Christian Indians of the Delaware Nation.</p>	<p>2002—Venezuela's poor overrule its generals; President Hugo Chavez is restored to office.</p> <p>1981—Rep. Jon Hinson (R-Miss.) resigns three months after being arrested for attempting to commit oral sodomy in a House restroom. He becomes an advocate for gay rights.</p> <p>1970—The <i>Apollo 13</i> moon shot lives up to its numeral.</p> <p>1962—Rachel Carson's <i>Silent Spring</i> is published.</p> <p>1953—The CIA's MKUltra brainwashing program goes to work.</p> <p>1919—British troops massacre at least 379 unarmed Indian men women and children at Amritsar.</p> <p>1917—President Wilson establishes the Committee on Public Information, 67 years prior to 1984.</p> <p>1901—French anarchist Clement Duval, after 14 years on Devil's Island, makes his 20th escape attempt. He gets to New York City, lives to be 85, and inspires <i>Papillon</i>.</p> <p>1873—In Grant Parish, La., the White League and the Klan celebrate Easter Sunday by killing 280 African-Americans in what becomes known as the Colfax Massacre.</p> <p>1788—Dr. Hicks, in N.Y.C., imprudently waves a detached human arm out the window of his hospital, scaring a child who squeals to papa.</p> <p>1204—Crusaders take Constantinople for the greater glory of God: murder, rape, looting, and the burning of the Imperial Library ensue.</p>	<p>2006—Six retired generals sign an Op-Ed calling on Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to resign.</p> <p>2004—Attorney General John Ashcroft blames Bill Clinton for terrorist attacks that took place seven months after Clinton left office.</p> <p>1999—Dan Quayle throws his pro-roller beanie into the ring.</p> <p>1994—Over Iraq, U.S. fighter jets shoot down two U.S. helicopters.</p> <p>1988—An Iranian mine nearly sinks the missile frigate <i>U.S.S. Roberts</i>.</p> <p>1975—Idaho's Bunker Hill Mining Co. says all female workers at its smelter must get sterilized to keep their jobs.</p> <p>1945—A new high-tech head floods <i>U-1206</i> on its 1st patrol. Commander K.A. Schlitt scuttles the boat; four crewmen die, the rest are captured.</p> <p>1939—John Steinbeck's <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> is published.</p> <p>1935—A windstorm carries away vast amounts of Great Plains topsoil.</p> <p>1865—J.W. Booth shoots A. Lincoln.</p> <p>1861—As cannons salute the lowering flag at Fort Sumter, one explodes. Private Daniel Hough becomes the first casualty of the Civil War.</p> <p>1860—First Pony Express rider arrives in San Francisco.</p> <p>1788—Dr. Hicks' N.Y.C. hospital is ransacked by a mob led by the widow of a snatched and dissected woman.</p> <p>1772—In South Weare, N.H. the County Sheriff tries to collect fines from sawmill owners for stealing the King's trees. They beat him up.</p>	<p>2019—Notre Dame catches fire.</p> <p>2015—Ex-postal worker Doug Hughes lands a gyrocopter on the White House lawn with 535 letters to Congress: overturn <i>Citizens United</i>.</p> <p>2015—In Zimbabwe, big-game hunter and Texan Ian Gibson is crushed to death by an elephant.</p> <p>2013—Two bombs explode near the finish line of the Boston Marathon.</p> <p>2003—George W.[MD] Bush installs Gen. Jay Garner to administer Iraq “until an Iraqi government can be formed.” He lasts less than a month.</p> <p>1994—Dick “Dick” Cheney tells C-SPAN G.H.[H.J.W. Bush didn't topple Saddam because that would have created a “quagmire” in Iraq.</p> <p>1992—Leona Helmsley takes up residence at a federally-owned Crowbar Hilton in Lexington, Ky.</p> <p>1987—The <i>Washington Post</i> reveals that, though Nancy had the sign changed to 668, the official number of the Reagans' Bel Air mansion is 666.</p> <p>1974—Press baron Wm. R. Hearst's gun-totin' granddaughter Patty helps the Symbionese Liberation Army rob a San Francisco bank.</p> <p>1970—Rep. Gerald Ford: “Impeach Justice William O. Douglas.”</p> <p>1961—The CIA bombs and strafes Cuban airfields with falsely-marked American B-26s.</p> <p>1788—In New York City, 5,000 rioters storming a prison to attack grave-robbing doctors are fired on by the militia: eight die.</p>	<p>1992—Afghanistan's President Najibullah, a Commie, resigns, making way for a more enlightened government.</p> <p>1969—Reverend Billy Graham advises Nixon to bomb North Vietnam's dikes—estimated casualties: 1 million.</p> <p>1963—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. writes “Letter From Birmingham Jail,” defending the civil rights movement.</p> <p>1954—“There is no reason why French forces should not remain in Indo-China and win,” says Richard Nixon, three weeks before the Viet Minh overrun Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p>1953—Ike says militarism hangs humanity “from a cross of iron.”</p> <p>1951—Shigeiki Tanaka, Hiroshima survivor, wins the Boston Marathon.</p> <p>1951—Use nuke waste to create an “Atomic Death Belt” across Korea, says Rep. Albert Gore [D-Tenn.].</p> <p>1947—Fertilizer-laden <i>SS Grandcamp</i> explodes in Texas City, Texas; 581 die in the 3-kiloton blast.</p> <p>1862—President Lincoln signs an act emancipating enslaved people in the District of Columbia, and paying reparations—to their ex-oppressors.</p> <p>1848—In Washington, D.C., 77 blacks board the <i>Pearl</i> to flee north. Ill winds and a betrayal foil the largest escape attempt in U.S. history. Opponents of abolition celebrate by rioting.</p> <p>1788—A medical student imprudently waves a detached human arm out the window of a medical school, sparking a riot in New York City; at least six people end up dead.</p>	<p>2013—A fertilizer plant located next to a middle school in West, Texas, uninspected since 1985, blows up. Fifteen are killed, mostly volunteer firemen, 250 others are injured.</p> <p>2002—G.W.[MD] Bush flip-flops again, vowing to rebuild Afghanistan.</p> <p>1986—Peace is declared between the Netherlands and the Isles of Scilly, ending a bloodless 335-year war.</p> <p>1981—The Supreme Court rules a law banning religious use of peyote is just fine. What First Amendment?</p> <p>1970—<i>Apollo 13</i> makes it home.</p> <p>1967—“[T]he defeat of the Communists forces in South Vietnam is inevitable,” says ex-Vep Richard Nixon. “The only question is, how soon?”</p> <p>1966—Timothy Leary is busted for pot possession by G. Gordon Liddy.</p> <p>1965—In New York City, 25,000 march against the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1961—The CIA escorts 1,511 Cuban exiles to the Bay of Pigs for slaughter.</p> <p>1959—In Times Square, 22 weirdos are arrested for declining to participate in an air-raid drill.</p> <p>1954—Affable old Ike threatens to nuke Red China.</p> <p>1935—Sun Myung Moon has a revelation: Jesus Christ asks him to complete His mission.</p> <p>1905—The Supreme Court says New York has no right to limit how many hours bakers must work in a week.</p> <p>1850—In the U.S. Senate, Henry S. Foote (D-Miss.) pulls a pistol on Thomas Hart Benton (D-Mo.).</p>	<p>2002—A U.S. F-16 pilot on “go pills” drops a 500-pounder: Four are KIA, eight are WIA in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry regiment.</p> <p>1986—“[W]hen you meet the President,” says Henry Kissinger, “you ask yourself, ‘How did it ever occur to anybody that he should be Governor, much less President?’”</p> <p>1985—President Ronald Reagan says Waffen SS troops buried at Bitburg were “victims, just as surely as the victims in the concentration camps.”</p> <p>1977—The federal frame-up of Leonard Peltier succeeds.</p> <p>1974—As Professor Irwin Corey accepts Thomas Pynchon's National Book Award for <i>Gravity's Rainbow</i>, a streaker runs across the stage.</p> <p>1968—The Army admits nerve gas from Dugway Proving Grounds killed 6,400 Idaho sheep.</p> <p>1942—Eighty men in 16 B-25s, led by Jimmy Doolittle, take off from the <i>U.S.S. Hornet</i>, bomb Tokyo, and ditch their planes in China; 90 percent survive.</p> <p>1930—The BBC newscast reports “there is no news,” then plays music.</p> <p>1906—San Francisco gets shook up.</p> <p>1891—A watch four minutes off kills eight people as the Toledo Express meets a mail train in Kipton, Ohio.</p> <p>1844—Believers in William Miller's Domsday prediction are disappointed—for the second time.</p> <p>1689—A mob of Bostonians overthrow Sir Edmund Andros, Governor of the Dominion of New England.</p>
<p>2:57 3:38</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:18 9:32</p>	<p>3:51 4:37</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:15 10:29</p>	<p>4:51 5:41</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:17 11:32</p>	<p>5:57 6:49</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:22</p>	<p>7:05 7:54</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:40 1:29</p>	<p>8:11 8:52</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:48 2:30</p>	<p>9:10 9:43</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:50 3:24</p>
SUNDAY, APRIL 19	MONDAY, APRIL 20	TUESDAY, APRIL 21	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22	THURSDAY, APRIL 23	FRIDAY, APRIL 24	SATURDAY, APRIL 25
<p>2004—A government spokesman reveals that NORAD had run a training exercise based on a hijacked airliner crashing into a building.</p> <p>1995—A Right Wing “militiaman” murders 168 souls in Oklahoma City.</p> <p>1993—For the good of the children, who end up among the 80 dead, the FBI attacks David Koresh's compound at Waco, Texas.</p> <p>1989—The <i>U.S.S. Iowa's</i> Gun Turret Two explodes, killing 47. After trying to blame an innocent sailor rather than ancient powder, malfunctioning equipment, or unauthorized experiments, the Navy says it can't say why.</p> <p>1971—President Nixon, recipient of a \$200K pledge from ITT—which is being prosecuted for anti-trust violations—tells Deputy A.G. Kleindienst “The ITT thing—stay the hell out of it. Is that clear? That's an order.”</p> <p>1971—Officials at Arlington National Cemetery turn away Gold Star Mothers and Vietnam veterans.</p> <p>1951—“Dugout Doug” MacArthur tells Congress, “Old soldiers never die.” Yeah, that's for young ones.</p> <p>1939—After some study, Connecticut OKs the Bill of Rights.</p> <p>1775—Minutemen and British soldiers battle in Lexington and Concord. The first published report comes two days later in the <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i>. Its probable author is eyewitness Isaiah Thomas, a former apprentice of Zachariah Fowle, Daniel Fowle's peculiar brother.</p>	<p>2017—The remains of South African hunter Scott Van Zyl are recovered from a crocodile in Zimbabwe.</p> <p>2010—<i>Deepwater Horizon</i> explodes and burns; 11 die and the world's largest oil spill ensues. Wrists are slapped.</p> <p>2008—The <i>New York Times</i> reveals that many “independent military analysts” appearing on TV are really Pentagon puppets.</p> <p>2001—The Peruvian Air Force, with some help from CIA “contract workers,” fires on a plane they think is full of dope. Nope. It's full of pro-sectetying American Baptists. Two die.</p> <p>1979—Canoeing near Plains, Ga., Pres. Jimmy Carter fights off a de-ranged swamp rabbit.</p> <p>1973—The Supreme Court says N.H. residents are free to cover up “Live Free or Die” on their license plates.</p> <p>1971—Mistaking the National Mall for their lawn, Supreme Court Justices tell Vietnam Veterans Against the War to get off it.</p> <p>1971—Maryland building contractor Lester Matz pays a \$2,500 bribe to the Vice President and freelance media critic Spiro “Ted” Agnew.</p> <p>1970—General Westmoreland tells the DAR, “Our own revolution has ended the need for revolution forever.”</p> <p>1914—Miners striking in Ludlow, Colo. are machine gunned by National Guardsmen employed by John D. Rockefeller; later their tent camp is burned. At least 19 die, including 11 children burned to death.</p>	<p>1999—To honor those killed at Col-umbine the day before, NRA president Charlton Heston says the gun lobby will cut short its Denver convention by one day.</p> <p>1992—At about 3:00 a.m., Robert Alton Harris is strapped into San Quentin's gas chamber. Twelve minutes later amid legal wrangling, he's taken back out. At 6:00 a.m., he's put back in and successfully gassed.</p> <p>1989—Chinese students demonstrate in Tiananmen Square.</p> <p>1980—<i>Newsweek</i> quotes R. Reagan inaccurately saying that Vietnam vets aren't eligible for the GI Bill because their war wasn't declared.</p> <p>1975—Nguyen Van Thieu, last president of South Vietnam, throws in the towel and bugs out of Saigon.</p> <p>1972—In El Paso, Texas, former commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam General William Westmoreland is pelted with tomatoes.</p> <p>1971—In Washington, D.C., Vietnam Veterans Against the War defy the Supreme Court by staying on the National Mall. Park police decline to arrest. Tomorrow's headline: “Vets Overrule Supreme Court.”</p> <p>1930—National Guardsmen with machine guns and bayonets prevent escape as the Ohio State Pen burns; 322 inmates die, 230 are hospitalized.</p> <p>1910—Train robber Frank Grigware busts out of Leavenworth with a pistol carved of wood, and makes his getaway on a stolen steam train.</p>	<p>2004—U.S. Army Spec. and ex-NFL star Pat Tillman is shot by his own side in Afghanistan; a cover-up ensues.</p> <p>2002—Dick “Dick” Cheney, fundraising in Florida, says “The Taliban is out of business permanently.”</p> <p>1987—Just because the death penalty is being applied in a racial biased manner, the Supreme Court rules in <i>McCleskey vs. Kemp</i>, that's no reason for states to stop killing black convicts.</p> <p>1983—The first two jolts from Alabama's electric chair set John Louis Evans on fire. It takes a third to stop his heart from beating, though.</p> <p>1971—Capitol police arrest 110 Vietnam veterans for serenading the Supreme Court with <i>God Bless America</i>.</p> <p>1963—South Vietnam is “steadily moving toward a constitutional system resting upon popular consent,” says Secretary of State Dean Rusk.</p> <p>1956—Rebecca West defines journalism: “An ability to meet the challenge of filling the space.”</p> <p>1952—America's TV audience gets its first broadcast nuke blast.</p> <p>1922—Henry Pitcairn lands an Autogiro on the White House lawn.</p> <p>1922—Charles Mingus Jr. is born in Nogales, Arizona.</p> <p>1915—The German 4th Army attacks French Territorial soldiers with chlorine gas as the 2nd Battle of Ypres begins; four future Nobel winners supervise the gas release. Despite 117,000 casualties, the month-long battle is inconclusive.</p>	<p>2017—Proud papa Dennis Dickey, a U.S. Border Patrol agent in Arizona, reveals the gender of his pending progeny by firing a gun at an explosive target surrounded by dry grass. The resultant fire burns 70 square miles.</p> <p>1993—RIP Cesar Chavez.</p> <p>1971—National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, on the phone with Allen Ginsberg, agrees to a personal meeting, but draws the line at doing so naked on television.</p> <p>1971—In D.C., Vietnam Veterans Against the War return their medals to Congress by leaving them over a fence in front of the Capitol, as Operation Dewey Canyon III concludes.</p> <p>1968—Anti-war students, including “Nam vets, occupy Columbia.</p> <p>1956—The USSR announces it's got an H-bomb.</p> <p>1952—“Do you know who's being discriminated against?” asks Rep. John E. Rankin [D-Miss.]. “The white Christian people of America, the ones who created this nation.”</p> <p>1860—Birth of Charles H. Kerr, founder of a radical publishing cooperative that's still in business.</p> <p>1734—The King's Surveyor General visits Exeter, N.H. with a team of men, looking for misappropriated timber. Locals beat them mercilessly.</p> <p>1014—The Irish under High King Brian Boru defeat the Vikings at Clontarf. Boru is slain by Brodir, who in turn is disembowelled by Brian's brother, Ulf the Quarrelsome.</p>	<p>1980—In Operation Eagle Claw, eight Americans die and five are wounded trying to get American hostages out of Teheran.</p> <p>1967—“The military situation [in South Vietnam] is favorable,” says Gen. Wm. C. Westmoreland, but protests at home might lose the war.</p> <p>1967—Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov dies when <i>Soyuz 1's</i> crashes, after its chutes fail. Misfiring retro-rockets incinerate his remains.</p> <p>1959—Michigan native Capt. John S. Lappo, piloting a six-engine RB-47, flies under the Mackinac Bridge at 425 mph; clearance: 155 feet.</p> <p>1953—A B-29 test flight—F-84s are bolted to each wingtip—goes awry over Long Island Sound. The B-29 and one F-84 crash with no survivors.</p> <p>1916—The Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood proclaim the Irish Republic, and the Easter Rising begins.</p> <p>1904—A debate over prohibition becomes a 30-second gunfight in front of the Waller County, Texas courthouse; four die, including Rep. John M. Pinckney.</p> <p>1877—Federal troops leave Louisiana; Reconstruction's over—good luck, all you black folks.</p> <p>1778—<i>Ranger</i>, under John Paul Jones, captures <i>Drake</i>—the first U.S. victory over a British ship in British waters.</p> <p>1704—John Campbell begins <i>The Boston News-Letter</i>, first successful newspaper in North America.</p>	<p>2005—Charles Duelfer, the CIA's man in charge of finding WMDs in Iraq, says there are none.</p> <p>2003—Secretary of the Army Thomas White gets fired for saying we need more troops in Iraq.</p> <p>2002—At his Texas “ranch,” George W.[MD] Bush plays kissy-face with Saudi Prince Abdullah.</p> <p>1984—Asked if he's ever been to a communist country, James A. Baker III replies, “Well, I've been to Massachusetts.”</p> <p>1962—Test-ban negotiations having failed, the U.S. says it will resume atmospheric nuke tests.</p> <p>1959—A mob, assisted by a deputy sheriff, drags Mack Charles Parker, accused of raping a white woman, out of the Pearl River County Courthouse in Mississippi and lynches him.</p> <p>1944—RIP George Herriman.</p> <p>1915—Australian and New Zealand troops under British command attack Turks at Gallipoli. They die in droves.</p> <p>1898—The U.S. obliges W.R. Hearst by declaring war on Spain.</p> <p>1847—The Donner Party's leftovers make it out of the wilderness.</p> <p>1846—Mexicans attack a U.S. “scouting party” near the border. As U.S. Grant later writes, “We were sent to provoke a fight, but it was essential that Mexico should commence it.”</p> <p>1523—Henry VIII of England forbids private ownership of guns by anyone with an income of less than 100 pounds a year.</p>
<p>10:01 10:28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:43 4:10</p>	<p>10:46 11:07</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:30 4:50</p>	<p>11:27 11:42</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:11 5:26</p>	<p>12:04</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:48 6:00</p>	<p>12:14 12:38</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:22 6:32</p>	<p>12:45 1:12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:56 7:04</p>	<p>1:16 1:46</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7:31 7:37</p>

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