

The Fortnightly Rant

"Darwin's On Deck..."

In times as terrible as these—the news cycle dominated by daily infomercials featuring a clearly addled mountebank praising his own homicidally ham-fisted response to a lethal pandemic; the global economy wheezing like a chain-smoker in the *Tour de France*; choruses of ignored scientists chanting a litany of pending but unaddressed environmental catastrophes; and, apparently, no baseball—we must keep our heads, and strive to accomplish whatever good we can. As one small step toward that end, we propose the abolition of the term "intelligent design."

Intelligent design, as we all know, is a weasel-phrase engineered to insinuate religion into our public schools under an assumed name. In modern parlance, it's an attempt to re-brand an old product. Far from attacking religion, though, abolishing this phrase would defend it.

This Presumed Designer of our ludicrous species—is he, she, or it benevolent? Cruel? Or simply insane? Judging from the available evidence, it's some mixture of the latter two. Don't bite the hand that created you, we say—admit you're a monkey's distant nephew, and put the blame on Darwin's lemurs.

While we're ladling unsavory ingredients into the communal punchbowl, we'll note that there's a disturbing parallel between so-called intelligent design and our alleged democracy. Winston Churchill—that homicidal half-American—called democracy "the worst form of government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." Considering the way ours is operating, one has to wonder if he shouldn't have quit while he was ahead, *i.e.*, at "government."

Public consciousness, such as it is, has now been subjected to nearly five full years of increasingly inco-

herent and self-contradictory jabber with the lowest signal-to-noise ratio since the Tower of Babel fell. We have all seen the photo: the source of this chaos and confusion, staring with naked eyes at a solar eclipse. So, too, are we transfixed by him—the Black Hole of Meaninglessness. As with a black hole, the thing itself cannot be seen—only the havoc it wreaks.

To better see what's actually in front of us, let us imagine something a little different, something to which we have not become blind by staring at it for too long: the President is a black woman, a socialist, exhorting her supporters to strap on their guns and assemble on the steps of state houses across the nation's heartland, expressing their willingness to die in defiance of decrees issued by Republican governors.

This picture would be incomplete without the proper context: a ubiquitous propaganda channel, operating around the clock, claiming to be the sole source of unadulterated truth while condemning its competitors as dupes and liars. It reports Madame President's every utterance, and backs her to the hilt.

For the sake of accuracy, we'd have to expand our vision even more. It would have to include a broad array of tax-exempt foundations, subsidizing generations of scholars steeped in the works of anarchists, socialists, and communists like Bakunin, Kropotkin and Trotsky. These intellectual shock troops would regularly release, as if from a bat cave, viral packets of language in endless succession. At the core of them all would be this essential message: ideologically speaking, capitalism and cancer are indistinguishable. Both Big Cs believe growth is everything; there is no future beyond the next quarterly report.



The finishing touch for our Bruegelesque hellscape would be the leaders of the Democratic National Committee, wearing Che berets, benevolently smiling over all that it had encouraged and promoted.

Our analogy is flawed, of course, because it is incomplete. It includes no representation of the investing class. Overwhelmingly favoring the GOP, it pursues its further fantastic enrichment at the risk of all our lives.

Hyperbole? Our editorial foot. Scientists at the Becker Friedman Institute in Chicago—Ground Zero for pro-capitalism academics—published an academic study Sunday, titled, "Misinformation During a Pandemic." They devised a way to compare the health outcomes for the audiences of two Fox News programs, one featuring Sean Hannity, the other Tucker Carlson.

"Carlson warned viewers about the threat posed by the coronavirus from early February, while Hannity

originally dismissed the risks associated with the virus before gradually adjusting his position starting late February." The study showed "greater viewership of 'Hannity' relative to 'Tucker Carlson Tonight' is strongly associated with a greater number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the early stages of the pandemic."

Then there's the matter of the tangerine-colored man who's not a doctor but acts like he is one on TV. "I hope they use [hydroxychloroquine] because... what do you have to lose?" Your life, apparently. "About 28 percent who were given hydroxychloroquine plus usual care died, versus 11 percent of those getting routine care alone," according to an AP report about a recent Veterans Affairs study. Wednesday we learned that he fired the director of vaccine development—who has an actual PhD in immunology—because he refused to waste resources on a quack hydroxychloroquine cure. Yesterday, in

the latest episode of his unrehearsed remake of "The Gong Show," he was promoted a new cure: injecting people with disinfectant.

The atmosphere was already warming when this virus came along; the ice caps were already melting, the oceans were already acidifying, and species were going extinct at a rate not seen since the dinosaurs went bye bye. We might get a handle on the pandemic in a year or two, but meanwhile the house is on fire. If we *Homos* really are *sapient*, this would be the time to start showing it.

The good news is that in a poll last week, 81 percent of the public backed social distancing, even if it does continue to damage the economy. Only ten percent held the opposite view.

Forget our wisecracks earlier about the flaws of democracy. We'll take that any day over the lunocracy that rules us now.

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Can't Give It Away

On Monday, a barrel of West Texas Intermediate crude oil had less value on the market than a printed copy of this newspaper—which, under normal circumstances, is free. Anyone willing to accept delivery could expect to receive \$40 along with each 42-gallon barrel.

Demand for oil was already falling early in March, due to the coronavirus. Because Vladimir Putin was resisting his plan to keep oil prices comfortable by lowering production, Saudi Arabia's fun-loving Prince Mohammad Bin Salman decided to start an oil price war against Russia. He jacked up production and offered big price breaks on Saudi crude. The combined effect was a glut so sudden and so great that the whole global system for transporting oil seized up like an overwound watch.

This, of course, seems pretty weird. On NPR Tuesday morning, energy correspondent Camila Domonoske told host Noel King, "I'm running out of synonyms for unprecedented." After an explanation of how this had come about, King, searching for some shred of normalcy, asked, "could the federal government intervene and stabilize the market in some way?" According to Domonoske, "President Trump mentioned a few different possible actions. ... He talked previously about filling up the Strategic Petroleum Reserve [SPR]" That's not going to help. The maximum capacity of the SPR is 717 million barrels [mb]. The current inventory is about 635 mb, so there's only about 82 mb of capacity left. Before the virus and the price war, the world used more than that in a day.

According to Peter Zeihan, who appears to know about this sort of thing, the real weirdness is just beginning. In a post at *Zero Hedge*, he wrote, "this is nothing but the warmup for the big show."

"That will happen when the world runs out of storage.

"... no one thinks there's a whole lot of storage capacity left. Global oversupply of crude right now is over 20 mbpd [million barrels per day] (with 30 mbpd seeming to be the "average" guestimate). Most folks in the know are now musing that what storage remains will be filled up completely sometime in May or early-June.

"And filled up it will be, because that is the express goal of the world's largest oil exporter, Saudi Arabia. The Saudi price war started out as a spat with the Russians over carrying

the burden of a production cut. It has since expanded into the Saudis targeting the end markets of every single one of what the Saudis consider to be inefficient producers. The Saudis are directly targeting markets previously serviced not just by U.S. shale and Russian [crude], but those serviced by Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan and Libya and Iraq and Iran and Malaysia and Indonesia and Mexico and Norway and the United Kingdom and Nigeria and Chad and you get the idea."

A Pox on All Their Houses

In a melee involving the entire global fossil fuel industry, there are no good guys for whom to root. Fortunately, though, according to Zeihan, there is one player in all the world that "has the most to lose" in this price war, and it's one we should all be rooting against: Alberta, Canada.

Because it is landlocked, there is only one market for the nasty oil from its tar sands: via a pipeline, into the U.S. Since we're already awash in oil, we don't need it. TC Energy, though—the company behind the Keystone XL [KXL] Pipeline—has a lot invested and seems determined to do whatever it takes to reap what it considers to be its rightful profits.

James Hansen, the former NASA scientist who has been warning the world for thirty years about the greenhouse gasses and climate change, got right to the point about tar sands in a 2013 interview in *The Guardian*:

"Oil from tar sands makes sense only for a small number of people who are making a lot of money

The Alleged News®

from page one

from that product. It doesn't make sense for the rest of the people on the planet. We are getting close to the dangerous level of carbon in the atmosphere and if we add on to that unconventional fossil fuels, which have a tremendous amount of carbon, then the climate problem becomes unsolvable."

Bill McKibben wrote in *The Guardian* on April 5th about just how far TC Energy execs, their cronies, and their enablers will go for a buck.

Thousands of demonstrators had persevered long enough to get the project shelved during the Obama Administration. Naturally, Donald Trump reversed that decision on his fourth day in office. Still, nothing happened because TC Energy was broke.

"[T]hen came the coronavirus epidemic," McKibben wrote, "and the oil industry saw its opening. It moved with breathtaking speed to take advantage of the moment.

"In Alberta, premier Jason Kenney, a pliant servant of the oil companies who had already set up a 'war room' to fight environmentalists, invested \$1.1 billion of taxpayers' money [in] TC Energy to fund construction through the year, and set aside another \$6 billion in a loan guarantee.

"Meanwhile, on the southern side of the border, a series of states quickly adopted laws making it a felony to protest 'critical infrastructure' like pipelines. (Last week South Dakota, a crucial link on the KXL route, made it a felony even to 'incite' such protest.) And the Department of Health and Human Services issued a memorandum exempting pipeline construction from stay-at-home orders because such work was 'critical'—that is, the department is asserting it is essential to build oil pipelines at the precise moment that the world is swimming in oil and that the Trump administration is boasting about getting Saudi and Russian autocrats to cut supply."

All is not yet lost, though.

As Niina H. Farah reported for



Llandudno, in North Wales, is home to about the same number of people as Portsmouth—plus a couple hundred wild Kashmiri goats. They are descended from a pair given to Queen Victoria by the Shah of Persia on her coronation in 1837. The goats normally hang out on the Great Orme, a headland overlooking the Irish Sea. With its streets deserted in the wake of the global lockdown, they've taken to wandering around in town, nibbling on the landscaping. Our Wandering Photographer—out for his constitutional—discovered on Sunday that the four Rockingham Lions have stepped down from their stairtop lairs. Other pedestrians: be advised.

E&E News, on April 15th, "Chief Judge Brian Morris for the Montana district court sided with environmental groups' complaints that the Army Corps of Engineers had failed to perform a multiagency consultation mandated under the Endangered Species Act to assess the risks of its Nationwide Permit 12 ahead of the program's five-year renewal in 2017."

The Corps of Engineers has traditionally taken a rubber-stamp approach to individual permits making up part of a larger project.

"In their lawsuit, which focused on the KXL pipeline but raised broader claims about the Army Corps' general permit," Farah wrote, "the environmental challengers said the agency approval treats each of the pipeline's water crossings as a distinct project and does not take into account the cumulative harms of building through all the water crossings along the entire project route."

As Rick Perry might say, "Oops."

About Those Pandemic Bonds

In our most recent printed edition, published on March 13th—and about which there is more below—we noted that two days earlier the WHO had finally declared that a pandemic was under way. We were wondering at that time if that declaration would finally trigger a payoff from the World Bank's peculiar Pandemic Bonds.

Yesterday we went looking for an update on those bonds. The best explanation came from Double Down News, a UK non-profit, in a YouTube video by Nick Dearden titled, "WTF Are Pandemic Bonds? And Why Are They So Shit?" Here's a transcript:

The World Bank, which is supposed to be about developing societies, and fighting poverty around the world, one of the ways that it thinks that you fight epidemics is the creation of special bonds called pandemic bonds. Pandemic bonds are loans that are sold to investors, sold to pension funds, sold to hedge funds. And they pay a return to those

big investors until a pandemic happens. And when the pandemic happens, the original capital that was invested in the bond, that is used to help countries deal with that pandemic.

The problem is that in order to encourage big investors to buy these bonds, they've been structured in such a way that they don't really work at all. They've effectively never paid out to date, despite the Ebola crisis and whatever else, they've never paid out.

Now with corona virus pandemic bonds have finally been triggered, so we hope now that those bonds are going to pay out. However, these bonds have been paying out, high rates of interest for the entire time that they've been issued to rich investors. So a lot of people have made money.

It would be far far better if we put society's resources into trying to take money out of tax havens, tax the super rich, tax big business, so that countries are able to develop decent universally accessible, public health care systems, so that when something like this happens, they have a head start—they're ready to

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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

begin dealing with a public health crisis, in a way that can actually meet the needs of everybody but especially, those [who] were going to struggle otherwise. The idea that you can kind of persuade the financial market to behave, as if it was a development institution, as if it was something that was interested in solving poverty around the world, is ludicrous and we shouldn't tie ourselves up in knots like this.

We need to tax, and we need to regulate, and we need to build up decent public services.

I always like to think that after the Second World War, my grandparents' generation suddenly thought: We've been through this war, we've been through horrendous suffering, we want to build a better society—how do we do that? And one of the things they did in this country was to say; health care is too important to be dictated by the market. Whether I get treated or not, how much I suffer or not, should not depend upon how much money I've got in my bank account. Health care should be a given. It should be available to everybody in society, no matter where they come from.

And that's where they created the National Health Service, and it was a very effective way of trying to re-level, some of the inequalities that had evolved in society over a long period of

time. And I think most people in Britain probably regard the NHS, as kind of the pinnacle of civilisation, of what if we put our minds to it we can achieve to create a better way of living.

Exactly that kind of solution needs to be rolled out, right the way around the world today.

Unfortunately, the very institutions like the World Bank, that are creating these ridiculous pandemic bonds, have spent years, and years and years telling countries they need to slash public spending, they need to privatise everything in sight, they need to liberalise their economies, they've made those kind of solutions that much more difficult. And we need to reverse course now very, very rapidly. And hopefully one of the few positives that might come out of this crisis, is that we finally wake up to the damage that's been done, to our ability to meet our needs as human beings, by the ravages of the market for decades now.

The mainstream media has become more and more dominated by vested interests. That's why alternative media is so utterly vital, if we're to create the kind of better world that most of us want to create. And it's why things like Double Down news are so important, so please, please, please support it if you possibly can.

Which we were happy to do.



Our Third Fortnight in Digital Limbo

It's been 42 days since we loaded the hand truck and wheeled fresh papers to RiverRun Bookstore; six weeks since we sat and helped fold papers for mailing to subscribers. Lord, how we miss publication day—and all those other days in between. Seeing the paper on tables here and there, slightly crumpled or soup-stained, was visible, tangible evidence that all this daily key-poking had a purpose, and meaning. Now we make do with a few additional clicks, silently sending a file to some gadget on a rack in an air-conditioned room devoid of human life. This represents an incredibly radical and rapid change from our familiar, comfortable, former circumstances—a state of being it literally took decades to develop. Indulge us while we briefly reminisce....

The editor first heard of the *New Hampshire Gazette* in the late 1980s, during his second go-round at the *Hillsborough [N.H.] Messenger*. Its disgruntled employees, warned of an impending takeover by a man

they knew too well to work for, were considering a mutiny. The plan was for the whole crew to jump ship and start a rival paper.

A paper needs a name. The editor had recently been reading certain quaint and curious volumes of forgotten lore, looking for confirmation of a story his father had told him three decades earlier: "There was a printer in the family, way back in the olden days, and he printed something the authorities didn't like. So they threw him in jail."

There it was, in Isaiah Thomas' *History of Printing in America* [1810]: Daniel Fowle, thrown into Boston's stone gaol in 1754, founded this—the first newspaper in New Hampshire—in 1756. Making things all the more enticing, Frank Luther Mott's *American Journalism* [1942] noted that "the oldest American paper surviving today is the *New Hampshire Gazette*, of Portsmouth...."

The editor hastened to the offices of William "Bill" Gardner, New Hampshire's Secretary of

State for Life. Writing a check for \$40, hoping it wouldn't bounce, he whisked the rights to the Nation's Oldest Newspaper™ from the previous claimant, then the owner of the *Portsmouth Herald*, Kenneth Thomson, 2nd Baron Thomson of Fleet, and the 9th richest man in the world. (The *Herald* and the *Gazette* had been paired up since F.W. Hartford bought all the papers in town at the turn of the 20th century, shutting down all the others.)

Gardner made it official on May 1st, 1989. After a decade of publishing on irregular dates from a number of locations, we reintroduced this paper to Portsmouth 21 years ago, on May 1st, 1999. In mere months we gained two stalwarts still with us today: Business [Such as it Is] Manager Rose Eppard, and Starving Artist Mike Dater.

Until we're back on paper, we'll be here, confined to *nhgazette.com*. Happily, though, we expect that on May 1st, 2020, this site will undergo a subtle transformation, making it more flexible and responsive.



The sign clearly states, "Stay Wicked Fah Apaht," but this dinosaur and unicorn paid it no mind on Sunday afternoon. Maybe they're from away, and the local vernacular escapes them.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"Let everyone sweep in front of his own door, and the whole world will be clean."

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) writer, poet

"We are the one species on this planet that seems to think that this place belongs to us, and only us."

— Prince Harry

john@wordpraxis.com

"It is a fresh and continuous robbery, that goes on every day and every hour."

— Henry George, *Progress and Poverty*, 1879

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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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.

Back to Normal? Not Without More Testing
To the Editor:

All of us here in New Hampshire and the rest of the country are doing our best to push down the Covid-19 threat so that we can get back to our previous normal lives. However, it is important for our political leaders, the healthcare community and the business community to develop a strategy now to get there after the health threat subsides. Most professional medical experts and worldwide business leaders are already recognizing that a major component in any such strategy must be intensive and comprehensive Covid-19 testing and testing for Covid-19 antibodies.

We can assume that if a person has developed antibodies against Covid-19 (even without any symptoms for at least 14 days), that person is then immune from Covid-19 for at least some time (experts suggest, at least one year). If a national agency such as the CDC, with the help of the states, sets up a database to record everyone who has been tested for Covid-19 and for antibodies against that virus, it could be possible to start bringing back the economy. Individuals who have been tested Covid-19 free or who have the antibodies could return to jobs, together with other such employees, to resume work. This would require a large volume of testing, however; the higher the volume, the sooner we could resume normal economic activities. While those suffering from Covid-19 would be identified and properly treated, we would also know who has not yet been affected by the virus.

It is unrealistic to believe that without such extensive testing customers would return to stores and businesses, including doctor's offices and hospitals, without the certainty that the entire staff has undergone testing and are not Covid-19 carriers. Such massive testing is being advocated by many health and economic professionals such as Dr. Paul Romer, World Bank economist and Nobel Prize recipient, and countries (e.g. Germany) have already begun such testing. In these countries, individuals who have been

tested are being issued certificates as proof that will allow them to return to work.

It is clear that this is not the time to reduce the number of tests, in fact we need to accelerate that number.

For example, if the data that I have received is correct, while Maine CDC is currently doing 3,500 tests per day and planning to increase that number, New Hampshire is only performing approximately 500. Why?

Rep. Peter Somssich, District 27
34 Swett Ave. Portsmouth, N.H. 03801
tel. 603-436-5382 (h)

Peter:
Why, indeed. Perhaps there are more parallels between our Governor and President than a thirst for the limelight. Incompetence, for example.

The Editor
=====
Protect Us From King Sununu
To the Editor:

New Hampshire's founding fathers knew what it was like to live under a king. Our State Constitution imposes many limits on elected officials to prevent anyone from acting like a king. Elected officials are elected for two-year terms. Uniquely, we have an elected Executive Council. Appointments by the Governor must be approved by the Executive Council, as are contracts over \$10,000.

Unfortunately, New Hampshire now has a Governor who wants to play king. He says we are in an emergency and he should be given sole power to distribute \$1.25 billion in Federal aid. He says there is no time for oversight or the Constitution. This is the same Governor who handed out campaign money to his siblings and other family members. He is acting like our corrupt President, who says no one should be able to see or say how he hands out \$500 billion to large corporations.

State Representatives have filed suit to stop this usurpation of power and restore the legislature's roll in how your money is spent. We all should hope the court steps in to protect us from would be King Chris Sununu.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.



Walter:
Ab, yes—that other parallel. We knew we'd forgotten something.
The Editor
=====
Trump Threatens Lives and System
To the Editor:

In recent days, protestors carrying weapons and wearing Trump, Nazi and Confederate insignia, have con-

damned. "When it's my time to go, God's going to call me home," one said, with disregard for the safety of others. The protests themselves endanger lives, congregating in tight groups without masks, handing out candy to children with bare hands.

arms. In another, he called Governor Whitmer of Michigan "Half-Witmer." She responded that she supports citizen's rights of assembly but protests must be conducted "in a manner that doesn't put their health or the health of our first responders at risk."

Seeing Trump's tweets as incitement to riot, some ask if he is above the law. As we learned from Mueller, a sitting president will not be indicted, so the remedy is impeachment, which is unlikely.

The underlying problem is that our system of justice and government can function only if citizens respect it. With what Trump is doing and saying, we may be losing that respect. Ultimately, it falls upon the people... on November 3rd.

Don Nolte,
Exeter N.H.
Don:
Let us hope, on that day, that anti-Trump voters turn out in sufficient numbers to overcome all the Republicans' various voter suppression campaigns.

The Editor
=====
Worst Trump Failure Yet
To the Editor:

Donald Trump had one thing to do! Just one job. And he couldn't do it!

His job was to lead the country in the midst of an emergency, to show leadership, to be President of the United States—and he couldn't do it.

Instead he chose to be President of his base. He was unable to switch gears, stop campaigning, and be President to the whole country. His job was to be reassuring, to give support to first line defenders, to coordinate a response; to be out in front, not of the cameras, but of the curve. His job was to lead, to unite, to look for solutions. Instead, he looked for scapegoats.

"Hey, I Didn't Vote for Him!"

a found poem

I. Donald Trump's Failed Businesses

- Trump Steaks
- GoTrump
- Trump Airlines
- Trump Vodka
- Trump Mortgage
- Trump: The Game
- Trump Magazine
- Trump University
- Trump Ice
- The New Jersey Generals
- Tour de Trump
- Trump Network
- Trumped!

II. Donald Trump's Bankruptcies

- Trump Taj Mahal
- Trump's Castle
- Trump Plaza Casinos
- Trump Plaza Hotel
- Trump Hotels and Casinos Resorts
- Trump Entertainment Resorts

W.D. Ehrhart
Bryn Mawr, Penn.

fronted Democratic governors to demand that Covid-19 social distancing orders be lifted. In Michigan, their cars blocked ambulance access to a hospital. Protestors demand that governors "reopen" their states, public safety be

Conservative media figures and officials have encouraged such protests, to "free" the states, suggesting that controls are excessive. In one such tweet, President Trump cited Second Amendment rights on bearing of

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He has failed massively.
Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.
Michael:

To say that the President has one job seems reductionist to us. The Presidency may be the most complex, multifaceted task ever put before a mortal human. What's most remarkable about the incumbent is that he's failed at every one of them.

The Editor

====

When Local Jobs Went Away

Dear Editor:
Special for me during isolation—by phone playing a Scrabble game just about daily with my 96-year-old friend Marylou in Florida, in assisted living, in isolation too. We have conversation while playing, so please don't suggest online "Scrabble with Friends!" My Scrabble game's box lid is falling apart, but in it I glued, when new, this article about the manufacture of Scrabble letters. The article is dated January 13, 1999. A Hasbro spokesman said, "The Bauhinia Limited Co. of Hong Kong is [now] making the wooden tiles and tile racks at its plant in Shanghai." Also, "For 20 years, Milton Bradley Wood Products, Inc., in Fairfax, Vermont, produced tiles and trays. Hasbro closed the plant Dec. 4th, costing 87 people their jobs." Closing that Vermont plant and five other manufacturing (toys) plants "around the world" is "expected to save the company \$350 million before taxes within five years."

In 1998, plant-closing-year for Hasbro in Vermont, Bill Clinton was a 2nd-term President. His first election had Independent H. Ross Perot in the picture. H. Ross Perot accurately predicted "the sucking sound of jobs leaving the country." Whether

Clinton or G.H.[H.]W. Bush won in 1992, either one was ready to sign the first Free Trade Agreement. Clinton did. Environmental protections and labor protections were nothing compared to reaping big, bigger, biggest profits by the companies that gained by going overseas. Being Democrat or Republican didn't play. President W.[MD] Bush came along, then President Obama. No curbing Free Trade Agreements. At one time I recall, early in Obama's tenure, believing I'd see him sign the first Fair Trade Agreement. At the time we already had Fair Trade coffee purchases and Fair Trade chocolate. No. Obama was in the mode of corporations getting their way.

Now we need to think harder about our economy after this coronavirus is contained and hopefully receding, then over. Where should our goods be produced? How should the planet's needs be considered equally—at least—to economic needs as we provide for people's lives? Should we be throwing away so much as we do? Which people count? Everyone should count, no matter race or wealth or hemisphere. We are all on one small, lovely, stressed planet. Our next election must provide national leadership that is intelligent and thoughtful and far-sighted. If you agree, please send this letter to voting friends and relatives in other states of our U.S.A.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

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Suicide Note

To the Editor:

I think this self-quarantine stuff is getting to me. I was so depressed last night thinking about social isolation, the economy, wars, jobs, Trump, my savings, Social Security, retirement funds, nuclear disaster, global warm-

ing, and the future of printed news, that I called the Suicide Hotline. I got a call center in Pakistan. When I told them I was feeling suicidal, they got all excited and asked if I could drive a truck. But they hung up on me when I told them my license had been revoked for a DUI.

William Daniel
Philadelphia, Penn.

signs of outbreak saves lives and reduces damage. Denying there is a problem enables the catastrophe to accelerate. Delaying response causes preventable deaths and costs uncountable fortune.

The cost of early preparation, prevention and response is substantial. The cost of early preparation, prevention and response is very low, compared to the cost of doing nothing.

Can we apply these lessons to the global climate crisis? We are suffering early signs: hurricanes are more powerful and damaging; droughts are more severe and flammable. Some people, regrettably in political leader-

of not changing will become catastrophic.

With commerce largely shut down by coronavirus, and the price of oil sinking into negative numbers, we now have a special, one-time-only opportunity to switch to non-polluting, renewable energy sources to avert the climate change catastrophe.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

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"Clean Drinking Water is a Human Right"
To the Editor:

"Clean drinking water is a human right," says the N.H. Palestine Education Network (N.H. PEN). N.H. PEN has supported the "Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine," a Massachusetts based organization (waterjusticeinpalestine.org) that has sponsored walks to raise funds to assist Palestinians who live in either Gaza or in the West Bank to gain access to water. Another Massachusetts group linked to the "Alliance" is 1for3.org, which works closely with Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem, Palestine, to promote water security.

According to the Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine, "95 percent of the Gaza Strip's two million residents, including 991,400 children, are without clean drinking water due to Israel's continuing destruction of Palestinian wells and the water infrastructure, and its refusal to repair damage from its military onslaughts." When Israel limits the electricity to Gaza to four hours a day to power the four dilapidated power plants and the necessary fuel to run them, the children of Gaza suffer. What the Israeli leaders are doing to the children and the elderly constitute, for many, crimes against humanity. Moreover, the coronavirus has begun to impact Palestinians as well. People are told to keep washing hands with soap and water so as to protect against infections, but what if there is no easy access to water?

Following the 1967 "Six-Day War," Israel took control of all water resources in the Palestinian Territories, the

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

Foxes in the Time of Coronavirus

Never saw the like of it before:
four sets of railroad tracks on one side,
four lanes of traffic on another,
parking lots on either side, barely
space for bushes and a patch of grass,
an early April day, sun shining—
and there, beside the fir tree, a fox.
There, another. Smaller. And another!
Three, four, five, six! Incredible.
A vixen and her six small kits,
the mother keeping watch, aware of us,
fifteen feet away, my wife and I,
but not alarmed so long as we stood still,
her babies tussling, tumbling, racing,
pouncing, prancing, chasing one another,
having fun, though never far from Mom.
I know it's anthropomorphically
incorrect to think of animals
in human terms, but if those baby
foxes weren't as happy as a school boy
on a snow day off from school,
I'll eat this mask I'm wearing.

W. D. Ehrhart
Bryn Mawr, Penn.

We Need to Learn From This

Dear Editor,

What can be learned from the coronavirus pandemic? Preparing for epidemics before they happen saves lives. Responding to epidemics at the first

ship, deny there's a problem. Delaying response enables the crisis to accelerate; climate change feeds itself and may soon become unstoppable. The cost of changing from our oil-based energy economy is large, but the cost

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

Open Door
"Puddle Dock," now Strawberry Banke, remembers the Irish and other immigrant families who lived there.

To learn more about memorials and what else we choose to remember go to PortsmouthGenome.org
Join the conversation.
A Portsmouth Peace Treaty Forum project.

HOWLERS AND HUMOR

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*The Northcountry Chronicle***Educating Billy**

by William Marvel

Early in the spring of 1963, we eighth-graders at Conway Junior High traipsed down Main Street to Kennett High School to sign up for our freshman programs. It did not occur to me, or perhaps to many of my classmates, that this event could have a significant impact on the future course of our lives. We saw the guidance counselor, who asked us a few questions and filled out some 5x7 cards before signing us up for a program.

There were three general courses of instruction at Kennett. College prep consisted mainly of academic studies. General education began with fundamental English, math, history, and science, and bookkeeping or secretarial classes for those with business interests. Industrial arts included the same basic courses as general education, but with wood and metal shops and some basic automotive training.

Somehow the guidance counsel-

or wrote me in for industrial arts. I don't know how it happened; maybe I found the phrase "industrial arts" intriguing, and said "I'll take that," or maybe he suggested it. After all, this was the same man who later suggested that I ought to consider becoming a barber. I didn't really care what course I took. I hated school anyway, because it cut too deeply into my reading time.

I came back to the junior high in time to file back into the building after noon recess, and my homeroom teacher, Margaret Gagnon, fell into line beside me. While we shuffled in she asked what I had chosen for a course. When I told her, she took me by the elbow and turned me away toward the office, where she sat me down and called the high school. I don't remember what she said, but from a drawer she produced a 5x7 card just like the one the guidance counselor had used, and after filling it out she told me to take it over to the guidance office after school.

That was how I entered the col-

lege preparatory course. I took some interest in English and history, but by the beginning of my senior year it dawned on me that my post-graduation prospects would be limited. If I didn't go to college, my schooling only qualified me for local jobs I didn't want, or for military service. I was considering the Navy.

Attending college already seemed economically impossible by my last year of high school. Tuition and housing expenses then only came to a few hundred dollars a semester, but I had accumulated no savings. Neither had I thought far enough ahead to compete for local scholarships that bridged the gap for better scholars. In 1967, family-court judges had not yet extended the limits of mandatory parental responsibility through the college years, and I had moved out of the house anyway. Student loans—as ridiculous as it must seem to adherents of Elizabeth Warren and Comrade Bernie—were limited to those who actually had some intention of pay-

ing them off, and only in amounts that seemed possible to repay. The system of unlimited, unsecured, and essentially federally subsidized loans that encouraged colleges to charge astronomical tuition had not yet been engineered.

So I didn't go. Even after getting out of the Army, I still spent several years dividing my time between bread labor and obsessive reading. For upwards of two years I lived barely half a mile from the Boston Public Library, and made that my principal hideaway, with a decided preference for the microfilm and special collection departments in the old half of the building.

Thanks to the GI Bill, I did finally earn a degree in the last months of my third decade, and graduated with savings instead of debt. I did quite well, too, in that era before grade inflation rendered deans' lists completely meaningless. Still, the degree itself never won me a job, and I continued at blue-collar work I could have taken straight out of high

school. That gave me the free time I needed to experiment with my most compelling interests, and eventually they coalesced into what became a most satisfying occupation.

Had a Mrs. Gagnon taken me by the elbow again when I graduated from high school and insisted that I begin college, I might have followed the logical track for those who don't yet really know what they want to do. That would probably have yielded a respectable career with a satisfactory income, and in a day when students had to actually pay their own college costs it would not have cost a fortune—but there isn't much chance it would have made me happy. Today the education racket promotes college as the "key" that all students must have, but those who rush into it often find that it locks a door that might otherwise have remained open.

**Why Does Trump Lie?**

To the Editor:

At a press conference on April 20, President Trump said "I cannot tell a lie." And yet, fact checkers have counted over 16,000 untruths, and we have all heard him say things we know are not true. Of course, all politicians try to cast events in a light favorable to their cause, but Trump goes further.

I have often wondered to what extent he truly believes his fantasies, to what extent they are gaffes, and to what extent he does it by design -- and if so, to what ends: to con voters; to entertain fans and attain "top ratings"; to divert blame and create plausible deniability; to energize his base and give them ostensible justifications for supporting him (whatever their real reasons might be); to irritate and gaslight foes ("poke



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West Bank, East Jerusalem, and in Gaza, except for one small aquifer which runs under the Gaza Strip. Sadly, this aquifer has been polluted and thus the water pumped from this source is so contaminated that 97 percent of it is unsafe to drink. As a result, many children suffer from various diseases such as dysentery, diarrhea, kidney disease and gastroenteritis.

The 13-year-long Israeli blockade has helped create a massive sanitation crisis in Gaza where tons of sewage, raw and untreated, flow directly into the Mediterranean. The UN's World Health Organization predicts that unless drastic steps are taken to provide clean water and stop the tremendous discharge of waste Gaza will be uninhabitable by

the end of 2020.

When visiting Palestine, I have stayed in the houses of Palestinians and observed that on some days the water supply is turned off by Israel. This compels the families to buy trucked in water which the Israeli company charges Palestinians three to four times higher prices than for Jewish families. *Al Jazeera* reports that, "While Israelis have access to around 240 liters of water per person per day, and illegal settlers over 300, Palestinians in the West Bank are left with 73 liters—well below the World Health Organization's minimum standard of 100." During one trip to a settlement outside of

Jerusalem, I saw green lawns and a very large swimming pool and fully thriving gardens. Later that same week, I travelled to a Bedouin village where there is no connection to a water supply so they must buy expensive "Israeli" water. Their water consumption can drop to 20 liters of water per person per day.

In conclusion, Camilla Corradin of *Al Jazeera* says that "Israel's discriminatory water policies prove that it is using water as a tool to dominate Palestinians, exercise its power, and punish an entire population by deliberately depriving its inhabitants the most basic rights."

And, as shown, water security is one such human right. One hopes that someday Israel's oppression of Palestinians and its brutal military occupation will end and that justice and peace will prevail.

Will Thomas, N.H. Palestine Education Network
Auburn, N.H.

Will:

If we were to give one percent of our war budget to organizations like the Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine and 1for3.org, that would do more for our real security than the other 99 percent.

The Editor

--~--

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Don't shut the post office, expand their services

by Jim Hightower

What's the matter with the post office?

The U.S. Postal Service, I mean—the corporate hierarchy that runs this enormously popular public institution. Yes, I know that U.S.P.S. has lost revenue it traditionally got from first-class mail delivery, but I also know that letter carriers and postal workers have offered many

excellent ideas for expanding the services that U.S.P.S. can deliver, thus increasing both revenue and the importance of maintaining these community treasures.

Yet, the Postal Board of Governors, which includes corporate interests that would profit by killing the public service, seems intent on—guess what?—killing it. The board's only "idea" is to cut services and shut down hundreds of local

post offices. Incredibly, their list of closures include the historic post office in Philadelphia's Old City, the very building where Ben Franklin presided as our country's first Postmaster General, appointed by the Continental Congress in 1775.

All across the country, post offices that are invaluable artistic and historic assets are slated to be sold to developers. One is the marvelous 1935 Bronx post office, with clas-

sic architectural flourishes and 13 museum-worthy murals. "It's not just a post office," says one customer fighting the closure, "it's part of my life." No one feels that way about a Fed Ex warehouse. Yet, says a U.S.P.S. spokeswoman dismissively, the four-story building is "severely underused."

So, use it! Put a coffee shop in it, a public internet facility, a library and museum, a one-stop government

services center—and, as U.S.P.S. employees have suggested, a public bank offering basic services to the thousands of neighborhood people ignored by commercial banks. Come on, U.S.P.S., show a little creativity and gumption, and remember that "service" is a key part of your name!

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the bear"); to belittle established politics and "political correctness"; to sow confusion and disorganization among the opposition; to play ball with those who have sway over him (e.g. Putin); to smokescreen the dismantling of democratic systems while pursuing autocratic ambitions; to see how much he can get away with in the game of life, how rich and powerful he can become.

I wonder how conscious or subconscious Trump's motivations might be, and how they emerged from his experience on the school yard, in real estate and finance, in Hollywood.

Whatever his purposes for dissembling might be, it is clear that he is corrupt and unscrupulous, lacking in integrity, without moral or ethical center, without empathy or concern for others.

Don Nolte,
Exeter N.H.

War, Irony and The New Normal

The uber-irony about the deadly coronavirus is that, as it claims lives, endangers millions and interrupts the social normal, threatening unprecedented global chaos, it is also quietly informing us what we must do to create a better world — and, indeed, creating it, in certain ways, as we look on in stunned wonder.

The "what we must do" part is obvious to many: "After all," writes Lawrence Wittner, "why not work cooperatively to save humanity from massive global death and economic collapse rather than continue to devote \$1.8 trillion a year to waging



wars and engaging in vast military buildups with the goal of slaughtering one another?"

And Khury Petersen-Smith, pointing out how xenophobic racism at the level of national government — e.g., Donald Trump's initial impulse to blame China for the virus — fans the flames of public stupidity, writes:

The impact will be disastrous. Already, racists have taken license to attack Asians and Asian-Americans in public. And stoking division on a world scale will undermine one of the most important keys to our collective survival of this crisis: cooperation across borders.

As the world struggles to create or flee from the new normal that's emerging (or maybe not), here's a phenomenon almost too strange to comprehend: March 2020, with schools across the country closed down, "was apparently the first March in nearly two decades without a school shooting in the U.S.," CBS News reports. The last March our school system has been free of a shooting spree was 2002.

What? America, America, God shed His grace on thee....

But let's go back to the nearly \$2 trillion the world as a whole devotes annually to war and armaments, all in the name of keeping itself safe. This is insanity beyond comprehension. But because, up until the last couple months, it has been, for several millennia, the essence of

Normal, the falseness of that belief doesn't matter. It's the way things are. Protecting borders and "interests" is the primary function of most national leaders across the globe. Almost every nation maintains a hammer — that is to say, a military — and every problem out there then becomes a nail to whack at. Is the coronavirus waking us up?

"Imagine," writes David Swanson, "if the nuclear doomsday clock being closer to midnight than ever before were addressed appropriately, with some hint of interest from human governments in human survival."

That's precisely what millions of people across Planet Earth have desperately wanted from their governments — some hint of interest in human survival! — since, I would say, the dawn of the nuclear age. Has the division of the planet into nation states, each with a desperately maintained sense of identity -- an identity that seems so real to so many when there's an enemy beyond the borders to hate and fear -- completely deprived national leaders of the ability to think holistically: to think beyond the imaginary borders of the worlds they rule?

"Considering these questions," writes Murtaza Hussain, "it's hard not to conclude that the American government's national security priorities have been so askew of reality that they left the country dramatically unprepared for an acute threat

to millions of its people."

While world leaders prepare for war, real threats continually percolate. One of them, of course, now has the name COVID-19. But most of them remain nameless and barely imaginable. That doesn't mean we shouldn't be looking at and addressing them with all the clarity we can muster.

Doing this is the work of what Swanson called a Department of Actual Defense, which is a far different entity from the current U.S. Department of Defense, which for most of American history was more accurately called the Department of War. A Department of Actual Defense "would need to be global, not national," and, actually having an interest in human survival, would address our collapsing ecosystem, as well as poverty, physical and mental health, and issues of safety, he writes. I could see it also addressing the ongoing global pandemic of violence, the inadequacy of our prison system, the nature of crime and the nature of healing.

"A Department of Actual Defense," he writes, "would train pro-environment workers, disaster-relief workers, and suicide-prevention workers in the tasks of protecting the environment, relieving disasters, and preventing suicide, as opposed to training and arming them all to kill large numbers of people with weapons but then assigning them to other tasks. We don't need a military redirected but

disbanded."

Unfortunately, while the Department of Actual Defense has not yet attained actual existence, the Department of War...I mean, the Department of Pseudo-Defense... continues to strategize about winning victories that have nothing to do with the real world and its real dangers. For instance, the *New York Times* recently informed us:

The Pentagon has ordered military commanders to plan for an escalation of American combat in Iraq, issuing a directive last week to prepare a campaign to destroy an Iranian-backed militia group that has threatened more attacks against American troops....

Some top officials, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Robert C. O'Brien, the national security adviser, have been pushing for aggressive new action against Iran and its proxy forces — and see an opportunity to try to destroy Iranian-backed militia groups in Iraq as leaders in Iran are distracted by the pandemic crisis in their country.

Actual military commanders see a few problems with this: "The debate is happening as top Pentagon officials and senior commanders worldwide are also expressing growing concerns about coronavirus cases expanding rapidly in the ranks, potentially threatening the military's ability to field combat-ready troops."

And there you have it: The virus is interrupting humanity's ability to kill itself.

Robert Koehler (koehlercw@gmail.com), syndicated by PeaceVoice, is a Chicago award-winning journalist and editor. He is the author of *Courage Grows Strong at the Wound*.

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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 26	MONDAY, APRIL 27	TUESDAY, APRIL 28	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29	THURSDAY, APRIL 30	FRIDAY, MAY 1	SATURDAY, MAY 2
<p>1986—A meltdown at Chernobyl lowers Ukrainian real estate values, contaminates much of the northern hemisphere to some degree, and condemns thousands to death.</p> <p>1970—The Senate Chamber of Louisiana State House and the Baton Rouge Country Club are damaged by dynamite bombs.</p> <p>1953—Radioactive rain falls on Troy and Albany, N.Y.</p> <p>1952—The captain of the <i>U.S.S. Hobson</i>, disregarding an underling's advice, takes his destroyer across the bow of the <i>U.S.S. Wasp</i>. Cut in half, the <i>Hobson</i> sinks with more than half its crew, captain included.</p> <p>1946—Edna Rose Ritchings, 21, a Caucasian-Canadian, marries Father Divine, 65, an African-American religious figure.</p> <p>1944—The U.S. takes over Montgomery-Ward after it defies the National Labor Relations Board.</p> <p>1937—German and Italian planes destroy Guernica, Spain.</p> <p>1931—Lou Gehrig hits a home run but is called out for passing another runner on the basepath.</p> <p>1901—"I'll be in Hell before you start breakfast!" says train-robber Tom "Black Jack" Ketchum, whose head flies off after the hangman drops him.</p> <p>1865—Boston Corbett, a hater-turned-cavalryman who had earlier castrated himself with scissors to better resist prostitutes, shoots and kills John Wilkes Booth.</p>	<p>2017—"This is more work than my previous life," says President Donald Trump. "I thought it would be easier."</p> <p>2016—Calling Sen. Ted Cruz "Lucifer in the flesh," former Speaker John Boehner tells Stanford students he "never worked with a more miserable son-of-a-bitch in my life."</p> <p>2011—On the worst day of the largest tornado outbreak in history, 324 people are killed from Texas to Ontario.</p> <p>1994—In South Africa, ex-prisoner Nelson Mandela is elected President.</p> <p>1986—Protesting high rates for dish owners, John R. "Captain Midnight" MacDougall hijacks HBO's satellite.</p> <p>1951—An Air Force B-36—biggest bomber ever—is cut in half by an F-51 fighter during a training flight over Oklahoma; 13 die, four live. One, TSgt. Dick Thrasher, survived a B-36 "Broken Arrow" crash a year earlier.</p> <p>1937—The first Social Security check is mailed to Ida May Fuller: \$22.54.</p> <p>1932—Saying "Goodbye, everybody," Hart Crane, 32, leaps from the <i>Orizaba</i> into the Gulf of Mexico. His body is never found.</p> <p>1930—A boy and girl burn to death within sight of their mothers after a sightseeing plane crashes in Greenland, N.H. Burned in futile attempts to save them was pilot Clyde Robinson.</p> <p>1865—The steamboat <i>Sultana</i> explodes on the Mississippi: 1,800 dead; 1,450 are just-freed Union POWs.</p> <p>1861—Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of <i>habeas corpus</i>.</p>	<p>2011—During a speech in Las Vegas, Donald Trump drops about seven f-bombs, promising to tell the Chinese, "listen you mother_____s, we're going to tax you 25 percent."</p> <p>2006—Rush Limbaugh's lawyers announce that their fine work will keep their dope-addled client out of prison.</p> <p>2004—The SEC votes to let banks risk more money and keep less on hand.</p> <p>2004—Frank Lautenberg [D-N.J.] says on the floor of the Senate, "We know who the chickenhawks are. They talk tough on national defense and military issues... but when it was their turn to serve, they were AWOL."</p> <p>1988—Aloha Airlines 737 develops a 20 foot hole in its fuselage; stewardess Clarabelle Lansing falls to her death.</p> <p>1987—Contras in Nicaragua, "moral equivalent of our Founding fathers" according to President Reagan, murder American volunteer Ben Lindner.</p> <p>1975—Daniel Schorr reports on CBS that the CIA plotted to assassinate the leaders of Chile, Congo, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Vietnam.</p> <p>1973—Hot brakes start a fire in the Roseville, Calif. railyard, and a trainload of bombs explodes; 5,500 buildings are damaged, the town of Antelope disappears, but no one dies.</p> <p>1945—Benito Mussolini and his mistress fail in an attempt to flee from Italy. They are shot by partisans and hanged by the heels from lampposts.</p> <p>1789—Fletcher Christian leads a mutiny on the <i>Bounty</i>.</p>	<p>2014—Despite nine tries, Okla. prison officials miss Clayton Lockett's veins; the poison goes into muscle. Without enough left to kill, they discuss options as he writhes. He ends their debate by dying of a heart attack.</p> <p>2006—Stephen Colbert, at the Correspondents Dinner, performs the first televised autopsy of a sitting President.</p> <p>2004—The Commission "investigating" 9/11 allows George W.[MD] Bush and Dick "Dick" Cheney to "testify" without taking an oath.</p> <p>1992—A mostly-white jury in Simi Valley finds LA police not guilty of assaulting Rodney King. Soldiers and Marines end the rioting six days later.</p> <p>1975—As helicopters begin evacuating Saigon, Marines Charles McMahon and Darwin Judge become the last two Americans to die in Vietnam.</p> <p>1974—The Nixon White House releases redacted transcripts of Oval Office recordings; the phrase "expletive deleted" enters the English language.</p> <p>1961—The Army's Chief of Staff tells Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara "we cannot win a conventional war in Southeast Asia."</p> <p>1899—Hundreds of union miners hijack a train in Idaho, haul 1.5 tons of dynamite to the mill of the Bunker Hill Mine, and blow it to bits.</p> <p>1886—Boston Beanecaters Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourne gives the finger to a rival New York Giant, on camera; the first documented use of that gesture by an American.</p>	<p>1993—The first website goes online.</p> <p>1977—The Clamshell Alliance assembles at Seabrook to fight the nuke.</p> <p>1975—Saigon falls.</p> <p>1973—Rabid Nixon supporter Rev. Sun Myung Moon gets a green card.</p> <p>1973—Announcing their resignations, Richard Nixon calls felons-to-be John D. Ehrlichman and H.R. Haldeman "two of the finest public servants I have ever known."</p> <p>1971—Medal of Honor recipient Dwight H. Johnson is shot to death while robbing a Detroit grocery store.</p> <p>1966—Rep. Melvin Laird (R-Wisc.) says that the problem with Vietnam is "an administration that fails to inform the people fully and frankly about the objectives and progress of the war."</p> <p>1961—Leonid I. Rogozov, the sole doctor at a Soviet station in Antarctica, removes his own appendix.</p> <p>1956—Ex-Veep Alben Barkley concludes his keynote speech to the Washington and Lee Mock Convention, then keels over dead.</p> <p>1900—The Illinois Central's <i>Cannonball Express</i> slams into a freight train at Vaughan, Miss. Engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones is the only fatality.</p> <p>1871—Apaches, having surrendered, living at Camp Grant in the Arizona Territory, are attacked by a mob of American vigilantes and Tohono O'odham; 144 die, but for eight, they're women and children.</p> <p>1844—Hank Thoreau accidentally sets 300 acres of Concord forest afire.</p>	<p>2003—G.W.[MD] Bush says "major combat operations in Iraq have ended." U.S. death toll so far: 140.</p> <p>1999—<i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> resumes regular (fortnightly) publication in Portsmouth.</p> <p>1989—"Bill" Gardner, Secretary of State for Life, assigns rights to the trade name <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i> to a collateral descendant of the founder.</p> <p>1977—Seabrook: 1,414 Clams busted.</p> <p>1975—Tom Polgar sends CIA's last cable from Saigon: "...we have lost.... Let us hope... that we have learned our lesson. Saigon signing off."</p> <p>1970—U.S. troops join ARVN soldiers in the Cambodian "Incursion."</p> <p>1960—Russian missiles bring down a U-2 piloted by the CIA's Gary Powers.</p> <p>1955—To supplant Harding's failed "Americanization Day," Ike proclaims an equally-doomed "Loyalty Day."</p> <p>1944—Jacob Coxe, 90, on the Capitol steps, completes the speech he began 50 years earlier.</p> <p>1921—To supplant filthy leftists' subversive May Day, Warren G. Harding proclaims "Americanization Day."</p> <p>1894—Jacob Coxe leads a 500-man "Army of the Unemployed" to the Capitol steps, where he calls for a federally-funded jobs program. Within minutes, police hustle him away.</p> <p>1865—In Charleston, S.C., 10,000 people, most formerly-enslaved, including veterans of the 54th Massachusetts and 104th U.S. Colored Troops, hold the first-ever Memorial Day.</p>	<p>2011—After outliving the Administration of G.W.[MD] Bush, Osama bin Laden is whacked by its successor.</p> <p>2006—With stereotypical inefficiency, state workers in Lucasville, Ohio jab Joseph Clark 19 times over 86 minutes to kill him by lethal injection[s].</p> <p>2003—Richard Perle, its architect, writes that the Iraq War "ended without the Arab world rising up against us, as the war's critics feared, without the quagmire they predicted, without the heavy losses in house-to-house fighting they warned us to expect."</p> <p>1972—The good die young: J. Edgar Hoover dies it at 77.</p> <p>1971—The U.S. Government reneges on its permit, calls in the 82nd Airborne, arrests 12,600 protestors, and packs them into D.C.'s RFK stadium without food, water, or sanitation.</p> <p>1967—The California State Assembly is visited by 26 armed Black Panthers.</p> <p>1963—In Birmingham, Alabama, 959 schoolchildren are arrested for letting themselves be attacked by dogs, firehoses, and cops with billy clubs.</p> <p>1957—Senator and morphine addict Joe McCarthy dies of liver failure at 48, relieving top dope cop Harry Anslinger of an awkward chore: slipping him safe government morphine "for reasons of national security."</p> <p>1940—Mississippi Governor Paul Johnson, 60, clubs <i>Jackson Daily News</i> editor Major Frederick Sullens from behind. Sullens, 62, floors the Governor and beats him mercilessly.</p>
<p>1:49 2:22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:08 8:15</p>	<p>2:26 3:03</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:48 8:56</p>	<p>3:08 3:49</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:34 9:44</p>	<p>3:57 4:42</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:25 10:38</p>	<p>4:53 5:41</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:22 11:38</p>	<p>5:55 6:43</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:22 12:42</p>	<p>7:00 7:45</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:22 1:42</p>
SUNDAY, MAY 3	MONDAY, MAY 4	TUESDAY, MAY 5	WEDNESDAY, MAY 6	THURSDAY, MAY 7	FRIDAY, MAY 8	SATURDAY, MAY 9
<p>2016—Lindsey Graham tweets, "If we nominate Trump, we will get destroyed...and we will deserve it."</p> <p>2016—After suggesting Ted Cruz's father helped assassinate JFK (prompting Cruz to recall Donald Trump's boast that dodging VD had been his Vietnam) Trump wins the Indiana Primary and clinches the Republican Presidential nomination.</p> <p>2003—The law of gravity busts the Old Man of the Mountain.</p> <p>1995—Alabama Governor "Fob" James reintroduces chain gangs.</p> <p>1987—E. J. Dionne's column quotes Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.): "Follow me around," meanwhile, the <i>Miami Herald</i> reports that a woman (not his wife) spent the night in his D.C. townhouse.</p> <p>1970—"The North Vietnamese] have been in a war for years and years," says Veep Spiro "Ted" Agnew. "I don't think they are capable... of continuing this fight."</p> <p>1946—"Gruesome Gertie," Louisiana's electric chair, wired by a drunken trustee, fails to kill Willie Francis, 17. He's escorted back to Death Row. A year later, Gertie kills Willie.</p> <p>1945—The RAF bombs the German ship <i>Cap Arcona</i>, believing it's carrying SS officers. Of 4,500 concentration camp inmates aboard, 350 survive.</p> <p>1927—Turnout for Liberia's Presidential election is 1,680 percent.</p> <p>1909—A passenger train collides with a switching engine in the Portsmouth rail yard: one dead, seven injured.</p>	<p>1990—Six-inch flames shoot from Jesse Joseph Tafero's head as Florida's "Old Sparky" takes three jolts and seven minutes to kill him.</p> <p>1989—U.S.M.C. Lieut. Col. Oliver North is convicted of four felonies in the Iran-Contra scandal, but a Congressional screw-up lets him skate.</p> <p>1970—In Haymarket Square, Chicago, a new cop statue replaces one destroyed by a bomb months earlier. This one gets blown up, too, months later.</p> <p>1970—Ohio National Guard troops shoot 13 unarmed students, killing four, at Kent State.</p> <p>1961—The Freedom Rides begin throughout the south.</p> <p>1942—The Battle of the Coral Sea begins. In four days 14 ships are sunk or damaged, 159 planes destroyed, and 1,565 men killed; it was a great victory.</p> <p>1940—Nora Joyce tells Jim, "I haven't read any of your books but I'll have to someday because they must be good considering how well they sell."</p> <p>1927—A motorman "sick of seeing that policeman with his arm raised" drives his streetcar into a nine-foot statue of a cop commemorating the Haymarket bombing.</p> <p>1886—In Haymarket Square, Chicago, demonstrators against May 3rd police brutality at the McCormick Reaper plant are attacked by more police. A bomb kills seven cops; a dubious trial later convicts eight anarchists.</p> <p>1814—Former Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte arrives at Elba, his new jail.</p>	<p>1985—In Bitburg, Germany, Republican President Ronald Reagan lays a wreath at a cemetery full of Nazis.</p> <p>1981—In Ireland's Maze Prison, Bobby Sands dies of starvation.</p> <p>1970—Jerry Rubin speaks at UNH.</p> <p>1961—New Hampshire's own Alan Shepard prays, "Please, dear God, don't let me f___k up." Prayer answered, he's 1st American in space.</p> <p>1960—The U.S. announces that Gary Powers's U-2 was a "weather research plane" and its pilot a "civilian employed by Lockheed."</p> <p>1945—The collier <i>Black Point</i> is torpedoed by U-853 within sight of the Point Judith, R.I. lighthouse.</p> <p>1945—Sunday school picnickers in Bly, Ore., find a strange object. The Japanese balloon bomb explodes as they're dragging it out of the woods, killing five Sunday school children and a minister's pregnant wife.</p> <p>1925—As he and local boosters had hoped he would be, John T. Scopes is arrested in Tennessee for teaching evolution. On the team prosecuting Snopes is a man named Sue K. Hicks.</p> <p>1904—Cy Young pitches the American League's first perfect game for the Boston Americans (later the Red Sox).</p> <p>1902—Bret Harte dies in England at 65. Mark Twain had called him "an invertebrate without a country."</p> <p>1886—In Milwaukee, Gov. Jeremiah Rusk orders 250 National Guard soldiers to fire on a crowd of strikers. They comply; seven die.</p>	<p>2012—Stabbed in a bar fight, actor Sean Bean orders another drink.</p> <p>2010—An imaginary bus bomb inspires panic in Portsmouth, N.H.</p> <p>2010—A Londoner scamming from his parents' basement gives The Invisible Hand of the Market™ jitters: the Dow drops nine pct. in five minutes.</p> <p>1996—Missing for nine days, ex-CIA Director William Colby turns up in Chesapeake Bay, dead but remarkably fresh-looking, 20 feet from where searchers found his canoe eight days earlier. Verdict: a routine drowning.</p> <p>1982—LAPD Chief Darryl Gates explains "some blacks [die in choke holds because] the veins or arteries do not open up as fast as they do in normal people."</p> <p>1978—In Chicago, First Lady Rosalynn Carter is photographed shaking hands with Polish Constitution Day Parade chairman (and prolific serial killer) John Wayne Gacy.</p> <p>1967—Gen. Wallace Greene, Jr., U.S.M.C., says in Manchester, N.H. that America is winning the war in Vietnam, "and I say that without any doubt whatsoever."</p> <p>1937—A huge Nazi gasbag ignites over Lakehurst, New Jersey, 14 years before Rush Limbaugh was born.</p> <p>1868—Angry that Samuel Mills had dropped from sight when the gallows opened under him, hundreds of observers riot in Woodsville, N.H.</p> <p>1864—The Battle of the Wilderness rages; 3,723 die, including two Union and three Confederate generals.</p>	<p>1999—A U.S. B-2 drops five "smart" bombs on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade: three dead, 27 wounded.</p> <p>1998—Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan successfully quash an effort to regulate credit default swaps.</p> <p>1992—Reporters reveal Ross Perot's "concern" over U.S. POWs was mostly about Richard Nixon's presidency.</p> <p>1985—New York throws a ticker tape parade for 25,000 Vietnam veterans. Better late than never.</p> <p>1970—Marine Sgt. Robert Phleger, 1st Force Recon, is killed in the night by a tiger in Quang Nam Province.</p> <p>1955—Blackvocting activist Rev. George W. Lee is gunned down in Midnight, Miss. No charges are ever filed.</p> <p>1954—The Viet Minh overrun the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p>1931—In NYC, 300 cops entertain 15,000 bystanders by directing 700 rounds of rifle and machine gun fire at a fifth-floor apartment in a rooming house on West 91st St. After two hours Francis "Two-Gun" Crowley, his 16-year old girlfriend Helen Walsh, and his partner Rudolph "Fats" Durringer surrender.</p> <p>1931—In Corbin, Ky. Harland Sanders—later Col. Sanders—puts two bullets in a gas station manager for painting over a sign for his restaurant.</p> <p>1896—Gilmanton-born Herman W. Mudgett, aka "Dr. H.H. Holmes," fiendish killer of over 100 women, is hanged for murdering one man.</p>	<p>2003—A cargo door on a Russian-built plane flown by a Ukrainian crew pops open over the Congo. Three-fourths of the 200 aboard are sucked from the plane.</p> <p>1979—Salvadoran police maintain order in a cathedral; 23 KIA, 70 WIA.</p> <p>1970—With flags at half mast for Kent State kids shot by National Guardsmen, students protesting in NYC at Wall and Broad streets are attacked by 200 "hardhats" organized by AFL-CIO leader Peter Brennan. Nixon will make him Sec. of Labor.</p> <p>1970—At the University of New Mexico, 11 people protesting the Vietnam War are bayoneted by National Guardsmen.</p> <p>1967—Muhammed Ali is indicted for refusing to be inducted.</p> <p>1964—Against Ike's orders, Curtis LeMay sends a B-47 into Russian territory on a recon mission. It returns with extra holes thanks to a MiG-17.</p> <p>1963—In Hue, Ngo Dinh Diem's goons kill nine Buddhists for flying their flag, then blame the 'Cong.</p> <p>1958—In Lima, Richard Nixon is stoned and spat on by Peruvians.</p> <p>1755—In Portsmouth, murderer Eliphaz Dow becomes the first person executed in New Hampshire.</p> <p>1725—John Lovewell, who had marched into Boston a month earlier wearing a wig made of Indian scalps, is killed by an Abenaki near Pequawket (now Fryeburg). A mountain in Washington, N.H. bears his name.</p>	<p>2017—President Donald Trump fires FBI Director James Comey.</p> <p>1999—At the University of Chicago, two students competing in a scavenger hunt build a plutonium-producing reactor. They come in second.</p> <p>1989—"What a waste it is to lose one's mind," says Veep Candidate Dan Quayle, addressing the Negro College Fund, "or not to have a mind is being very wasteful, how true that is."</p> <p>1980—The Liberian-flagged <i>Summit Venture</i> knocks out a span of St. Petersburg, Fla.'s Sunshine Skyway Bridge, causing a Greyhound to plunge into Tampa Bay killing 35.</p> <p>1974—Congress finally begins to ponder impeaching Richard Nixon.</p> <p>1970—Richard Nixon chats with antiwar students on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at 4 a.m.</p> <p>1969—<i>The New York Times</i> reports the U.S. is bombing Cambodia.</p> <p>1967—Because he won't fight in Vietnam, Muhammad Ali is stripped of the title he won in the ring.</p> <p>1963—The U.S. orbits 480 million bits of wire .7 inches long in a failed communications experiment.</p> <p>1961—FCC chairman Newton Minnow calls American television "a vast wasteland."</p> <p>1960—"The" pill is approved.</p> <p>1958—On CBS's "Trackdown," lawyer Hoby Gilman exposes a con man who claims that only he can save the town from destruction. The con man's name is Walter Trump.</p>
<p>1:47 2:21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8:05 8:43</p>	<p>2:49 3:17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:06 9:37</p>	<p>3:47 4:09</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:03 10:28</p>	<p>4:41 5:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:58 11:17</p>	<p>5:34 5:48</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:50 12:06</p>	<p>6:24 6:37</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:41 12:54</p>	<p>7:15 7:26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:32 1:42</p>

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