

The Fortnightly Rant

Never Say It Couldn't Be Worse

According to a chart made public Tuesday by the White House Council of Economic Advisors—certainly an assemblage of experts in their field, and what field could be more relevant than economics?—the U.S. daily death rate from Covid-19 should be dropping to zero in about a week. How fortunate we are to have Donald Trump as our President—as he explained to the nation at length on Sunday from the Lincoln Memorial.

The former owner of the Miss Universe Beauty Pageant clearly feels a special affinity for that stately structure. Before he was even inaugurated he used its steps—from which Martin Luther King once delivered a speech for the ages—as the site for a concert featuring Lee Greenwood and Toby Keith, with a harangue from Jon Voight thrown in for good measure.

Last year the former Provost of Trump University again used the monument as a backdrop, speaking for 45 minutes prior to the annual Fourth of July fireworks display.

“Our nation is stronger today than it ever was before,” he said that day—a manifestly inaccurate statement, to using the kindest possible euphemism. He then repeated this claim, slightly rephrased, as is his tedious wont: “It is its strongest now.” The pandemic has retroactively made this boast more or less true.

On Sunday, the former CEO of Trump Steaks truly outdid all previous efforts at sullyng the monument to our martyred 16th President. Although any such activity is specifically prohibited by 36 CFR § 7.96 of the Code of Federal Regulations, he arranged to be interviewed by Fox News as he sat upon his ample ramp within the nation's *sanctum sanctorum*.

Naturally we wanted all the sordid details. It turns out that authority over the use of the Memorial falls to

the National Park Service, overseen by Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt. After decades spent wearing out revolving doors during alternating stints as an energy lobbyist and an unelected bureaucrat, Bernhardt would be a perfect target for the epithet “swamp creature,” were it not for his immunity due to party affiliation.

Bernhardt issued an 883-word statement justifying this desecration. It said, in part, “Given the extraordinary crisis...and the need for the President to exercise a core governmental function to address the Nation...I am exercising my authority to facilitate the opportunity for the President to conduct this address within the Lincoln Memorial....” Of course—because the Oval Office is just...so *déclassé*.

“Understandably,” Bernhardt went on, “the President has, very deliberately, made the decision to address this national crisis at the Lincoln Memorial.” Possibly unaware that his minion had spilled the beans—but surely not caring—*El Presidente* tried, during the event, to shift some responsibility for the choice of venue onto Fox: “I did say this would be nice, but I thought it was your choice, not ours?”

Bernhardt's statement also revealed an expectation that the surroundings would have a magical effect on his boss: “I anticipate... Lincoln's powerful presence and the solemnity of the Memorial to reflect on and draw from our Nation's better angels, and to remind all of us that we can knit our often-divided Nation together in a time of trial.” Better luck next time.

When it comes to things done by #45 for which his predecessor would have been...let's just say, treated harshly, this may be the most grotesque example yet. “Look,” Trump snarled, “I am greeted with a hostile press the likes of which no president



has ever seen. The closest would be that gentleman right up there. They always said Lincoln—nobody got treated worse than Lincoln. I believe I am treated worse.”

Speaking of worse, the Centers for Disease Control [CDC] seems to have a less-optimistic view of the pandemic than the cheerful Council of Economic Advisers [CEA], cited above.

This is not entirely surprising; the CEA's “zero deaths” chart was cooked up by economist Kevin Hassett, co-author of the comically-bullish tome, *Dow 36,000*. It was published in 1999, just a couple of months before the bottom fell out of the economy. To be fair, though, why shouldn't he be upbeat? Despite his track record, he's always been employed, if not by a Republican political campaign, then by the American Enterprise Institute—the Right Wing's version of the WPA.

While fantasists at the CEA were postulating when the virus would disappear, like a miracle, scientists at the CDC were working on a draft report which says it's possible that by next Wednesday we could be dying at a rate of 3,000 per day.

David “Axis of Evil” Frum, George W.[MD] Bush's former speech writer—apparently still making the rounds on an expiation tour for his part in selling the Iraq War—wrote a piece for the *Atlantic* a month ago which ran under the headline “This is Trump's Fault.” It was very long. It had to be. He was trying to catalog every pandemic-related screwup committed by the former CEO of Trump Airlines—who, incidentally, said on March 13th, “I don't take any responsibility at all.”

If there were any justice in this world, Frum's indictment would be sufficient to put the founder of Trump Mortgage on trial for mul-

multiple counts of nonfeasance and malfeasance. He didn't act when he should have, and when he did act he did the wrong thing.

Epidemiologists have calculated how many American lives might have been saved if the White House hadn't spent two weeks failing to act on its own medical advisors recommendation to introduce social distancing: as of yesterday afternoon, 44,879.

Experts say it won't be safe to open things up until widespread testing and contact tracing are in place. They are not, but that isn't stopping Vietnam War draft dodger Donald J. Trump.

Having already presided in three months over the deaths of more Americans than General Giap could kill in two decades, he said on Tuesday, “the people of our country should think of themselves as warriors. Our country has to open.”

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Mini-Trump Spins the Dials

In 1878, the State Capitol in Lansing, Michigan was an unprepossessing, two-story wooden building topped by a tin cupola. It was replaced the next year by a colonnaded stone structure, the dome of which soars to an imposing 267 feet. It's a good thing, too. Otherwise the dozens of gun-toting, camo-wearing protesters who mobbed the place last week would have looked pretty silly, cramming into that run-down old barn, acting like they were about to liberate Venezuela.

Their stated intent was to protest Governor Gretchen Whitmer's stay-at-home order, which they call tyrannical. In addition to semi-automatic weapons, some carried Confederate flags, nooses, and swastikas as visual aids. The

Detroit News reported that “[m]ost of the demonstrators' signs focused on [Whitmer's stay-at-home order] Thursday. But a few signs were more violent in tone. One attached to a truck outside the Capitol said, ‘Make treason punishable by hanging.’ Another person held a sign that said, ‘Tyrants get the rope.’”

Of local interest: one man at the Lansing protest carried a sign reading, “Live Free or Die.” Unlike the heavily-armed wannabes, he couldn't enter the building. A story at Fox News explained why: “Michigan has allowed guns inside the Capitol building but banned protest signs several years ago.”

Fox also quoted U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib [D-Mich.] “[voicing] her frustration with the treatment of

the armed protesters compared to African-Americans.

“Black people get executed by police for just existing, while white people dressed like militia members carrying assault weapons are allowed to threaten State Legislators and staff,” she tweeted. “Our gun laws are so broken.”

“These are very good people,” the President of the United States tweeted, perhaps recognizing them by their swastikas, “but they are angry. They want their lives back again, safely! See them, talk to them, make a deal.” Some things never change—once again, a Republican President who doesn't bat an eye at negotiating with terrorists.

Republicans refused to pass legislation extending the lockdown, so

Whitmer did it on her own by signing an Executive Order extending it until May 28th.

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Color, Covid-19, and the 2nd Amendment
At last count 4,343 Michiganders had died from Covid-19. Considering the racial breakdown of those who have been afflicted nationwide, it's virtually certain that a disproportionate number of the dead are people of color.

As the pandemic continues to spread, we can only assume that the burden will continue to bear down disproportionately. Michigan State Representative Sarah Anthony, being black, is likely aware of that burden as she goes about her duties. Thanks to Michael Lynn, Jr., though, and a couple of his associ-

ates, she may be a little bit less worried than Rep. Tlaib about all those armed protestors.

The *Lansing City Pulse* reported yesterday that Anthony was escorted to the Capitol by “[a]t least three African Americans carrying large rifles.”

“We want to change the narrative, first of all,” Lynn told the *Pulse*'s Kyle Kaminski. “We want people to understand that people of color can come out here with guns just the same as anybody else can,” said the black Lansing firefighter and community activist who helped organize Anthony's security detail.

“The majority of the protestors

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from page one

were white," Anthony told the paper. "I'm still not exactly sure on the connection between Confederate flags and Nazi symbolism. They just had no connection to the stay-at-home orders."

Mini-Trump Spins the Dials

Although we are sustaining subscribers—as all chronic listeners should be—we no longer tune in to NHPR between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. Whenever we try, the Governor's on. We find his rapid, sales pitch voice as unbearable as the kvetching of the President whose daily spiel he's clearly emulating.

Like his even more insufferable father—whose outsized role in bringing on our climatic apocalypse we outlined in our December 7, 2018 issue, in a piece we headlined, "Local Governor Wrecks Atmosphere"—Sununu Two likes to pose as a technical adept, cleverly tweaking the state's dials to achieve an optimal response to the medical catastrophe visited upon us by the Doofus-in-Chief he has yet to renounce.

On the one hand the Governor's

modified stay-at-home order still directs citizens to stay home through May 31—but, it also reopens some nonessential businesses. According to the AARP's website, "[o]n May 11, hair salons, barbershops and similar cosmetology businesses can reopen with restrictions. Retail stores can also reopen May 11 but must limit the number of customers inside and implement other precautions. On May 18, restaurants can offer outside dining, but tables must be six feet apart among other measures that must be implemented."

OK, then: certain rituals have been prescribed to placate the angry, invisible god Covid. How about diagnostic testing? Any progress on the actual, you know...*scientific* front?

NPR.org has a handy web page comparing three essential stats for all of the states...*[rapid clicking noises]*.

It says here, "Harvard's Global Health Institute estimated minimum targets for how much testing each state needs by May 15th to contain its outbreak through a strategy of testing, tracing and isolating positive cases and their contacts. Death rates are provided as a marker of outbreak size. A positive test ratio



Times are hard, particularly for the hospitality industry. The Flag Police understand that. There are certain standards, however. Among them is the Flag Code, the strictures of which this frayed banner fails to meet.

of 10 percent or less is the target advised by the World Health Organization. States with higher ratios may not be testing enough, or testing a diverse enough pool of people."

In terms of deaths per 100,000, New Hampshire is in a five-way tie for 24th place, in a race where the winner comes in last. That doesn't seem too shabby until you recall that most of those deaths are concentrated in one kind of place: the virus is ripping through nursing homes like the Reaper on roller skates.

Our positive test ratio of nine percent meets the WHO's target, so there's two out of three; that ain't bad, we've met the Meatloaf ratio.

Finally, are we testing enough? No. Not even close. At 998 tests per day, that's less than half the number recommended by the WHO.

That's OK though, says the Governor, you can go get your hair cut.

We'd rather trust the judgment of Portsmouth's Health Officer, Kim McNamara. She told the City Council on Monday, according to the Corporate-Owned Local Daily, that "there is more COVID-19 virus currently circulating than when Gov. Chris Sununu's stay-at-home order was issued in March."

**"Just Straight Cronyism"
Top Trump and GOP Donor
Picked to Lead U.S. Postal Service
in Time of Crisis**

Jake Johnson, staff writer, *Common Dreams*, May 7, 2020

The U.S. Postal Service's Board of Governors—which is controlled by appointees of President Donald Trump—announced late Wednesday that it has unanimously selected a top Trump and GOP donor to serve as Postmaster General, installing an ally of the White House to

lead a popular agency that has long been a target of right-wing reforms and is currently under severe threat of collapse due to the Covid-19 crisis.

In a statement, the Board of Governors touted Louis DeJoy's experience as "an accomplished business executive" in North Carolina. As the *Washington Post* reported, DeJoy—the head of fundraising for the Republican National Convention in Charlotte—is set to become the "first Postmaster General in two decades who did not rise through the agency's ranks."

DeJoy is expected to take over as postmaster general on June 15th, following the retirement of current U.S.P.S. chief Megan Brennan.

Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.), a vocal critic of the president's recent attacks on the U.S.P.S. and refusal to provide the agency with desperately

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— Joe Keefe

needed aid, slammed the selection of an executive and GOP donor with no experience working at the Postal Service, particularly at such a perilous moment for the nation's most popular government institution.

"President Trump rewards a partisan donor by installing him at the United States Postal Service," Connolly said in a statement. "The Postal Service is in crisis and needs real leadership and someone with knowledge of the issues. This crony doesn't cut it."

DeJoy's appointment comes as the Postal Service is struggling to weather the sharp decline in mail volume brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. The agency's recent financial troubles have been compounded by a 2006 congressional mandate requiring it to fund its retirees' health benefits through 2056.

Last month, Postmaster General Brennan told members of Congress that U.S.P.S.—which has not received federal funding for decades, running entirely on revenue from products and services—needs an infusion of \$75 billion to avert financial ruin within the next several months. House Democratic leaders are reportedly pushing for \$25 billion in emergency funding for the

Postal Service in the next Covid-19 stimulus package.

But Trump continues to stand in the way of aid for U.S.P.S.—dismissing the agency as a "joke"—and threaten to block legislation that includes any direct funding. The CARES Act, which Trump signed into law in March, contained a \$10 billion loan for the Postal Service—funding that the Trump administration is reportedly holding hostage in an effort to impose long-sought changes to the agency.

"At a time when the country needs us now more than ever, [Treasury Secretary Steve] Mnuchin and his Wall Street cronies are attempting to exploit the crisis to raise prices, demonize heroic postal workers, and cut service, all so private delivery companies can profit," Mark Dimondstein, president of the 200,000-member American Postal Workers Union, said in a statement last month.

The collapse or privatization of the Postal Service could have disastrous and far-reaching implications, including for the prospect of nationwide vote-by-mail, which advocates say will be necessary to safely hold the November elections amid the Covid-19 pandemic.



Sure, the nation is on lockdown, and essential travel only is permitted. If it's a sunny Sunday in early May, though, it's essential to send out audible reminders of your existence to everyone in earshot.

Vanita Gupta, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, tweeted late Wednesday that it is "hard not to be cynical about the motivations" behind DeJoy's appointment.

"It's an ominous sign," said Gupta. "The U.S.P.S. is a public good. So many jobs especially for people of color and delivery of essential items depend on it. And our democracy (vote-by-mail, the census) amid COVID-19 depends on it."

In a letter to members of Congress on Wednesday, more than 100 advocacy groups urged lawmakers to "act now to save the USPS, the hundreds of thousands of jobs included in its diverse workforce, and the communities that depend upon this critical federal agency."

"A vote against adequate, timely funding for the U.S.P.S. is an anti-civil rights vote," the groups wrote. "At a time where people in America need the Postal Service more than ever, we must prioritize funding to

ensure that this agency has the resources it needs."

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Yarnold Scholarship Deadline Extended
In light of the pandemic, the deadline for Yarnold scholarship applications has been moved from May 23rd to July 15th.

As described in our paper of April 10th, Sam and Alice (Pinkham) Yarnold—classic New Englanders: frugal, industrious, and married for 52 years—left a \$800,000 legacy which now provides scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to New Hampshire residents already in the process of post-secondary education pursuing careers in nursing, medicine, or social work.

Applications may be requested from the Alice M. Yarnold and Samuel Yarnold Scholarship Trust, 127 Parrott Ave., Portsmouth, N.H., 03801.

The Latest From & About The Newsroom
Welcome to Volume 264, No. 17 of The Nation's Oldest Newspaper™—our fourth consecutive Special "Germ-Free" Digital Edition. Please don't try to wrap fish with it—you will be disappointed.

For the record, we remain committed getting back to newsprint ASAP. Alas, we have no idea how long it may take to emerge from this involuntary chrysalis, or what we'll find when we do. Our distribution method—free distribution, by volunteers wherever possible—requires a fair amount of foot traffic passing through public spaces and going into private places of business. A return to that would seem to require a vaccine as a prerequisite. President Doofus' pipe dreams to the contrary, we don't expect to see one for at least a year or so.

At least our spiffy new website is working well, and drawing a positive response—and, out the window, buds are exploding.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"One of the tests of leadership is the ability to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency."

— Arnold H. Glasow, (1905-1998)

"I have got so far as to lose the distinction between right and wrong. Isn't that the first step in politics?"

— Henry Brooks Adams (1838 - 1918) American journalist, historian, and author

john@wordpraxis.com

"The due administration of justice is the firmest pillar of good government."

— George Washington, 1789

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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He Has Visions, But He Can't See That
To the Editor:

During the early morning hours of April 21, 2020 I had a seemingly psychic premonition that Biden would politically join forces with Trump at some point in the future. I don't know if my premonition was truly psychic or not. I was fully awake, clean and sober, and I had not been thinking about either Biden or Trump beforehand.

The sense I got was that a Biden/Trump alliance would take place in response to an emergency situation. It wasn't clear whether or not the emergency was related to Covid-19. I didn't see it in great detail. Rather, I just got the general sense that the two men would join forces in a political alliance. Please don't get me wrong: I am not a Trump supporter. Nor am I a fan of Biden. I sincerely hope that my seemingly psychic premonition doesn't come to pass, because we, the people, deserve better than B.S.

Sometimes I see or hear things in my mind before they happen in the physical dimension. Although I have a degree of genuinely psychic sensitivity and ability, I don't trust everything I see and hear. I can be wrong sometimes. I try to be cautious yet open minded about my psychic abilities, all while believing in Jesus the Christ.

For what it's worth, I'm definitely more liberal than conservative in my politics. If Jesus were to return in the flesh—as in, the literal second coming of Christ, only this time around as an American citizen—there's no way he could vote for Trump while remaining true to himself, I believe.

Alex J. Boros
Rochester, N.H.

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This One Sees What He Wants To See
To the Editor:

The end of the world is near, death, death, pandemic, pandemic, we are all in this together, we all in this together... yes, we are, because millions have had Covid-19 and no more are dying than other high flu seasons. Yet all we hear every night are [sic] not calm and reflective reporting—just fear stories. It is sad that we lemmings are so terribly manipulated. ...

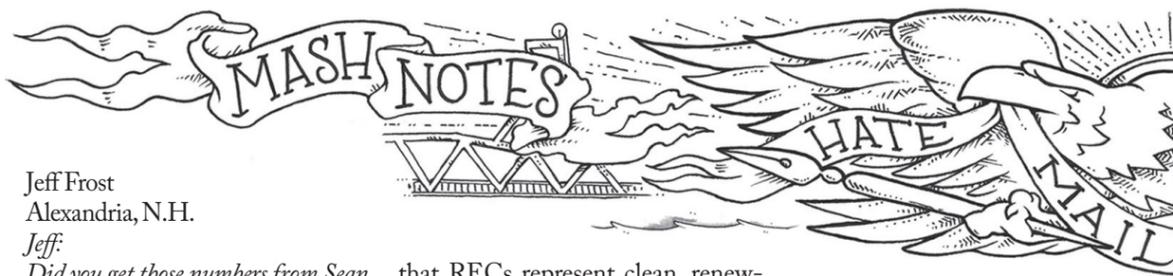
They push the leaders and snip and bark and sensationalize and only report ignorant anecdotal stories with no real background but to blind you from the truth. A pandemic means worldwide, like heart disease, drug overdoses, cancer and lying politicians. Not certainty of death.

Face masks not fitting, schools and churches closed—gyms, parks, friends, family, &c.... all empty or alone. Millions left out even more so, we are all in this together but the poor or day to day paycheck types are in lines for food that the other 90 percent are not. Bureaucrats are not all in this together, they lose no pay, or social togetherness at their job, no businesses, not college tuition for their kids, not their house or apartment, they lose nothing in their decisions nor have responsibility, accountability, and always and simply the power to mindlessly do it again.

They overplayed even when they had the numbers and statistics to make us understand we will all have a very good chance of getting the flu-Covid 19 but not dying any more than past flu seasons. The press grab the tail of the dog and wagged the politicians. Only Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida did his homework every day and watched the numbers and understood how to balance them with good decisions. Shame on the lazy rest and here is why as of April 22nd.

As of April 22nd in N.H. you have a 0.000036 chances of fatality mostly if you have other illnesses and over 65 years old. Not yet anywhere near the average high flu season? The U.S. chances are now 0.000144 of dying from the flu, 46,000 fatalities are the bottom of 2017/18 [flu season]—95 percent accuracy of the CDC estimate that 46,000 to 95,000 died from flu "related illness," or [in] CDC terms, "Influenza Like Illness—ILI—and/or of pneumonia.

Yes it is bad but managed in a few places and descending. You see many of the casualties are related to preconditions the flu did not cause which is typical from past flu seasons....Oops, sorry, the policrats have bugged up the entire U.S. economy and put us into another Great Depression.



Jeff Frost
Alexandria, N.H.

Jeff:

Did you get those numbers from Sean Hannity?

You know what's really depressing? Knowing that the best we "highly advanced" descendants of lemurs can come up with for a system of governance is one giving your choices the same weight as a person whose brain has not been infected with a virus worse than the one that's causing this pandemic.

The Editor

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Collect Renewable Energy Payments for Rooftop Solar

To the Editor:

As a member of the Science Technology & Energy (STE) committee of the N.H. House of Representatives during the past three years, I have been dealing with issues surrounding energy generation, renewable and sustainable energy, and energy efficiency. As part of that process I became aware of the fact that as a rooftop solar owner I am eligible to be registered as a renewable energy generator, allowing me to collect revenues.

Each Megawatt Hour MWh of generating capacity qualifies the owner for one Renewable Energy Certificate [REC]. These RECs are sold at the New England quarterly auction. It turns out that when such an owner is not registered to generate RECs, that person's utility can claim them as their own and get credit as part of the utilities REC obligation for N.H.'s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Based on our state's RPS targets (which are lower than other New England states), the utilities are obligated to purchase a specific number of RECs. But if they can get them for free, that means they need to purchase fewer at the auction, and that lack of demand will discourage the generation of more RECs driving down the price of RECs. It is important to remember

that RECs represent clean, renewable energy that also reduces carbon emissions. Also, when our RPS goals are low, we are forgoing many new renewable energy jobs and the economic growth that accompanies them.

Like many other solar owners, I was told that signing up as a renewable energy generator was too bureaucratic and not worth the effort financially. Despite that, I decided to find out for myself, so that I could share the experience with others. While I did not find the process too complicated or time consuming, it is true that the financial reward was not much to boast about (approximately \$130/year for a 6,000 watt installation).

Allow me to describe the process. To qualify as a registered renewable energy generator who can earn RECs to sell at auction, an owner must take three steps: 1) Register with an aggregator (a collector and seller), 2) Sign up with an auditor, and 3) Submit monthly solar meter readings to the auditor.

After consulting with my solar installer, I was directed to a solar energy aggregator (I was sent a contract and signed up with Knollwood Energy). My contract was for three years at a minimum price, with the aggregator collecting approximately \$2.50 as a commission for each REC sold.

In order for the energy generated to qualify, an auditor must verify the actual energy generated. If an appropriate software is installed along with the solar installation (at a cost of approximately \$300), the energy generated can be reported automatically. My system, however, was installed five years ago, without such software. So, my other option was to sign up with an auditor and report the reading of my solar meter monthly by email or using an online portal. I signed up

with Paul Button as my auditor at a cost of \$10. per year. That is all that is required of me.

As the result of being registered, every quarter I am sent a check from Knollwood Energy for the RECs sold at auction. My last payment for three months amounted to a net of \$35. While this certainly is not a large amount of money, it is important to remember that auction prices vary, and that changes in the demand for RECs that could be triggered by changes in the RPS target of the New England states could push prices up.

But this small financial benefit is in addition to the much greater benefits enjoyed by solar rooftop owners. These owners are not just benefitting financially by reducing their monthly electricity bills, but they are also contributing to the increasing amount of New Hampshire generated renewable energy stock, which provides more energy independence and environmental benefits for our state including reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Also, independent studies have found that solar energy generation saves money for all utility customers, not just the homeowner, by lowering the demand for long-distance transmission costs, especially when demand and solar energy generation are at their highest (hot summer days).

It is worth looking into solar energy generation whether on rooftops or stand-alone. The price of solar panels has been dropping annually and the efficiency of each panel has been increasing, while additionally, battery storage could soon be very affordable. In addition, there is still a federal energy credit and state credit available. The federal credit, which used to be 30 percent of system cost, is now only

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26 percent but is being phased-out by December 31, 2021. The N.H. state rebate is \$1,000, while funds last. This type of installation is not just for residential single-home owners, but in fact community solar installations are also becoming more popular.

If you have any questions, I would be glad to try and answer them.

Rep. Peter Somssich, Portsmouth, N.H. 03801; 436-5382

Peter,
Thank you for this clear, comprehensive, and detailed look at this program.

As you say, the actual amount paid to homeowners isn't the important thing. The cumulative effect is—and the sooner we get there, the better. We must say that there are electric utilities in this state employing underhanded tactics such as you have described. If the PR department of any such utility wishes to refute your statement, we will, of course, give them space to respond.

The Editor

=====
It's Not Just the Bleach

To the Editor:

President Trump's recommendation, aired on national TV, that Americans drink or inject disinfectant to cure Covid-19, is not a standalone instance of his lack of judgement. It is part of a pattern of irresponsible behavior, lack of respect for facts or science, and mental chaos demonstrated during his entire presidency.

A few of many examples: He has suggested dropping nuclear bombs into the eyes of hurricanes; he proudly proclaimed that the Revolutionary Army took over the airports in the 1700s; he seems to believe that the F-35 stealth fighter is literally invisible in a fire fight "just like the ones he has seen on TV," rather than just capa-

ble of eluding radar detection: he has informed us that the noise from wind turbines, or "windmills" as he calls, them causes cancer.

Comedians have exploited Trump's erratic behavior and moronic ideas for laughs for years. This is not a joke. Americans could die as a result of listening to him. He has described himself as "a stable genius." Any person who describes themselves that way is not smart, nor is Donald Trump stable enough to be President of the United States.

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.

=====
There Is No Vaccine for Hate

To the Editor:

Four-plus years of compulsive viewing and reading of disturbing political news, commentary, tweets, and documents (looking at you, Mueller report)—more per day than I ever spent watching the Watergate hearings (yes, I am that old)—is good for neither soul nor psyche. But if you see scorpions in your home, it is impossible and even dangerous not to focus your attention on them.

There is some comfort in knowing I am far from alone in my feelings about the state our country is in. And there is some clever humor in cartoons and tweets that can still make me smile. But there is truth in that humor, and those truths are still painful, so the temporary relief they provide is no good balance. And, sadly, they are overwhelmed by a torrent of "humor" and tweets that are as hateful as that which they attack. If you play the game of Tit for Tat that those you oppose have laid out, following their rules by returning the hate in every Tat of theirs, well, Tat will always win.

While our determination to resist and defeat those who are traumatizing

our country and shredding our democracy is essential, Booker T. Washington's words can be a guide for us: "I shall allow no man to belittle my soul by making me hate him." What I feel greatly myself is sadness, for I see a hole inside the President that could never be filled, not with any amount of praise, obeisance, or money; his need and greed are beyond measure, and I believe him mentally unwell.

The hatefulness, cruelty, and lack of compassion in Trump and so many who support him are horrific, but imitating the very name-calling deployed in them adds to, rather than diminishes, the vitriol that surrounds us. Hate is damaging whatever its source. To spew hate back at the haters in high places is to spread the virus of hate even more. And there is no vaccine for hate.

Donna D. Pistole
Durham, N.H.

Donna:

Thank you for this extremely thoughtful message—so carefully measured that we were not certain whether or not you were writing about us. We do have a tendency towards the use of somewhat vigorous language in describing current events and the people driving them.

During the decade between being discharged from the Army and finally landing in a newsroom, we worked, among many other places, in a cabinet shop. An apprentice there once asked, as he was sanding a piece of furniture, "How can you tell you've gone far enough unless you go too far?" The question was so profound we all downed tools and discussed it for a while.

If our choice of words is occasionally too sharp, and our line of argument too robust, we like to think that those excesses are counterbalanced by our underlying intent.

We firmly believe that one of the primary reasons we are now in this harrowing predicament is that there has been a general tendency among supposedly responsible media in this country to

be overly circumspect when discussing the actions of several generations of charlatans, mountebanks, schemers, chiselers, and grifters.

We would like to see built, on the ashes and rubble of the old system, a new one in which such frauds would find it harder to gain power: a system geared to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number.

In the quest for that goal, yes—we're willing to occasionally hurt someone's feelings.

The Editor

=====
Captain Trump of the RMS Titanic

To the Editor:

There isn't any iceberg.

There was an iceberg but it's in a totally different ocean.

The iceberg is in the ocean but it will melt very soon.

There is an iceberg but we didn't hit the iceberg.

We hit the iceberg, but the damage will be repaired very shortly.

The iceberg is a Chinese iceberg.

We are taking on water but every passenger who wants a lifeboat can get a life boat, and they are beautiful lifeboats. Look, passengers need to ask nicely for the lifeboats if they want them. We don't have any lifeboats, we're not lifeboat distributors.

Passengers should have planned for icebergs and brought their own lifeboats.

I really don't think we need that many lifeboats.

We have lifeboats and they're supposed to be our lifeboats, not the passengers' lifeboats.

The lifeboats were left on shore by the last captain of this ship.

Nobody could have foreseen the iceberg.

Paul Nichols
Loudon, N.H.

Paul:

Good to hear from you. How are things up on The Ridge?

The Editor

=====
Why Should We Trust Double-Dealers?

To the Editor:

It was perhaps inevitable that the debate over Coronavirus policy would fall victim to the partisan divide. Pro-

testors on the political right are pushing for the elimination of stay at home policies and the opening up of the U.S. economy while discounting the seriousness of the epidemic. The liberal left postures that data and science should drive the decision to re-open and that a premature relaxing of stay in place rules would result in the re-emergence of the virus.

It is clear that many protestors on the right have overly discounted the threat of the virus. It is extracting a grievous toll in sickness and death among Americans. Posturing on the steps of state capitals carrying assault rifles and spouting libertarian slogans will do nothing to ameliorate the damages of the epidemic nor bring the economy back to life.

Yet the liberal left is not entirely on the side of the angels in the debate. Their reliance on epidemiological models for policy-making ignores the fact that current knowledge regarding the novel virus is not sufficient to generate a reliable model. This is demonstrated by the divergence in the predictions of different models as well as their generally poor accuracy. Models are always simulations of reality not reality itself. They are useful when their assumptions approximate reality and enough data exists to demonstrate predictive validity. Models that attempt to predict human behavior as well as the actions of a new virus are especially unstable. Several epidemiologists have conceded that more data is necessary to validate their models. Some claim that millions of Corona tests are necessary to generate necessary data and current harsh containment policies must be kept in place until the data is generated. This may be reasonable from a purely epidemiological perspective but it ignores the damage that the current draconian methods being used to contain the virus are extracting. The dilemma is that we are not just facing a public health problem. We are facing a complex situation that includes medical, economic, social and psychological dimensions. All must be

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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HOWLER'S PILE AND HUMOR

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

Open Door

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Kitchen Table University

by William Marvel

Somewhere in my house must still be the cartoon my mother clipped out of a popular magazine from about 1950 and tucked into my baby album. It depicts a man just coming home from work in the traditional grey business suit, wearing a fedora and carrying a briefcase. He stands in the open doorway of a kitchen that looks as though a tornado has just passed through. Cooking utensils clutter the counters and dishes fill the sink, while baby spoons and cups and rattles lie scattered about. In the middle of the room stands an empty highchair, the tray of which is smeared and dripping. A bowl has landed upside-down on the floor, and the walls are generously splattered with gobs the same color as the spillage from the bowl. At the kitchen table, with her elbows planted between mounds of other culinary refuse and her hair clenched in the fists on either side of her head, sits a woman who explains

the vacant highchair. "I gave him away," reads the caption.

I first found the cartoon when I was in about the fourth or fifth grade. When I asked my mother what it meant she answered only obliquely, giving me to understand that if there were any justice in the world I would someday figure it out for myself.

Right about now there may be a lot of parents who would not have to have cartoons about the chaos of child-rearing explained to them. I would expect that to be especially true among those parents whom public schools have heretofore relieved, at least on weekdays, of parenting responsibilities as basic as feeding their children. There are certain ages at which children are particularly difficult even for a loving father or mother to bear around the clock, with nary a day off. The worst of those ages are probably from about two months to twenty-six years.

Yet I don't think my mother had

a day off from me for five years. For long stretches of that half-decade my father was away at sea, and anywhere my mother went I had to go. I could play outside with the neighborhood kids—or, more accurately, she would sometimes force me to go outside and play with them—but mostly it was just the two of us. We spent much of that time at the kitchen table, where she taught me my letters and numbers and told me stories from Greek and Roman mythology. She explained the plot lines and summarized the character descriptions from novels she had read, or was reading (some of which I recognized decades later, when by coincidence I read the same books).

I never thought of it as school, but in retrospect I'd have to say that most of my early education was absorbed at that kitchen table. My sole recollection from the parochial kindergarten I attended on Key West is a kindly old nun who seemed to single me out for attention, whose only memorable accomplishment was

persuading me to hold the pencil in my right hand. My first years at Pine Tree School are much clearer, but I remember more about how bored I was than about what I learned there—and how much I resented the efforts to change the penmanship my mother had taught me.

A lifetime later, my turn came to serve as kitchen-table teacher to a precocious twelve-year-old, and to my surprise it turned out to be fun. We were mainly trying to save her from the so-called middle school, which we regarded as a pedagogical disaster, and I agreed to spend several hours a day on history, geography, English, and French. Her mother gave evening lessons in math, science, and music. I took it as a mutual compliment that our pupil eventually took a degree in math, with a minor in French.

We started with a summer course on local history, including an archaeological dig. We read Mark Twain's

Roughing It, in which his Nevada-bound stagecoach was crippled by a broken thoroughbrace, and we visited the Concord coach at the New Hampshire Historical Society, where she learned what a thoroughbrace was. We took a Revolutionary jaunt to Lexington Green and the rude bridge that arched the flood. We went to UNH, where one day years later she realized that she was staring out the same library window where she had spent an afternoon as a child.

The precedents that have been set by near-totalitarian governmental responses to this latest pandemic will exert such profoundly unpleasant influences on society that one feels constrained to emphasize any good that might result. No higher good could emerge than for more parents to understand that they—rather than a vast, bloated bureaucracy—are the key to their children's education.



from page five

factored into an effective solution to the current crisis.

In order to better understand this point, it is useful to visualize two imaginary "damage" curves. One is a variation on the curve that is frequently shown during briefings on the spread of the virus. Call it the Corona damage curve. It demonstrates the havoc caused by the death and disease caused by the virus as well as its attendant health costs. The second curve includes the damages caused by the harsh methods being used to contain the virus. It tallies the economic, social, psychological and health costs associated with the current shutdown. As the virus is contained, the Corona damage curve declines. Over time, however, the shutdown damage curve increas-



es. An effective policy on when to relax restrictions depends on where the two curves intersect. Note that this does not occur when Covid damages are at zero. It implies that some health costs due to the virus will continue but the costs to society of maintaining an economic shutdown would be greater.

Among the social costs of an extended shutdown will be the devastation of small businesses. Like many Americans, most small businesses exist month to month, relying on current revenue to pay their rent, suppliers and employees. They simply cannot sustain a shutdown that lasts for months. After only one

month of the shutdown, more than 26 million Americans are unemployed. That number will continue to increase if the shutdown continues. The great majority of the unemployed are workers who depend on a regular paycheck to pay for food and rent. Moreover, many rely on their employer for health insurance. The health consequences for these workers and their families are dire if their jobs do not return. After only one month of the shutdown, the federal government has appropriated two trillion dollars to ameliorate some of the financial problems due to the crisis. This is approximately 10 per-

cent of the current U.S. GDP and it was financed solely through debt. How many more debt-financed two trillion relief bills do you think that the U.S. can or will afford?

The times call for innovative responses to a complex and uncertain problem. The ravages of the Coronavirus must be minimized but at the same time so must the damages to society of an extended shutdown. A realistic solution may not optimize each dimension but the perfect should not be the enemy of the good.

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.
Harrisburg, Pa.
Robert:

Thank you for this assessment. Unqualified to render a scientific judgment, we hesitate to differ. As we noted in our response to Ms. Pistole, elsewhere, though, we fear that this issue is in the hands of people who cannot be trusted. The Alleged Administration tells us it's under control. We do not believe that. The laws of contagion are in control. They'll render their verdict in the months to come.

The government responded with blinding speed to make billions available to big business. Workers—being relatively powerless individuals—got a one-time check and perhaps a temporary bump on their unemployment compensation. Now they're being told to get back to work, even if work is unsafe. Refuse and you lose your unemployment. The deck is still stacked—and we do not trust the dealer.

The Editor

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What's the gimmick in Trump's plan to "rescue" the public Postal Service?

by Jim Hightower

One thing we've learned for sure this year is that no national crisis is too awful to keep Trump & Company from exploiting it for their plutocratic political purposes.

COVID-19 is a God-Awful crisis, but late one night deep inside the White House, a dim bulb flickered in our present president's head: "Eureka," Trump exclaimed, "here's our chance to kill the U.S. Post Office!"

Of all the things a president might focus on during a devastating pandemic, hijacking your and my public mail service, bankrupting it, and then privatizing its profitable functions has become a top priority for this brooding madman. Bizarrely, Trump has ranted that the post office should charge higher prices for us customers to ship packages, and he bemoans the fact that postal workers are unionized and earn middle-class wages. So, in February,

with our economy collapsing under the weight of Covid-19, Trump struck.

Like nearly every business, the Postal Service had suffered a crushing loss of customers and needs emergency funding to keep America's mail moving. Congress quickly proposed a bipartisan \$13 billion postal lifeline as part of its \$2 trillion national rescue package. But our personally-piqued president said: "No," threatening to kill the whole

bill if it included a pandemic grant to save the public post office.

The U.S. mail service, however, is enormously popular, so Trump can't just blatantly choke off its survival funds. Instead, he's taking the agency hostage, offering to provide a \$10 billion "loan" from the Treasury Department—contingent on the public entity agreeing to his draconian demands that it raise postal prices, gut postal unions, and cut postal services.

Trump's provisos are postal poison pills, for they would destroy the agency's morale and service, undermine popular support, and clear the political path for profiteering corporations to seize, privatize, and plunder this public treasure.

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from page six



Missing Trump's Press Conferences To the Editor:

I have been missing Trump's appearances at the 5 p.m. pandemic press conferences more than I realized. His comments were a source of truth and information not to be found elsewhere.

For example: when he called the pandemic a hoax, I knew it was real; when he said it was contained, I knew it would spread rampantly; when he said he would make sure small businesses would be taken care of as provided for in the Congressional bailout package, I knew they were toast and the money siphoned off to big business; when he said, "No, I don't take any responsibility," I knew his administration had flubbed the dub even more than was obvious; when Dr. Trump started prescribing treatments for the virus, like Clorox and anti-malarial drugs, I knew more people would die.

See! Trump does tell the truth, you just have to interpret his alternate facts mind set to get to it.

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

Why Treat Essential Workers So Badly?

by Lawrence Wittner

On March 19, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum identifying the nation's 2.5 million farmworkers as "essential" workers. Soon thereafter, agribusinesses began distributing formal letters to their farm laborers, also declaring that that they were "essential."

Of course, it shouldn't have required a government-business effort to establish this point. Without farmworkers, there is no food. And the American people need food to survive.

But, remarkably, over the course of U.S. history, farmworkers, although essential, have been terribly mistreated. Whether as slaves, indentured servants, sharecroppers, or migrant laborers, these millions of hardworking people endured harsh and brutal lives, enriching others while living (and usually dying) in poverty.

Nor is the situation very different today. Farm labor remains hard, grinding physical toil, requiring long hours of bending and repetitive motion to gather crops under conditions of extreme heat. Back strain, poisoning by pesticides, and other injuries, sometimes leading to death, contribute to making agriculture one of the nation's most hazardous industries. Employment is often seasonal or otherwise precarious.

Some problems hit portions of the farm labor force particularly hard. Roughly half of all farmworkers are undocumented immigrants, a status that places them in constant fear of being arrested, deported, and separated from their families. Furthermore, women farmworkers face high levels of sexual harassment, thereby confronting them with the difficult choice of reporting it and facing the possibility of being fired or remaining silent and allowing the

harassment to continue.

In recent decades, the federal government has prosecuted numerous growers and labor traffickers in the southeast for what one U.S. attorney called "slavery, plain and simple." Farmworkers were lured to the U.S. under false pretenses, deprived of their passports, chained, held under armed guard, and forced to work. If they refused, they were threatened with violence, beaten, drugged, raped, pistol whipped, and even shot. In 2015, President Obama awarded the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, which exposed these practices, the Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts in Combatting Modern Day Slavery.

Although people performing some of the hardest and most essential work in the United States certainly seem to deserve a break or at least reasonable compensation—they have not received it. In 2017, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, a quarter of all farmworkers had a family income below the official poverty level, while most of the others teetered just above it. Most of them were forced to rely on at least one public assistance program. Even after some of the more progressive states raised the state minimum wage, the average wages of farmworkers remained abysmal. In 2019, they earned only a little more than half the hourly pay rate of all American workers.

Moreover, they now face the

coronavirus pandemic. Greg Asbed, a leading voice for agricultural laborers, has pointed out that, for farmworkers, "the two most promising measures for protecting ourselves from the virus and preventing its spread—social distancing and self-isolation—are virtually impossible. Many farmworkers live, crowded together, in decrepit, narrow trailers or barracks, ride to and from their workplaces in crowded buses, have little access to water and soap once in the fields, and cook and shower in the same cramped housing facility. Rapid contagion is almost inevitable, and very few have access to healthcare of any kind.

Despite the heightened danger, though, working—even working while sick—is the only practical option for farmworkers, for, given their impoverishment, they cannot afford to be unemployed. Very few receive paid sick days. Some, to be sure, will be assisted by the one-time \$1,200 payment Congress voted for members of low and middle income families. But undocumented workers, who constitute so many of the nation's millions of farmworkers, are excluded from the provisions of that legislation. Nor are undocumented workers eligible for unemployment insurance—although, of course, they pay the taxes that fund these programs, as well as the programs that are now bailing out America's multi-billion dollar industries.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration is getting set to deliver yet

another blow to farmworkers. Almost a tenth of that work force is composed of Mexican guest workers, legally admitted to the United States for short periods under the U.S. Agriculture Department's H-2A program. As America's big agricultural growers are perennially short of laborers to harvest their crops, they have pressed hard for the admission of these guest workers. But they dislike the fact that, to avoid undercutting the wages of American workers, the H-2A program sets the wage level for guest workers at local American wage standards. And in states like California, the state's rising minimum wage has lifted the wages of farmworkers considerably beyond the pitiful federal minimum of \$7.25 an hour. As a result, the growers have fought for years to reduce the wages paid to guest workers. Finally, in April 2020, the news broke that their dream of cheap labor would soon be realized, for the Trump administration is now laying plans to lower the guest worker wage rate to \$8.34 an hour. These plans, made at the same time that farmers and ranchers are about to receive a \$16 billion federal bailout, will cut between \$2 and \$5 per hour from the pay of guest farmworkers.

Small labor organizations like the United Farm Workers and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers are resisting this continued exploitation, but there are severe limits to their power. Farmworkers seem likely to remain essential, but expendable.

Dr. Lawrence Wittner is Professor of History emeritus at SUNY/Albany and the author of *Confronting the Bomb* (Stanford University Press).

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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, MAY 10	MONDAY, MAY 11	TUESDAY, MAY 12	WEDNESDAY, MAY 13	THURSDAY, MAY 14	FRIDAY, MAY 15	SATURDAY, MAY 16
<p>2017—President Trump meets with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak in the Oval Office. He divulges classified info, exposes a foreign agent, and says firing the FBI Director relieved "great pressure" from him.</p> <p>1968—Students in Paris barricade the streets. "Be realistic," their graffiti read, "demand the impossible."</p> <p>1960—The FDA approves "The Pill."</p> <p>1945—New Hampshire adopts the motto, "Live Free or Die."</p> <p>1933—Goebbels tells students, make Germany great—burn books.</p> <p>1919—In Charleston, S.C., white sailors foment the first of 33 U.S. race riots over a five-month period.</p> <p>1908—The first Mother's Day Service is held in W.Va. at the instigation of Anna Jarvis who is arrested on Mother's Day 40 years later for protesting its commercialization.</p> <p>1869—Leland Stanford fails to drive his railroad's famous "Golden Spike" because he's hammered himself. "Every step of that mighty enterprise," says one Senator, was "taken in fraud."</p> <p>1849—Nativist fans of Edwin Frost bombard New York's Astor Opera House with bricks protesting a Brit performer. Preserving order, the 7th Militia Regiment fires into the crowd killing 20, mostly bystanders.</p> <p>1740—South Carolina nixes assembling, raising food, earning money, or literacy for the enslaved, while legalizing slave holders killing the rebellious.</p>	<p>2012—The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission finds George W.[MD] Bush, Dick "Dick" Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Tony Blair and others guilty of war crimes.</p> <p>2009—Ex-Gov. J. Ventura says, "You give me a water board, Dick Cheney and one hour, and I'll have him confess to the Sharon Tate murders."</p> <p>2006—USA Today reports that the NSA is tapping U.S. phones.</p> <p>1975—In New York, 80,000 celebrate the end of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1969—Huey Cobras mistakenly fire on the 3/187 Battalion HQ on Hamburger Hill; two KIA, 35 WIA.</p> <p>1969—A fire at the Rocky Flats nuclear bomb plant results in the release of plutonium—and previously-suppressed news that a fire 12 years earlier had released 1,000 times as much.</p> <p>1968—In France, labor unions turn out in support of student protests.</p> <p>1966—"It appears," says Defense Sec. Robert Strange McNamara, "that the Viet Cong is [sic] losing what support it had from the rural population."</p> <p>1963—Blacks in Birmingham, Ala. riot after two more KKK bombings.</p> <p>1894—George Pullman cuts his workers' wages but not their rent; they fight back with a wildcat strike.</p> <p>1886—The <i>Milwaukee Daily Sentinel</i> publishes an article headlined "No Poles Need Apply," praising the railroads for firing immigrants.</p> <p>1854—Birth of Ottmar Mergenthaler, inventor of the Linotype.</p>	<p>2015—An FEC report reveals that Rep. Frank Guinta, after years of denying wrongdoing, has agreed to pay back an illegal \$355K campaign loan and a \$15K fine to boot.</p> <p>1996—Sec. of State Madeleine Albright tells Lesley Stahl on "60 Minutes" that sanctions killing 500,000 children in Iraq is "a very hard choice, but ... we think the price is worth it."</p> <p>1987—News reports say Oliver North lost a \$10 million contribution for the Contras by using the wrong Swiss bank account number.</p> <p>1984—Philip Abrams, HUD Undersecretary under R. Reagan, says Hispanics live in crowded homes out of "cultural preference," not poverty.</p> <p>1975—Khmer Rouge naval forces using ex-U.S. Swift Boats seize the U.S. container ship <i>Mayaguez</i> and 39 crewmen off Cambodia.</p> <p>1960—The remains of SSGT. Guy E. Shelley are found 97 miles from where he parachuted to Earth, 17 years after his plane crashed in the Sahara.</p> <p>1958—Future Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara says cabbage and broccoli will protect Americans from atomic fallout.</p> <p>1947—Trunk murdereress Winnie Ruth Judd makes her third escape from the Arizona State Insane Hospital.</p> <p>1916—In deference to the wounds they inflicted during the Easter Uprising, the Royal Irish Constabulary put James Connolly in a chair so the firing squad can shoot him again.</p>	<p>2015—The day after eight die in a Philadelphia derailment, Congress votes to slash Amtrak's budget.</p> <p>2005—A Pentagon commission recommends closing the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.</p> <p>1985—A Philadelphia police helicopter bombs MOVE headquarters, killing 11 and leaving 250 homeless.</p> <p>1971—President Nixon tells his flunkies to get a new IRS head: "a ruthless son of a bitch ... who will go after our enemies and not go after our friends."</p> <p>1957—Ngo Dinh Diem is treated to a ticker tape parade in New York City.</p> <p>1946—Authorities in Germany order the destruction of 30,000 books—American military authorities.</p> <p>1945—After a brief court martial in Amsterdam—and Germany's surrender—Bruno Dorfer and Rainer Beck, deserters from the Wehrmacht's Kriegsmarine, are executed by German soldiers using German rifles provided by the Seaforth Highlanders.</p> <p>1930—The New Hampshire Historical Society announces it's acquired one of three known copies of <i>The Monster of Monsters</i>, the pamphlet that got Daniel Fowle thrown in prison in 1754.</p> <p>1929—Capone, Lansky, Luciano, Lucchese, Torrio, Nitti, Siegel, &c., meet in Atlantic City, N.J.</p> <p>1862—Robert Smalls, enslaved helmsman of the Confederate military transport <i>Planter</i>, commandeers the vessel, pilots it out of Charleston harbor, and turns it over to the U.S. Navy.</p>	<p>2015—The <i>Union Leader's</i> editorial, in full: "Frank Guinta is a damned liar."</p> <p>1992—The George H.[H.]W. Bush administration opens up 1,400 acres of spotted owl habitat for logging.</p> <p>1987—Robert "Bud" McFarlane tells Congress that if he'd objected to arming Central American terrorists, "Bill Casey, Jeane Kirkpatrick, and Cap Weinberger would have said I was some kind of commie."</p> <p>1975—The Khmer Rouge take the captive crew of the <i>Mayaguez</i> to mainland Cambodia.</p> <p>1969—Two companies of the 101st assault an NVA regiment atop Hamburger Hill. Despite 12 KIA and 80 WIA, they make no progress.</p> <p>1961—Klansmen in Anniston, Ala. celebrate Mother's Day by torching a bus. The Freedom Riders on board escape the fire, but not a savage beating.</p> <p>1960—The <i>New Yorker's</i> A.J. Liebling writes, "Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one."</p> <p>1932—Mayor Jimmy Walker leads 150,000 New Yorkers in a day-long "We Want Beer" parade.</p> <p>1930—The <i>New York Times</i>, in 157 words about the New Hampshire Historical Society's acquisition of a 18th century pamphlet, <i>The Monster of Monsters</i>, mis-states who was jailed and for how long, cites the wrong printer (Zechariah Fowle, not Daniel), and mistakes this paper's name.</p> <p>964—John XII's papacy is abruptly ended by a jealous husband.</p>	<p>2002—The White House admits it knew before 9/11 that al Qaeda had plans to hijack U.S. airliners.</p> <p>2001—Two engineers in a locomotive chase and stop an unmanned train full of hazardous chemicals after it rolled 66 miles at high speeds across Ohio.</p> <p>1991—The Pentagon releases info confirming that Manuel Noriega used to be on the CIA's payroll.</p> <p>1975—Marines retake the abandoned <i>Mayaguez</i>. Other Marines, green and unaware that the ship's crew is being released, chopper to Koh Tang Island. Dug-in Khmer Rouge greet them. Fifteen Marines are KIA, 50 WIA. Three are left on the beach.</p> <p>1970—City and State cops shoot 14 protesting black students, killing two, at Jackson State in Mississippi.</p> <p>1969—Governor Reagan and his flunky Ed Meese send 800 cops into Peoples Park with shotguns. To quell the ensuing riot, he sends 2,700 National Guardsmen. The butcher's bill: one dead, one blinded, 35 wounded.</p> <p>1968—J. Edgar Hoover tells the Chicago office to tell the Mafia Dick Gregory is bad-mouthing them.</p> <p>1951—Gen. Omar Bradley calls Gen. MacArthur's Korea plan "[t]he wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy."</p> <p>1935—The Labor Relations Act gives U.S. workers the right to organize.</p> <p>1923—Upton Sinclair is arrested in Los Angeles for reading the Bill of Rights to striking Wobblies.</p>	<p>2017—Two dozen goons attack peaceful protestors outside the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C. as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan looks on approvingly. Four are arrested, but all charges are dropped.</p> <p>2001—Ex-FBI Special Agent, devout Catholic, patron of strippers, and amateur exhibitionist Robert Hanssen is indicted for selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then the Russians.</p> <p>1974—Bill Harris, terrorist, is caught shoplifting socks from Mel's Sporting Goods in L.A.; but he and wife Emily escape as heiress Patty Hearst blasts the storefront with a machine gun.</p> <p>1969—AP discovers that some grunts on Hamburger Hill are discontented.</p> <p>1948—CBS correspondent George Polk turns up murdered in Salonika Harbor. The U.S.-supported Greek government frames a Commie, and U.S. journalists cover up the frame.</p> <p>1918—Congress passes the Sedition Act. It's now a crime to "...willfully utter, print, write, or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about the form of government of the United States, or the Constitution of the United States...."</p> <p>1916—In the Sykes-Picot Agreement, Britain and France, with Russia's OK, screw the Arabs.</p> <p>1879—Two men in Raleigh, N.C. are hanged twice: the ropes were too long the first time. In Utah, a firing squad misses the condemned man's heart; it takes him 27 minutes to die.</p>
SUNDAY, MAY 17	MONDAY, MAY 18	TUESDAY, MAY 19	WEDNESDAY, MAY 20	THURSDAY, MAY 21	FRIDAY, MAY 22	SATURDAY, MAY 23
<p>2017—Learning his election will be investigated for Russia's involvement, President Trump says, "Oh my God. This is terrible. This is the end of my Presidency. I'm [bleeped]."</p> <p>1987—Its weapons officer away from his duty station, its Phalanx gun operator absent "on personal business," and its radar countermeasure system unarmed, the frigate <i>U.S.S. Stark</i> is hit by two Exocets from an Iraqi plane; 37 sailors die on the Gipper's watch.</p> <p>1976—R. Reagan, in <i>Time</i>: "Fascism was really the basis of the New Deal."</p> <p>1974—Six members of the Symbionese Liberation Army hole-up in a small house in L.A. surrounded by 400 cops. Armed with full-auto M-1 carbines, they fire 4,000 rounds but hit no one. Shot or burned, they all die.</p> <p>1973—To help Continental Oil develop new drilling techniques, the AEC explodes three nukes underground in Colorado.</p> <p>1968—Nine people break into Catonsville, Md.'s draft board and burn 600 files with homemade napalm.</p> <p>1954—Border Patrol agents begin deporting 1 million people from five states in "Operation Wetback."</p> <p>1954—President Eisenhower creates the notion of "Executive Privilege."</p> <p>1954—The Supreme Court throws out "separate but equal" education.</p> <p>1934—At Madison Square Garden, tens of thousands of Friends of the New Germany rally under a swastika in support of Adolf Hitler.</p>	<p>1992—The 27th Amendment, prohibiting any Congress from raising its own pay, is ratified 202 years after its submission.</p> <p>1982—The Rev. Sun Myung Moon is convicted of tax fraud.</p> <p>1980—Mt. St. Helens cuts loose for the first time in 123 years.</p> <p>1974—India successfully tests a nuclear weapon in an operation named Smiling Buddha.</p> <p>1969—At Hamburger Hill, casualties mount as the fight goes on. The commander orders helicopters out of the area after more friendly fire deaths.</p> <p>1958—CIA pilot Al Pope is shot down while strafing an Indonesian port. The U.S. Ambassador claims he's a mere "soldier of fortune." Documents found on Pope prove it's a lie.</p> <p>1935—The propaganda plane Maxim Gorky, equipped with a printing plant and loudspeakers audible from the ground, crashes after it's hit by an escorting fighter plane; 45 die.</p> <p>1927—Andrew Kehoe, angry at having to pay taxes to support the Bath, Mich. school system, blows up the school killing 43 people including 39 grade-schoolers. He then kills his wife, loads his truck with dynamite and nails, and blows up the school superintendent and himself.</p> <p>1918—Congress creates the draft. Emma Goldman protests, for which she's soon arrested.</p> <p>1896—The Supreme Court OKs racial segregation in Plessy v. Ferguson.</p>	<p>2017—Big game hunter Theunis Botha, 51, dies in Zimbabwe when an elephant shot by a client falls on him.</p> <p>1962—In Madison Square Garden, Marilyn Monroe sings "Happy Birthday" to President John F. Kennedy.</p> <p>1956—A 15-megaton bomb test in the South Pacific raises radiation levels in the U.S. to 10 times normal.</p> <p>1954—The U.S.P.O. OKs a CIA mail-opening project.</p> <p>1953—A wind shift in Nevada sends fallout from our dirtiest-ever nuke test, Upshot-Knothole Harry, to where Howard Hughes will film <i>The Conqueror</i> one year later.</p> <p>1950—In South Amboy, N.J., four ammunition barges carrying 467 tons of ammunition explode killing 30 and injuring 350 more.</p> <p>1943—U.S. sub-chaser <i>PC-815</i>, commanded by L. Ron. Hubbard, engages non-existent Japanese subs in battle off the Oregon coast.</p> <p>1932—Rep. Claude Fuller (D-Ark.) introduces a bill requiring Civil Service employees be able to "sing, write or recite the words to the Star Spangled Banner" from memory.</p> <p>1925—Malcolm Little, later "X," is born in Omaha, Neb.</p> <p>1920—In Matewan, W. Va., seven coal company stooges and four locals die in a main street shootout.</p> <p>1918—For protesting her husband's lynching the day before, Mary Turner, eight months pregnant, is lynched in Lowndes County, Ga.</p>	<p>2009—The FBI entraps four Muslim men in a bogus Bronx bomb plot.</p> <p>2004—U.S. and Iraqi troops raid the home and offices of Ahmed Chalabi, formerly the neo-cons' most trusted source of Iraqi intelligence.</p> <p>1989—RIP, Gilda Radner.</p> <p>1978—Mavis Hutchinson, 53, makes New York City after running across America for 69 days.</p> <p>1969—After 11 bloody assaults in 10 days, American troops take Hamburger Hill at a cost of 70 dead and 372 wounded. It's abandoned 16 days later.</p> <p>1973—The Camden 28, who broke into a draft board office, are acquitted.</p> <p>1937—George Orwell takes a bullet in the throat while fighting against Franco's fascists in Spain.</p> <p>1927—Charles Lindbergh leaves Long Island by air, heading east.</p> <p>1926—Thomas Edison announces that Americans prefer silent films to those newfangled talkies.</p> <p>1918—A tornado hits Codell, Kan.</p> <p>1917—A tornado hits Codell, Kan.</p> <p>1916—A tornado hits Codell, Kan.</p> <p>1899—New Yorker Jacob German gets the first ticket for speeding—he went over 12 mph.</p> <p>1873—Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis get a patent for copper-riveted jeans.</p> <p>1631—Unpaid soldiers first conquer Magdeburg, then loot it. Disappointed with their booty, they slaughter 20,000 Protestants for the greater glory of the Holy Roman Emperor and the Mother Church.</p>	<p>2016—In Houston, hundreds rally to support Islam. Hundreds more rally, armed, to oppose it. All have been duped by a Russian troll farm.</p> <p>2010—Fox's Glenn Beck claims "a good portion" of Americans were glad when Franklin D. Roosevelt died.</p> <p>2001—The GAO refutes the GOP: Dems didn't vandalize the White House.</p> <p>1981—The Senate OKs \$20 billion to resume full-scale production of nerve gas and other chemical weapons.</p> <p>1980—In Gwangju, Korea, students using weapons looted from armories drive troops from downtown.</p> <p>1968—Students protest the Vietnam War in West Berlin, Paris, Peking, Berkeley, and New York.</p> <p>1952—Blacklisted actor John Garfield dies of a heart attack at 39.</p> <p>1946—A screwdriver slips; the same plutonium core that killed Harry Daghlian the previous August gives Louis Slotin a lethal burst of radiation.</p> <p>1945—Bogie, 45, marries Bacall, 20.</p> <p>1924—Nathan Leopold, 19, and Richard Loeb, 18, murder Robert Franks, 14, for the fun of it.</p> <p>1894—Dr. Guillotin's device about to humanely remove his head, Emile Henry tells the assembled throng, "<i>Courage, camarade, vive l'anarchie.</i>"</p> <p>1871—To correct the alleged errors of the Paris Commune, the 20-35,000 executions of "Bloody Week" begin.</p> <p>1823—The 200th anniversary of the settling of Portsmouth is "celebrated with great éclat."</p>	<p>2004—Portsmouth's Leftist Marching Band debuts before a surprised and delighted audience in Market Square.</p> <p>1977—In the wee hours of a convention, hard-liners take over the NRA.</p> <p>1968—The nuclear sub <i>Scorpion</i>, two nuclear torpedos, and all 99 crew members are lost at sea.</p> <p>1962—Thomas G. Doty buys dynamite and flight insurance, then boards Flight 11, which explodes. Instead of \$300K, his wife gets a \$3.00 refund.</p> <p>1957—A 10-megaton H-bomb is accidentally dropped near Albuquerque. Its non-nuclear explosives leave a crater 12 feet deep and 25 across.</p> <p>1949—Ex-Defense Secretary James Forrestal ambiguously defenestrates from a 16th floor hospital window.</p> <p>1944—<i>Life</i> publishes a photo of an American girl at her desk with a souvenir sent by her boyfriend in the Pacific—the skull of Japanese soldier.</p> <p>1920—Henry Ford's newspaper, the <i>Dearborn Independent</i>, begins publishing anti-semitic articles based on the bogus <i>Protocols of the Elders of Zion</i>.</p> <p>1884—Hugh Daily fans 13 for the Chicago Browns pitching with his right hand—the only one he has.</p> <p>1856—Rep. Preston Brooks (D-Scs) Sen. Charles Sumner (R-Mass.) nearly to death with a cane.</p> <p>1622—English settlers at Jamestown serve the Powhatans a barrel of poisoned wine, killing 200. They shoot another 50, and scalp the dead.</p>	<p>2012—A mentally-unstable PNSY employee sets a fire that destroys the billion-dollar <i>U.S.S. Miami</i>.</p> <p>1976—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports that Rep. Wayne L. Hays' (D-Ohio) mistress, on his payroll at \$14,000 a year, admits she "can't type...can't file, [and] can't even answer the phone."</p> <p>1971—President Nixon meets with the milk cartel. For a \$2 million campaign contribution, he OKs a \$100 million increase in the cost of milk.</p> <p>1969—Drunk, homesick U.S.A.F. Sgt. Paul Meyer steals a C-130 from Mildenhall, UK and heads for Langley, Va. He crashes into the English Channel—possibly shot down.</p> <p>1950—The UAW and GM sign the Treaty of Detroit. Workers get better benefits but give up all hope of power over corporate decisions.</p> <p>1939—<i>Squalus</i> sinks off the Shoals with 59 aboard. Within 40 hours, 33 are rescued, but 26 die.</p> <p>1934—Cops in Louisiana ambush and kill Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. Their bodies are mauled by gawkers as they get hauled through town, dead, in their shot-up Ford V-8.</p> <p>1930—"I wish you all had one neck and that I had my hands on it," writes serial killer Carl Panzram to the Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment.</p> <p>1908—In Calif., 16 passengers survive a fall from an exploding dirigible.</p> <p>1849—In Haverhill, N.H., thousands watch as Rev. Enos Dudley is hanged for strangling his wife.</p>

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