

The Fortnightly Rant

Real American Carnage

Officially, as of Tuesday afternoon, more than 1.5 million Americans were confirmed to have been infected by the coronavirus. More than 90,000 have died. Those are the figures we have to work with, anyway. We know that both numbers will only rise.

That goes without saying for the death toll, of course, because life is a one-way street. These days, though, with more than 1,200 people dying every day from the virus, the mortality department's accountants can no more keep up than Lucy and Ethel in the candy factory.

The number of total cases is also a moving target; with new people getting infected every day, naturally there's a time lag in the reporting.

Though these numbers are unreliable, because we know the direction in which they err we can still use them to perform one important calculation. We just have to remember that no matter how bad the results may look superficially, the true story is even worse. That's saying a lot, because even the lowball number is terrible.

Hard though it may be for a Trump voter to believe, Americans make up just 4.2 percent of the world's population. If everything else were equal, we could expect to have 4.2 percent of all cases of Covid-19. Instead, though, we have suffered about 30 percent of all known cases. In cold, mathematical terms that's a ratio of 7.2.

Amidst all the endless coverage of this modern-day plague, this striking deviation from the statistical mean doesn't seem to get much notice. As of Wednesday we had heard it mentioned once, in passing, on NPR.

That seems strange, considering what it means: this Great America of ours is suffering at a level that is

7.2 times higher than it would be if this country were being run by an Administration of middling competence.

Now let's take another look at the total number of cases of Covid-19 in the U.S. In addition to the previously-mentioned reporting lag, there's a second factor that's been keeping that number artificially low.

Since the virus began to spread, this Administration has done about as well at bringing Federal resources to bear against it—particularly in the matter of testing—as...well, words fail us. Brownie's "Heck of a job?" The Vatican's policing of pederast priests? Neither of those abysmal failures comes close to matching the magnitude of this one.

Was this really just another example of the standard-issue Trumpian incompetence to which we have become depressingly accustomed? Or did this Administration intentionally suppress testing, in order to make the total number of cases appear to be lower?

We are not accusing anyone, of course, of having done this. Heaven forfend—none but a child would conceive of such a dim-witted scheme, and only a monster would carry it out.

That's what *Politico* health reporter Dan Diamond told NPR's Terry Gross back in March, though. The first batch of tests sent out by the CDC "simply did not work," he said.

"They were coming back with errors. The CDC, the Centers for Disease Control, recognized that and promised that new tests would be distributed soon. But one day turned into two days turned into three days turned into several weeks, and in the meantime, we know now coronavirus was silently spreading in different communities, like Seattle. By the time that the Trump administration



M. J. Ryan © 22 May 2020, N. 1818 (18) LH
The New Hampshire Gazette

made a decision to allow new tests to be developed by hospitals by clinical laboratories, it was a step that was seen as multiple weeks late."

Why was there no White House pressure to get that vital job done?

"The President had made clear—the lower the numbers on coronavirus, the better for the president, the better for his potential re-election this fall."

The deadly consequences of delay were quantified in a *New York Times* story on Thursday morning.

"If the United States had begun imposing social distancing measures one week earlier than it did in March, about 36,000 fewer people would have died in the coronavirus outbreak, according to new estimates from Columbia University disease modelers.

"And if the country had begun locking down cities and limiting social contact on March 1, two weeks earlier than most people started

staying home, the vast majority of the nation's deaths—about 83 percent—would have been avoided, the researchers estimated.

"Under that scenario, about 54,000 fewer people would have died by early May."

Trump and his cult want us to believe none of this is his fault because "no one could have seen this coming." Considering the source, of course, we know that's a lie.

NPR proved that Tuesday morning, with a report about a two-year effort by the Pentagon's National Defense University to prepare for a pandemic by running simulations—war games. "The scenario: A novel flu strain is racing across the planet. The virus is deadly and highly contagious; U.S. officials are trying to contain the outbreak before it hits the United States. (Spoiler: They don't succeed.)"

Ironically enough, this forward-thinking but wasted effort

was made during the administration of the previous holder of the title Worst President Yet: George W.[MD] Bush.

Just three and a half years ago, at his inauguration, Donald Trump described this nation—which had, at that point, more or less recovered from a years-long, Wall Street-engineered financial disaster—as a scene of American Carnage.

On Tuesday he bragged about the number of Americans who have died in the pandemic—a number that would be equal to the passenger lists of 256 chock-full Boeing 747s, one crashing every ten hours, around the clock, with no survivors, all since approximately Valentine's Day:

"Actually the number of cases, and we're also a much bigger country than most, so when we have a lot of cases, I don't look at that as a bad thing, I look at that as, in a certain respect, as a good thing, because it means our testing is better."

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Pompeo and Circumstantial Evidence

The President and his cult of followers have managed to let a pandemic kill off the equivalent of the population of Nashua. In the process they've also managed to stop a humongous economy in its tracks. These things may be bad, but it must be admitted—they are also colossal achievements.

An ordinary gang of run-of-the-mill comic book villains would be sitting back at this point with smug smiles on their faces, smoking big cigars. Not this bunch, though. There is [Censored by the Legal Department] left to be done, and there are [Censored by the Legal Department] yet to be committed.

[We regret the necessity of leaving these lacunæ strewn across our columns, but we have neither the financial resources required to defend ourselves against prosecution, nor the political

connections which would render such a defense superfluous.—The Ed.]

One of the foremost [Censored by the Legal Department] of the bunch, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, has been much in the news of late. As is customary with members of this Administration, there are multiple and divergent theories regarding exactly—or even approximately—what he has been doing.

Some puzzles are best solved by looking for what's missing. In this case, that's Steve Linick, Inspector General of the State Department. He was fired a week ago today by President Trump, at the behest, according to that notoriously unreliable narrator, of Secretary Pompeo.

As an Obama appointee, Linick has had one strike against him since noon on January 20, 2017. His job, by definition, was to assure that Sec-

retary Pompeo's operation went by the book. Maybe that made two.

Last November, Linick reported that Department officials had "ended the detail of a career employee in the Office of Policy Planning after significant discussion concerning the employee's perceived political views, association with former administrations, and perceived national origin, which are non-merit factors that may not be considered in assigning career personnel...." Six months later, though, he still had his job.

Last July, after a whistle-blower filed a complaint, CNN reported that Democrats in Congress had begun investigating "Pompeo and his family's use of taxpayer-funded Diplomatic Security [which had prompted] agents to lament they are at times viewed as 'UberEats

with guns."

While "those personal-seeming tasks might be eye-catching," according to CNN, "Congressional investigators say the State Department whistleblower told them the bigger issue causing concern among some agents is the question of why Pompeo's wife, Susan, has her own security detail, assigned to her in 2018, even while she is at home in the United States." All very interesting, to be sure, but that story made no mention of IG Linick.

The *New York Times* first linked Linick and the "UberEats with guns" scandal on the Saturday after his firing was announced. The paper said he "had begun an inquiry into Mr. Pompeo's possible misuse of a political appointee to perform personal tasks for him and his wife," but also mentioned that the inves-

tigation "might be unrelated to the previous allegations."

Monday, the *New York Times* hit pay dirt. The Paper of Record™ reported that Linick had been "in the final stages of an investigation into whether the administration had unlawfully declared an 'emergency' last year to allow the resumption of weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for their air war in Yemen."

Walter Shaub, ex-Director of the Office of Government Ethics, did everyone a favor by draining off the *Times*' customarily-thick layer of euphemism, and rephrased the matter in plain English: "firing an investigator in retaliation for probing the legality of shady transfers of weap-

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from page one

ons to support gruesome atrocities is about as low as you could ever imagine a President going...but here we are at this point and still falling fast."

Shady arms deals certainly seemed like more substantial grounds for launching a cover-up. On Tuesday, though, NBC News amped up the petty grifting angle, reporting that Pompeo and his wife have hosted at least two dozen "elaborate, unpublicized affairs...in the historic Diplomatic Reception Rooms on the government's dime." And what a lavish dime that is. According to their own official website, they are "are among the most beautiful rooms in the world," providing "a stunning backdrop of American art and architecture..." where the Secretary of State, Vice President, and Members of Cabinet continue to conduct the essential business of diplomacy..."

In this opulent setting, Pompeo and his wife also schmooze with "invitees...associated with media... [who] skew heavily toward conservative TV personalities, with 39 percent of them from Fox News."

It would be rude to send these folks on their way without some little trinket to keep as a memento,

so as "guests depart, usually around 9 p.m., they're given a journal and a pen as gifts— both custom-embossed with the Madison Dinner logos. The State Department special-ordered hundreds of each in 2018, the pens for \$23.75 apiece and the journals for \$8, officials said."

Want so see what those gewgaws look like? Ask our Governor. Maybe he'll show you.

"Many of those invited are, indeed, global thought leaders whose perspectives could be valuable to America's top diplomat: foreign ministers from allied countries, senators and prominent historians. But others seem to have little connection to the world of diplomacy, such as country singer Reba McEntire, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu and NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr."

Oh, the shame....

RIP, Empire

The former Prime Minister of Sweden, Carl Bildt, had a column in Tuesday's *Washington Post* under the headline, "The post-American world is now on full display." Describing the recent annual meeting of the World Health Organization, Bildt noted that it "took four hours or so of speeches by ministers from around the world before the United



States made its presence felt. Until then, the United States hadn't even been mentioned."

The essence of the piece was this: "It is not that the United States has ceased to exist—far from it. But it has left behind any ambition of global leadership and any function as a global inspiration."

For some this is surely good news—those, for example, whose interactions with the U.S. have come in the form of explosives. For others it is not—those to whom we may have introduced clean water or health care.

Domestically, Bildt's argument will be refuted most vehemently by those at whose feet it can most surely be laid.

Its truth, to which they are surely blind, would be familiar to Herodotus or Edward Gibbon.

Its irony? Surely you jest.

White House Floats New Plan To Undermine Social Security

"On the heels of President Trump's repeated calls to eliminate Social Security's funding stream through payroll tax cuts, influential White

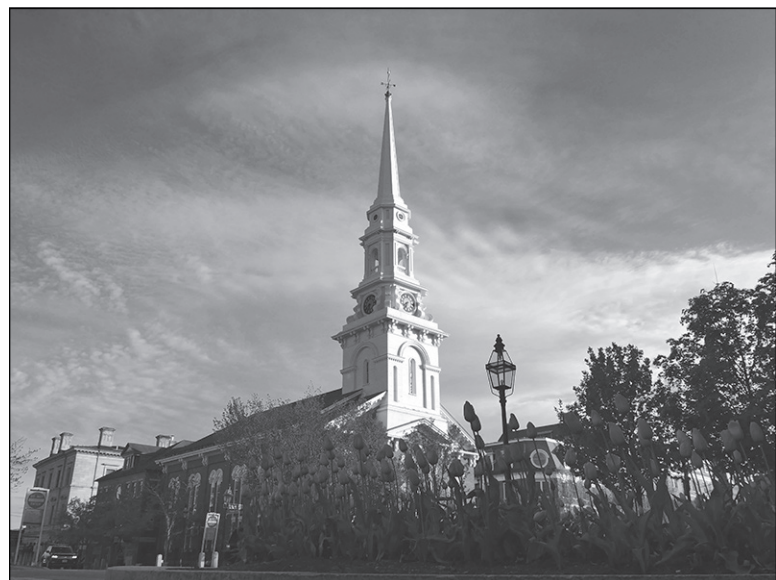
House advisors are floating a fresh ploy to undermine Americans' earned benefits. They reportedly propose to offer workers' \$5,000 cash Coronavirus relief payments in exchange for future Social Security retirement benefits. This would be another colossally bad idea from the Trump administration, which seems determined to dismantle Social Security under the guise of helping working people. The truth is: today's workers will need every penny of their future benefits and should not be duped into postponing their right to claim Social Security when needed for retirement, disability or survivors income.

"Inducing workers to trade their future retirement benefits for temporary cash payments now is akin to similar schemes in recent years from the White House and Congressional Republicans. In 2019, Ivanka Trump, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), and others hatched a plan for parents to sacrifice their future Social Security benefits in exchange for paid family leave. These ideas represent a gross misuse of Social Security for purposes unrelated to its core

purpose: providing baseline retirement security for American workers.

"President Trump has repeatedly promised "not to touch" Social Security, and one must assume that he is either too disengaged or too disingenuous to reject dangerous policies from his own advisors. The trading-cash-for-retirement-benefits scheme is only the latest in a series of proposed assaults on Social Security, including calls from the administration and congressional Republicans to cut payroll taxes, to raise the retirement age, to adopt stingier cost-of-living adjustments, and slash Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) by billions of dollars—along with their insistence that 'entitlements' be 'reformed' to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations. Seniors will not be fooled by the administration's duplicity. President Trump postures as a leader who will protect Social Security while his appointed foot soldiers continue to hurl bombs at workers' earned benefits."

— Max Richtman, president and CEO of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.



Though the big granite planter in Market Square is full of colorful tulips, late last Sunday that usually-bustling spot was post-Apocalyptically quiet.

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

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— Joe Keefe

Krupke Busts Again!

The indefatigable Officer Krupke, a stalwart of the Po'Town Division of the Flag Police, has been making his rounds in the South Street Cemetery again. He submitted Exhibit A, seen below, a fortnight or two ago.



We apologize for the delay in putting this evidence before the public—the fault is ours, not Officer Krupke's.

Frankly, we're disappointed in ourselves, letting down the side whose motto is, "Eternal vigilance is the price of upholding the fetishization of material objects which signify the values of a purported republic in the absence of any perceptible functionality."

On a more upbeat note, last fortnight, in collaboration with the Flag Police, we published a photo of the pole shown below, carrying the sorry, ragged remnants of a once-proud flag.

As Exhibit B, below, clearly shows, that violation of the Flag Code has now been corrected.



Suicidal N.H. Trumpers For Choice?

Andrew Manuse is a former State Rep. from Derry who has set himself up as Chairman of *ReOpenNH.com*. It has been promoting those State House protests which have featured mobs of gun-totin', God-fearin', death-defyin', protestors demandin' their right to, among other things, pack themselves into churches and let God decide whether they—and, by extension and the immutable laws of contagion, the rest of us—should live or die.

We received a press release from this outfit, dated May 14th, in which we were surprised to find a hint that perhaps some on the political right might finally be ready to declare a truce on the issue of abortion.

"On the eve of the governor's expected ruling to extend his State of Emergency for another 21 days," it began, "178 Democrats sent a tyrannical letter demanding the governor issue orders requiring all Granite Staters to wear masks in public." So, so far, all the truculence we've come to expect. But wait! What's this?

A quote attributed to Chairman

Manuse then said, "These House Members, clearly enemies of liberty, have hypocritically argued for years, 'My body, my choice,' and now they have suddenly become enamored with the same top-down, single-solution approach that Gov. Chris Sununu has been imposing on the state."

Clearly Manuse *et al.* are basing their beef with Hereditary Governor Sununu the Lesser on their righteous conviction that he has no right to tell them what to do with their bodies.

There is a difference between these two cases, though. If a woman choses to terminate a pregnancy, there is no discernable effect on Manuse, but if Manuse and his gun-totin' pals go around in public flaunting their right to exhale the coronavirus, there are potentially-lethal consequences for all of us.

Memorial Day, 2020

We called City Hall thinking that perhaps we'd get the official line on this year's observation of Memorial Day, but our heart was just not in it.

No one answered anyway. We're going to go out on a limb here—big journalistic no-no—and declare that, based solely on our own judgment and alleged authority, there will be no throngs of people lining Congress Street on Monday, applauding the marchers in a Memorial Day parade.

Those whom we would remember would surely understand. Some risk is inevitable in life, and some is unavoidable. Some is simply unacceptable.

Next year, if we're fortunate, we can have a parade in the old style. The ranks will be thinner, though.

Yearning for Newsprint

Neat, tight bundles of fresh newsprint; a stack of them on a rolling hand truck; volunteers walking their routes; the origami gang gathering and folding...oh, we do miss it.

However, as with the Memorial Day parade, we move on. Fortunately we have these spiffy new digital digs, to which we're just beginning to become accustomed. Roam around—make yourself at home.



If the President of the United States shot a person last Sunday afternoon on Market Street, he might get away with it for lack of witnesses. On the other hand, he might get away with it because he appointed Bill Barr to be Attorney General.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

— Marie Curie (1867-1934), physicist, chemist

"The best thing about being dead is you no longer have to say 'I wish I were dead.' The best thing about being alive is that you can still say 'I wish I were dead.'"

— Ivor Cutler (1923 - 2006) Scottish pianist, songwriter, and poet

john@wordpraxis.com

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

— Will Rogers

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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- Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.

Lebanon:

- Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

What Do We Have to Lose?

To the Editor:

President Trump just said the Corona virus was worse than the attacks on Pearl Harbor and the World Trade Towers. How stupid does he think the country is? Over 2,400 died when Pearl Harbor was attacked and almost 3,000 at the World Trade Center. Six died at a nursing facility in Kirkland, Washington which was the first major outbreak of the virus in this country. Presidents Roosevelt and Bush called those attacks acts of war. Trump said the virus was like the flu and an attack on him.

Roosevelt got the country producing ships, planes, tanks and everything needed for war. He got the most brilliant physicists to work on the atomic bomb. Bush sent CIA-backed fighters to Afghanistan to attack the Taliban and then our military to the area. Both got other countries to fight with us. Both put the war in the hands of experienced, competent people. Trump ignored the warnings of those who had dealt with epidemics. He preferred believing what he saw on Twitter and talk show TV. He squandered two months while the virus spread. He pushed snake oil remedies and put his incompetent son-in-law in charge of obtaining tests and medical equipment.

President Trump is fond of asking "what have you got to lose?" The answer is now clear: your life, your parents, your job, your business. Be grateful Trump was not in charge on 9/11 or after Pearl Harbor.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:

While the contrast you draw between Roosevelt and Trump is perfectly sound, we take issue with your characterization of the people George W.[MD] Bush put in charge of his wars.

"Experienced [and] competent"? Osama bin Laden got away at Tora Bora. He was still alive when Bush left office, and the Afghan War had a long, long way to go.

Iraq? Don't even get us started. Dick "Dick" Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, Paul Bremer—the list of

incompetents is depressingly long. If we were of a conspiratorial bent we might wonder if the Bushes pushed Trump to make George look better.

When it comes to Presidential performance, Dolt 45 has lowered the bar so far we'll have to send a team of spelunkers to find it.

The Editor

We Need Joe Biden

To the Editor:

Joe Biden has provided us with a good model for the "she said/he said" situations so common today. He respected his accuser's right to speak and be heard. He did not attack her personally, question her motives or attempt to destroy her reputation. He has asked the National Archives to release any relevant Senate records and has called for an investigation.

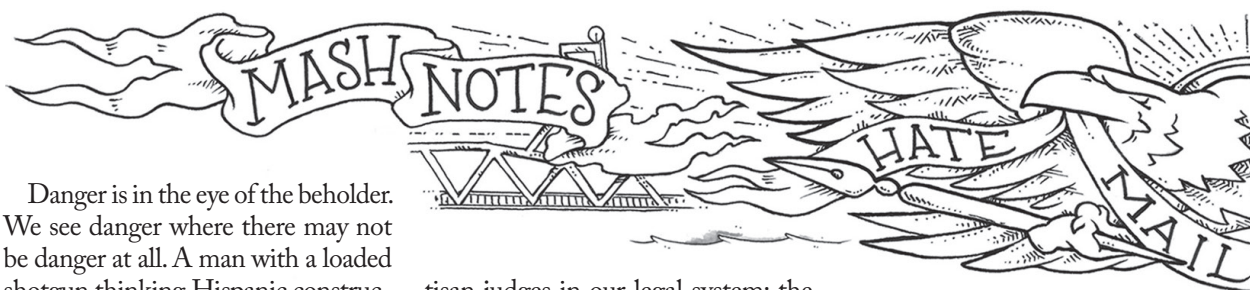
We may never know the full truth of what happened 27 years ago, but whatever it is, it will not change the reality of Donald Trump's catastrophic handling of the Covoind-19 pandemic and his inability to coordinate, collaborate, unite and lead. The country needs Joe Biden to bring this health crisis under control and do the hard work of rescuing our economy as he did when he oversaw the 2009 Recovery Act. Magical thinking and miracles won't do the job.

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.

Who Are You Calling "We"?

To the Editor:

As I watch TV and walk around the block, I see signs all over that say, "We're all in this together." Then, I read the story in the *Portsmouth Herald* (April 23rd) about a stand-off with a guy who had a loaded shotgun. The guy thought three construction workers "of Hispanic descent" were conducting drug deals according to the police affidavit. Evidently, the lawyer for the guy with the shotgun told the *Herald* (p. A5), "I am completely convinced this man is not dangerous." On that same day, I scanned the police log. I see that someone called and hung up calling about some "black people causing trouble."



Danger is in the eye of the beholder. We see danger where there may not be danger at all. A man with a loaded shotgun thinking Hispanic construction workers are doing a drug deal is definitely dangerous to the construction workers. Black people are in danger if someone calls to say that "some black people are causing trouble." No doubt the callers to the *Herald* were scared as well.

If, in fact, "We're all in this together," then we're going to have to deal with our prejudices. A black man in Georgia lost his life because a white father and his son mistook the black man for a robber. Our prejudices may lead us to wrong conclusions.

Judy Ullman
Portsmouth, N.H.

Judy:

You make an excellent point—one that will only become more important as this thing drags on.

The Editor

A To-Do List for Trump

To the Editor:

I sure wish Donald J. Trump would consider something other than getting himself re-elected as an important part of being President of the United States of America!

For instance, he could promote and support: the safety and security of all the American people; the economic security of America and its small businesses, the backbone of our nation's employment; nurturing and supporting the sustainable environment of the earth, from which we derive our food and economic resources; the health and wellness of our people; the cooperative working relationship America has had with most of the rest of the world under virtually all past Presidents; the reputation for goodness and fairness America had pre-2017; the right of all people to cast votes that count; the importance of appointing judicially qualified, fair, and non-par-

tisan judges in our legal system; the importance of appointing qualified and open-minded people to his cabinet and other important government posts instead of just Sycophants ("Yes-People"); scientific truth and common logic, by not mocking them or spreading dangerous unscientific ideas.

Herb Moyer
Exeter, N.H.

Free and Fair Elections?

To the Editor:

The U.S. Constitution's 15th Amendment guarantees all citizens the right to vote. But until the Voting Rights Act of 1965, literacy tests suppressed voting in many states.

Many hurdles for pandemic-wary New Hampshire voters promise novel forms of voter suppression.

Hooray! The Governor and Secretary of State say anyone can vote absentee—just claim a disability (fear of Coronavirus).

What about those hurdles?

New Hampshire is the *only* state without registration by mail or online.

The only way to register to vote is in-person at your Town Office...

...which is probably closed.

If applying (by phone, mail, email) to vote absentee, be sure to ask for *two or three ballots—separate ballots—* required for town elections (if yours hasn't yet occurred), for September primaries *and* the November general election.

Be sure to check off: "I am unable to vote in person due to a disability."

Sign your form!

Directions for registration and voting vary from town to town—lacking guidance from the Secretary of State to town election officials.

Cross your fingers that your town can afford additional costs for processing a mail deluge—printing, postage,

envelopes, extra personnel! Your town never budgeted for these.

Cross your fingers the U.S. Postal Service is operational. Funding runs out in June.

Solutions?

The Secretary of State could use \$15 million in HAVA (Help America Vote Again) Funds to mail absentee ballots with return postage to *all registered voters, to set up online registration,* and help towns with the many new costs for distance and in-person voting.

Susan Richman
Durham, N.H.

Susan:

Time for our occasional reminder: to defeat pernicious Republican policies, it's necessary to win elections by a sufficient margin to overcome Republican voter suppression.

The Editor

A Stimulating Use of Stimulus Funds

To the Editor:

In March, President Trump signed a "relief" bill that relieved the U.S.A.'s 43,000 wealthiest taxpayers of (an average) \$1.7 million each, costing the rest of us \$90 billion. This after wasting two months before finally showing some seriousness concerning the pandemic.

Now we are in the midst of a chaotic situation where underprepared states are "opening up," with no clear direction from the White House.

We, a married couple, are responding by donating our stimulus money to Democrats who will defeat Donald Trump and enough of his Republican enablers to re-take the Senate as well as the Executive Branch.

That is the least we can do.

Neal W. Ferris and Sylvia J. Foster
Durham, N.H.

Neal & Sylvia:

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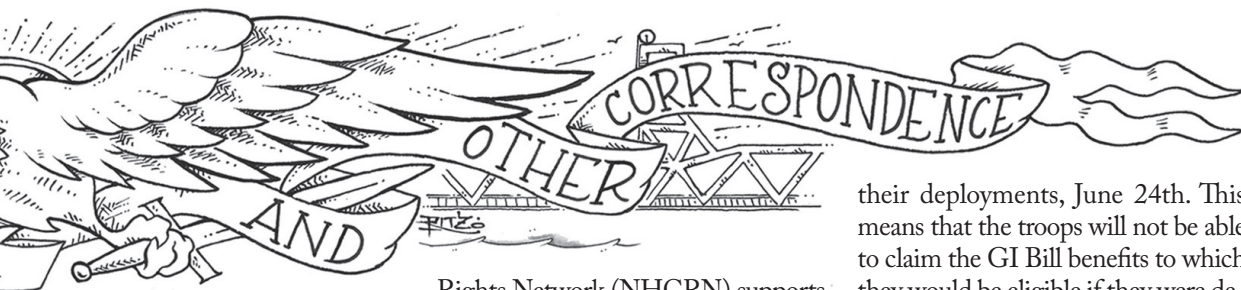
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Call or e-mail Tracey Noonan, VASH Program Manager, at (603) 657-5612 or email tracey.noonan@va.gov



This may be one of those cases where the least someone can do may also be the best someone can do.

The Editor

This Shows Us Where True Power Lies

To the Editor:
These United States of America were founded upon dissent, civil disobedience, direct action, and defiance against a tyrannical government. On one hand, this nation proclaims pride in that fact and on the other, it works non-stop to suppress any expression of opinions that vary from the status quo Ameri-capitalist economic machine. Our founding fathers even went so far as to enshrine the suppression of dissent and defiance in the U.S. Constitution (Art. I, Section. 8.) Is there any wonder why the majority of U.S. inhabitants cannot seem to forge the kinds of structural change in governing powers that are truly necessary to meet the health and safety needs of our local communities and the natural ecosystems we depend upon for survival?

Covid-19 has shown us where true power for change lies—at the local and regional levels. Mutual aid between neighbors, towns, and counties has been effective in helping to meet the ongoing everyday needs of the young, the elderly, and all ages in between. State and federal support has favored large industry interests over individuals, communities, and ecosystems. And, it has taken much longer to implement state and federal assistance while many pockets are lines as it trickles down to the where the greatest needs exist. What can you do in this time of social distancing to organize for structural change that embodies what your community envisions?

The New Hampshire Community

Rights Network (NHCRN) supports protecting the health and safety of the collective body of inhabitants (both human and natural) within your community. Reach out to the NHCRN to explore how you can envision and create structural change in decision-making power in the place where you live! Visit us at www.nhcommunityrights.org or email inquiries to info@nhcommunityrights.org. The NHCRN makes information and education available with the goal of driving community rights and the recognition of ecosystem rights—an integral part of every community—into fundamental law.

Michelle Sanborn
Serving President of the NHCRN
Alexandria, N.H.

Michelle:
You refer to the clause giving Congress the power to "[call] forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions."

For most of our history that power was used primarily against working people, for the benefit of corporations.

Yes, local power is important. We cannot abandon, though, the people's struggle to control federal power.

It's a matter of self-defense.

The Editor

"Nothing's Too Good for a Soldier..."

To the Editor:

It is hard to keep up with an almost daily outrage from this Administration. From the Postal Service to the rape of the environment to "Obamagate" to hydroxychloroquine to dismissing Inspectors-General and on and on. "...a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Today I would like to address just one of these abominations—the "hard stop" of the Federal deployment of National Guard troops on Day 89 of

their deployments, June 24th. This means that the troops will not be able to claim the GI Bill benefits to which they would be eligible if they were deployed for 90 days. I understand that there are about 50,000 troops that were called up to serve on the front lines against the Covid-19 pandemic. I'm sure that it would cost money to keep them on until the pandemic was controlled. Maybe the money could come out of the millions of dollars allocated to paint Trump's border wall black. I guess the only military heroes Trump likes are war criminals and those West Point graduates that suck up to him in his Cabinet.

I am reminded of that old saying, "Nothing's too good for a soldier, but we give it to him anyway."

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

Col. Dan:
...and his jingoistic cult is unfazed.

The Editor

Conspiracy Theories & Peak Generalization

by Robert Roman

Sound the alarm! The Coronavirus death rates are wrong. The Media is promoting the greatest hoax ever told about cold and flu season. The Deep State is... The Elite want to...

Anyone with an internet connection can fill in the blanks of this conspiracy yarn Mad Lib.

Gross and grotesque generalizations are to blame for this fabulist thinking. There are three subsets of generalization at work here.

The first is Generalization of Grandeur. Or, euphemistically, Seeing the Big Picture.

One way of processing the complex and confusing universe is by forfeiting reason and enquiry in exchange for a digestible lullaby. The weariest of this surrender is the all-encompassing, "It's God's will." One wonders if the use of "the Devil is in the details" instead of

"God is in the details" is intended to send folks hightailing it for the hills of willful ignorance.

A less simplistic version of this intellectual dunce-shrug is the well-worn Conspiracy Theory of Everything. Although many defy comprehension, these readymade tales are more formulaic than the tackiest Hollywood schlock. These open-source explanation myths are so customizable that any action or inaction, statement or silence, incident or stillness can be commandeered as a story-starter.

If aspiring Matrix Morpheus had the misfortune of eating a sour grape, he would proclaim that only the blind could fail to see the evil agent of acidity lurking within every grape, spawned by ubiquitous vineyards of tentacle vines and invisible subterranean networks of roots, disseminated by a clandestine cabal of grape purveyors, all overseen by shadowy, billionaire overlords whose master plan is to infect every hard-working, real American mouth with this unpatriotic tartness. The Road to Sourdom. And don't forget the humanoid lizards.

Ironically, this color-by-numbers piffle is proudly yelped from the rooftops of Reddit as if derivative fan fiction was the equivalent of String Theory.

The second is Macro Generalization.

The Government. The Media. The Market. The Elite. The People.

Such terms are so ambiguous they are all but meaningless. The disparate and diverse aspects of these conceptual groupings should preclude any rational person from referring to them as single entities. The laziness required to bandy these mouth noises would redder Jeffrey "The Dude" Lebowski's cheeks with embarrassment.

Such statements beg a few tiny questions. Who constitutes this global brainwash apparatus The Media? CBS and Fox? Pacific Radio and AM Talk Radio? The *Huffington Post* and *Breitbart*? The *Washington Post* and *The Washington Times*? Ian Masters and Alex Jones? Millennial Niece's TikTok and Uncle Hermit's Zuckerberg page? Well-oiled synergy if there ever

was. When one asks Uncle Hermit where he read such hokum, and he declares, "The Internet!" he has eliminated the Triple Deuce Bar's bathroom wall, but not much else.

This leads to the third type, and most malignant: Thought Generalization. Or, what Orwell may have called GenThink.

All roads of Macro Generalization—omitting modifiers, synonyms, and needless words—eventually arrive at the empire of binary language: on/off, good/bad, us/them.

In Orwell's *1984*, the Newspeak Dictionary even eliminates antonyms. The word "bad" is rendered unnecessary when the prefix "un" is added to the monosyllabic "good." This streamlines the dichotomy for maximum sterility: good/ungood. Because efficiency!

The character Syme, a philologist who works on the Newspeak Dictionary says, "Don't you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall make thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it."

In this age of Peak Generalization, as we bustle about whatever public or private square we find ourselves—classroom, social media, water cooler, or barstool—we should reduce the level of insidious drivel. (And slow the spin of poor George Orwell in his grave.) This can be done by asking one simple favor of our debate partners and ourselves. It's the same favor our elementary school teachers asked us when they uncapped their red pens and wrote on the essays where we made our first attempts to convey our pre-adolescent thoughts, "Please be more specific."

Robert Roman (@robroman23) is a writer and television producer.

Trump Botched All This
by Tom H. Hastings

OK, I have seen, in my life, Eisenhower and Kennedy and Johnson and

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

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HOWL'S PILE AND HUMOR CURE

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

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Revelations 2020

by William Marvel

Responses to the spread of the coronavirus vary considerably in different jurisdictions. In states of the U.S. that are dominated by massive cities, health constraints have tended to be severe, subjecting rural counties to the same crippling strictures as urban ghettos. Relief from such broad-brush diktats often depends on discretionary enforcement by police, who can usually judge local needs better than governors.

Here in New Hampshire, the outbreak has thus far struck a fairly light blow, perhaps because the Governor's order fell a little more on the strict side than the situation originally seemed to warrant. He didn't close the borders, but this time last week barely one-tenth of a percent of our state was thought to be infected. By contrast, New York State then had confirmed cases amounting to nearly 1.3 percent of its population. It's nice to imagine we have only one-twelfth as many

infections per-capita as New York, but excessive isolation may merely have delayed us from developing herd immunity—leaving us vulnerable to a second wave.

As many have noted, Sweden followed a milder course. Its population voluntarily observes sensible precautions, albeit less stringent than those being imposed by force in much of the U.S. Far more of their society continues to function. Old people isolate, and most others keep some distance. High schools and colleges closed because older, more mobile students pose a greater risk of transmission, and because remote learning is more effective for them. Primary schools remain open for the opposite reasons.

This seems to infuriate advocates of prison-like lockdowns that have failed to prevent far worse mortality elsewhere, and they compare Sweden only to those countries with better outcomes. Yet Sweden has suffered barely one-quarter New York State's per-capita death rate,

one-third of Belgium's, and less than half that of Spain or Italy. Thus far, Sweden's government has accepted the risk of slightly higher immediate mortality to ease social trauma and avoid the economic collapse we've inflicted on ourselves. Their chief epidemiologist said his country expects its citizens to act responsibly, and for the most part they do. Meanwhile, blanket lockdowns of untested constitutionality flourish in the U.S., where personal responsibility is so unfashionable that one political party thrives on promises to provide everything for everyone.

Given so densely populated a world, the probability of other pandemics runs high. Riding out such storms has been the tactic for centuries, but modern society has apparently lost all patience with governments that allow any citizens to die. Until recently, we waged wars costing hundreds of thousands of lives for the sake of such obscure notions as liberty, but suddenly Americans seem perfectly willing to

surrender any ideal rather than risk the slightest chance of death. Nothing seems worth a life anymore: Andrew Cuomo declared last month that virtually any sacrifice is worth it if it "saves just one life."

Satisfying such an extraordinary new value requires desperate measures, but a foolproof solution does exist. Fires can be stopped by starving them of fuel, and in viral epidemics the fuel is the host who has contracted the virus. Depriving a virus of hosts can starve it, too, but isolation achieves that end only temporarily. There is only one way to permanently protect mankind from viruses, but it simultaneously offers protection against all other dangers.

Most people favor birth control, and many—including life-worshipping Andrew Cuomo—are already perfectly comfortable with abortion. Why not mobilize those tools for a war against death? Simply make universal birth control mandatory, with compulsory abortion in case of contraceptive failure. It should attract

bipartisan U.S. support. Coercion appeals to Democrats, who strive zealously to force their moral standards on everyone else, and Republicans would surely benefit from the gradual disappearance of younger voters.

Abortion resisters might occasionally go into hiding until they reach full term. They would have to come out sometime, however, and—as Governor Ralph Northam explained to Virginians last year—it's never too late to finish the job on an abortion, even in a case of stubborn viability. Northam should know; he's a doctor.

It would take an entire human lifetime to accomplish, but by eliminating birth (which, after all, is the underlying cause), we could eradicate death itself by the end of this century. Pious Christians would recognize it as the Rapture, and welcome the New Testament promise that "there shall be no more death." Equally devout progressive humanists could rejoice, too, because never again would another human life be lost.

from page five

Nixon botch Vietnam.

I have seen Reagan botch the Euro-missile crisis alongside the AIDS outbreak.

I watched George Bush the Younger and Dick Cheney utterly botch Iraq.

But in my lifetime I have never witnessed any U.S. president botch anything so disastrous as Trump has botched the response to Covid-19. I didn't know so many mistakes were even possible and he just won't stop.

His coronavirus denial was lethal and health care experts knew that, and were trying to advise him, but Trump takes no advice. That, he believes, is the mark of a leader. No, it is the mark of a loser. Sadly, it is the American people—suffering from the worst outbreak of this virus of



any country on Earth—who are the actual losers. They are losing their lives, losing jobs in record numbers not seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s, and losing any chance at a meaningful comeback, thanks to Trump.

The U.S. was, for decades, the power to whom everyone in trouble would turn. Now they know better. There is no help to be had from the U.S.. They can't even get help to themselves.

This is all on Trump.

Naturally, being the gaslighting malignant narcissist that he is, he attempts to shift blame onto everyone and everything else. Ah, sorry, fat

boy, it's on you.

[Trump whining]: I was distracted by the dirty Democrats impeaching me.

Fact: Everyone on planet Earth knew the McConnell-run Senate would never vote to remove Trump. He literally could shoot someone on 5th avenue in broad daylight, as he bragged about, without fear of consequence. Since he and his people refused any and all cooperation with every aspect of the process, and since the outcome was never in doubt, we must call BS on this excuse.

And the list of claims versus reality just grows by the day.

· Trump claimed, again and again, utterly falsely, that Covid-19 testing was widely available to anyone who wanted it. BS. This is an ongoing gaslighting.

· Trump lied about the idea of a cure or preventive, as though his wish list were reality. Ah, sorry, no, shoving a UV light up your tush or injecting yourself with Lysol—not helpful to anyone and harmful, possibly lethal, to everyone who tries.

· Opening the economy? Trump wants. Trump must be satisfied. Give Trump what Trump wants. Yeah, there is no federal leadership except the uber stupid sort that kills more Americans. He is buck naked

about killing more of us to help his stock market. We. Say. Hell. No.

The quality of leadership is abysmal in the U.S.. Either we switch out the Republicans who will not stop supporting this lethal loser, or we witness the demise of many Americans and of our democracy.

Some days it feels like we are at the Woody Allen crossroads:

"More than any other time in history, mankind faces a crossroads. One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness. The other, to total extinction. Let us pray we have the wisdom to choose correctly."

Yeah, this used to be humor. Now the humor is as absent as Trump's sense of empathy, which he seems to be born without.

Dr. Tom H. Hastings is PeaceVoice Director and on occasion an expert witness for the defense in court.

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What's the charitable thing to do about inequality?

by Jim Hightower

Our society has coined expressions like “philanthropist” to encourage and hail people’s charitable spirit.

Look on the flip side of that shiny coin of generosity, however, and you’ll find that its base substance is societal selfishness. After all, the need for charity only exists because we’re tolerating intentional injustices

and widespread inequality created by power elites.

A society as supremely wealthy as ours ought not be relegating needy families and essential components of the common good to the whims of a few rich philanthropists. Yes, corporate and individual donations can help at the margins, but they don’t fix anything. Thus, food banks, health clinics, etc. must constantly scrounge for more charity, while big

donors have their “charitable spirit” subsidized with tax breaks that siphon money from our public treasury.

Especially offensive to me is the common grandiose assertion by fat cat donors that charity is their way of “giving back” to society. Hello—if they can give so much it’s probably because they’ve been taking too much! As business columnist Andrew Ross Sorkin points out, “All

too often, charitable gifts are used... to make up for the failure of companies to pay people a living wage and treat their workers with dignity.”

It’s not just the unemployed who rely on food banks, but janitors, nannies, Uber drivers, checkout clerks, and others who work full time, but are so poorly paid they can’t make ends meet. That’s not a sad charity case, but a matter of criminal exploitation by wealthy elites. The

charitable thing to do is to outlaw it and require a living wage for all.

As Sorkin puts it, “The aim should be to create a society where we don’t need places like food banks.... We should be trying to put the food banks out of business.”

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from page six

A Letter to My Daughter: Election 2020

by W.D. Ehrhart

Dear _____,
Whatever you think of my wish that the Green Party not complicate this particular Presidential election—and I know you and many other Millennials don’t agree with me, fed up as you justifiably are with both major political parties—please understand that I do care about your future and the lives of the rest of your generation and the generations to follow. And that includes the daughters.

I do not for a moment wish to underestimate or dismiss or minimize the hurt and damage and pain and disrespect the sexual abuse of women engenders. My mother was a woman. My wife is a woman. You are a woman. It pains me deeply to think that you have been subjected to this kind of abuse. Last year I broke off a friendship of over thirty years in large measure because I could no longer bear the man’s disrespect for women, his serial philandering, and his disparagement of the Me Too Movement.

But to equate the lifetime history of abuse of women by Donald Trump with something Joe Biden may have done over thirty years ago—when weighed against the damage Donald Trump has already caused this nation and the world, and will continue to cause if he is reelected—seems to me out of proportion.

I don’t really care what happens with the rest of my own life. I have been able to brush off this cancer I’ve been battling, for instance,

because I’m not really all that eager to go on living anyway. Most of what I have hoped for and worked for over the course of my life has come to nothing. The world and my country are worse off now than they were when I was your age. It certainly isn’t my future I give a rat’s ass about because there isn’t much left of it.

It is your future that really does concern me. If you think the two parties are tweedle dee and tweedle dum, consider who the Democrats have appointed to the Supreme Court during your lifetime:

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- Stephen Breyer
- Sonia Sotomayor
- Elena Kagan
- And the Republicans?
- Clarence Thomas
- John Roberts
- Samuel Alito
- Neil Gorsuch
- Brett Kavanaugh

Ginsburg is going to be very lucky to survive as long as January 2021. She has no chance of surviving another four years of a Republican administration. And if Trump gets the next appointment, that will make the court an insurmountable 6-3. You can kiss *Roe v. Wade* goodbye, along with a lot of other fundamental freedoms and liberties.

Moreover, Trump and his minions in the Senate have been appointing scores and scores of equally odious judges to lifetime appointments at the district and appellate levels, packing the entire federal judiciary with rightwing ideologues who are

even now in the process of reversing every progressive gain made since the Warren Court when I was a youngster.

Under Donald Trump, the deterioration of the very fabric of our nation is occurring at hyper-speed. Trump has dismantled and eviscerated the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Election Commission, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Education, the Justice Department, and the Department of State. And that’s not the half of it. He has repeatedly thumbed his nose at the Constitution, and repeatedly gotten away with it. The so-called U.S.A. PATRIOT Act was bad enough, but Trump has reversed, nullified, or thrown out literally all of the civil and legal protections provided for ordinary citizens so painstakingly won over the past ninety years.

Moreover, he genuinely seems to think that global warming is fake news, and is not only doing nothing to slow it down, but actively supporting and activating policies that are only increasing the impossibility of ever reversing the situation. You think I’m not thinking about your future? I’m not going to be around when this particular hammer comes down. It isn’t my future I’m worried about.

I am not a Joe Biden fan. I supported Bernie Sanders with my

writing and my money right up until he withdrew from the race. I am underwhelmed that Joe Biden is who I’m going to have to vote for. But Trump is in a league of his own. Like no other President in my lifetime, he has actively promoted the services of, and openly encouraged the support of, misogynists, racists, and bigots. Over the past three and a half years, I have come to believe that another four years of Donald Trump will render your future something very close to untenable, and perhaps even uninhabitable. I am not convinced that the damage he has already done can be reversed. I am certain another four years of this disaster will be fatal to just about everything you and I care about.

Vote your conscience. I would and will never tell you not to. But I won’t apologize for writing to the Green Party and asking them to step aside this time around. I am not trying to silence them or dismiss their concerns. But I am terrified that Donald Trump will be reelected. I believe this election really is, for the first time in my life, well and truly not a time for a protest vote. I am seeing profoundly disturbing changes in this country unlike anything in all my 71 years. And I will say this one more time: it’s not my future I’m terrified for. My future is already history. You are who matters.

I love you,
Dad

W.D. Ehrhart has voted in every election—general, primary, and special—since he first became eligible to

vote in 1972 (he was not allowed to vote during his time in the U.S. Marine Corps because the voting age was then 21: old enough to kill, not old enough to vote—yet people think it was the antiwar crowd who disrespected returning veterans).

He’s OK With the Digital Edition

To the Editor:
I understand the nostalgia for newsprint; however, it is the content, not the medium, that’s important. Please continue online in your usual style.

Ed Pawlak
Mississauga, Ont.

A Somewhat Ambiguous...Mash Note?

“While we no longer want to receive the paper version, we believe it is still worthwhile to keep reading the digital version no matter how distasteful it is.”

— E.F.R., Beaverton, Ore.

“If you stick a knife in my back nine inches and pull it out six inches, there’s no progress. If you pull it all the way out that’s not progress. Progress is healing the wound that the blow made. And they haven’t even pulled the knife out much less heal the wound. They won’t even admit the knife is there.”

— Malcolm X; b. May 19, 1925
“Healthy does not mean ‘healthful.’ Healthy is a condition, healthful is a property. Vegetables aren’t healthy, they’re dead. No food is healthy. Unless you have an eggplant that’s doing push-ups. Push-ups are healthful.”

— George Carlin
“If you start to think about your physical or moral condition, you usually find that you are sick.”

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



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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 24	MONDAY, MAY 25	TUESDAY, MAY 26	WEDNESDAY, MAY 27	THURSDAY, MAY 28	FRIDAY, MAY 29	SATURDAY, MAY 30
<p>2005—"See, in my line of work you got to keep repeating things over and over and over again for the truth to sink in, to kind of catapult the propaganda," mansplains G.W.[MD] Bush. 2000—Linda Tripp beats wiretap charges. Ignorance of the law apparently excuses Right Wingers. 1989—Stephen McCoy, being killed by Texas state employees, has a violent reaction to the drugs. His thrashing cause a male witness to faint and fall over, knocking over another witness. 1978—To spring skyjacker Garrett B. Trapnell, pistol-packing Barbara Ann Oswald orders pilot Allen Barklage to land his charter helicopter in the yard of the federal pen at Marion, Ill. Barklage nixes the plot by grabbing Oswald's gun and shooting her dead. 1971—After a ski pole punctures his heart in a fall from a ski lift, actor Clint Walker is declared dead. A dissenting M.D. postpones his death to 2018. 1964—Barry Goldwater says let's use nukes in South Vietnam. 1961—Freedom Riders, though violating no laws, are arrested on arrival in Jackson, Miss. It's part of a secret deal between racist Sen. James Eastland and A.G. Bobby Kennedy. 1959—The first home bomb shelter is shown in Pleasant Hills, Pa. 1861—Shot while removing a Rebel flag from a hotel roof in Alexandria, Va., Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, friend of Abe Lincoln, becomes the first Union officer to die in the Civil War.</p>	<p>2007—As U. Mass. hands an honorary degree to Andrew Card, George W.[MD] Bush's ex-Chief of Staff, students and faculty boo and howl. 1988—Four years after his death, Peter Lawford's ashes are scattered at sea because none of his children will pay for entombment. 1986—"Hands Across America" ends hunger and homelessness. Congrats! 1981—Kennebunkport native Dan Goodwin scales the Sears Tower dressed as Spiderman. 1979—"Capital punishment," says John Spenkelink, sitting in "Old Sparky," "them without the capital get the punishment." 1953—At the Nevada Test Site, the U.S. fires a 15-kt nuclear warhead from a cannon called "Atomic Annie," previously seen at Ike's Inaugural Parade. 1950—A speeding Green Hornet streetcar in Chicago collides with a gasoline truck, killing 34. 1928—After circling the North Pole, Umberto Nobile's airship <i>Italia</i> crashes northeast of Spitsbergen. Eight crew members survive on the ice; six vanish as the balloon drifts away. 1920—Robert T. Hogan is arrested for teaching German at a parochial school in Nebraska. 1826—Hooligans in Chepachet, R.I. test Hachaliah Bailey's claim that his elephant, "Old Betty," has bullet-proof hide. She does not. 735—At the then-ripe age of 61 or 62, Bede ceases to accrue venerability.</p>	<p>2004—The <i>NY Times</i> admits its pre-war Iraq coverage was "not as rigorous as it should have been." 1989—Future Veep J. Danforth Quayle predicts, "We are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy, but that could change." 1972—Nixon's "Plumbers" fail to gain entry to Democratic National HQ at the Watergate. 1970—The destroyer <i>U.S.S. Richard B. Anderson's</i> departure for Vietnam is delayed due to sabotage by the crew. 1947—An FBI memo duly notes that <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> is communistic. 1938—The House Un-American Activities Committee begins carrying out its un-American activities. 1937—Ford's thugs beat hell out of Walter Reuther and three union colleagues in the "Battle of the Overpass." 1934—The Burlington diesel <i>Zephyr's</i> first run spells doom for steam. 1924—Congress establishes quotas on immigrants: whites are alright, of course, but "Orientals" are banned. 1916—Louis Thomas "Moondog" Hardin, composer, street musician, and Viking-helmet-wearing blind eccentric, is born. 1647—In Hartford, Conn., where the State House now stands, Alice "Alse" Young becomes the first American hanged for witchcraft. 1637—At Mystic, Conn., Captains John Mason and John Underhill set fire to the Pequots' fort, burning alive about 600 men, women, and children.</p>	<p>2017—"Last Call" at The Coat of Arms. 1994—Charles Rodman Campbell does his best to dog it, but Washington State's hangman finally manages to get a noose around his neck. 1972—Nixon's "Plumbers" fail a second time trying to break into Democratic National HQ at the Watergate. 1962—To clear an underground landfill, Centralia, Pa. officials set a fire. It spreads to a coal seam, forcing abandonment of the town 30 years later. The fire still burns. 1959—NBC's <i>Today Show</i> reports straight-faced on the Society for Indecency to Naked Animals' campaign to clothe quadrupeds. 1944—NBC censors Eddie Cantor: his song, "We're Having a Baby, My Baby and Me" is too lewd for the tube. 1941—The British sink the <i>Bismark</i> to the bottom of the sea. 1940—As Brits evacuate Dunkirk, Captain Jack Churchill drops a Nazi with an arrow from his longbow. 1923—Arch-fiend Heinz Alfred Kissingler is born in Fürth, Bavaria. 1902—Luna Park's owners poison then electrocute Topsy the Elephant. Edison's cameras film the event. 1702—"I am about to—or I am going to—die," says French grammarian Dominique Bouhours, "either expression is used." 1541—Margaret Pole, 67, 8th Countess of Salisbury, tries to dodge the ax in the Tower of London. It only makes things worse; the job takes 12 strokes.</p>	<p>2009—Jonathan Trappe crosses the English Channel suspended from a cluster of 54 multicolored balloons. 1987—W. German Mathias Rust, 19, lands a rented Cessna in Red Square. 1986—The Energy Dept. calls off a search for a high-level nuclear waste dump which had been considering a site in southwestern New Hampshire. 1972—Third time's a charm for Nixon's "Plumbers," finally breaking into DNC HQ in the Watergate Hotel. 1962—The stock market plummets 5.7 percent, the worst drop since 1929. 1959—The U.S. Army sends Able and Baker, two monkeys, into space. 1946—The Pentagon begins working on a long-range bomber to be powered by a nuclear reactor; 15 years and \$8 billion later it's declared impractical. 1871—In Père Lachaise cemetery, French soldiers restore proper order by massacring 147 Communards. 1868—"I like an Indian better dead than living," Delegate James M. Cavanaugh [D-Mont.] tells Congress, "I have never... seen a good Indian... except... a dead Indian." 1830—Andy Jackson says all Indians must move west of the Mississippi. 1754—Tanacharison, scout for Lieutenant Colonel George Washington, murders the wounded Joseph Coulon de Jumonville near Fort Necessity. The French and Indian War ensues. 1291—The Templars lose Acre; Holy Land Crusades end, a century after Richard I's slaughter of 2,600 captives.</p>	<p>2015—The <i>Washington Post</i> prints ex-Gov. John H. Sununu's confession that in 1988 he bartered state assets—low numbered license plates—to buy support for G.H.[H.]W. Bush. 2011—Orange County, Calif. Paramedic Chris Trokey saves Dr. Michael Shannon from a burning SUV. Shannon had saved Trokey's life after his premature birth 26 years earlier. 2008—Senator (and candidate) John McCain [R-Ariz.] says "Mosul is quiet" on a day when 30 die there. 2002—FBI head Robert Mueller says 9/11 might have been preventable. 2001—The Bush twins, charged with underage boozing, plead <i>nolo</i>. 1992—In Gibsonton, Fla., "Lobster Boy" Grady Stiles Jr. is murdered by a hit man hired by his family. 1987—Michael Jackson attempts to buy the Elephant Man's bones. 1968—Charles de Gaulle flees from Paris to Germany where he consults with French generals about bringing troops back home to restore order. 1953—Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary top Everest. 1941—Disgruntled Disney cartoonists vote to go out on strike. 1932—WWI "Bonus Marchers" begin arriving in Washington, D.C. 1922—The Supreme Court rules that baseball is not a business and is therefore exempt from anti-trust laws. 1913—Stravinski's <i>Le Sacre du Printemps</i> debuts in Paris—to a notoriously tumultuous reception.</p>	<p>2019—The state Senate overrides Gov. Sununu's veto: New Hampshire's out of the killing business—except for that one black guy on death row. 2007—Dale Rippey, a 62 year-old Florida resident, is attacked by a rabid 25-pound bobcat. Rippey, a Nam vet, strangles the cat with his bare hands. 1962—Missionary Archie E. Mitchell, sole survivor of a Bly, Ore. picnic devastated by a Japanese fire balloon, is captured, along with two others, by the Viet Cong. He's never seen again. 1937—Police attack strikers at Republic Steel in Chicago: 10 are shot dead, 55 hospitalized, 30 wounded. 1927—In Queens, N.Y., Fred Trump, father of The Donald, is arrested for "refusing to disperse" from a KKK parade that devolved into a riot. 1922—The Lincoln Memorial is dedicated. The ceremony is segregated. 1854—President Franklin Pierce [D-N.H.] signs the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which he also co-wrote. It leads directly to "Bleeding Kansas." 1806—Andy Jackson, dueling, takes a bullet near his heart, aims carefully, and shoots Charles Dickinson dead. 1783—America's 1st daily, <i>The Pennsylvania Evening Post</i>, begins. 1741—N.Y.C. burns 13 black men at the stake and hangs 21 men and women, black and white, for planning a revolt against slavery. 1381—John Bampton tries to collect unpaid poll taxes in Essex, England. The Peasants' Revolt ensues.</p>
SUNDAY, MAY 31	MONDAY, JUNE 1	TUESDAY, JUNE 2	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3	THURSDAY, JUNE 4	FRIDAY, JUNE 5	SATURDAY, JUNE 6
<p>2009—Dr. George Tiller, ushering in a Wichita, Kansas church, is shot dead to uphold the sanctity of life. 2007—New Hampshire becomes the first state to honor same-sex unions without court intervention. 2005—Ex-FBI official Mark Felt admits he is "Deep Throat." 1971—For the first time in the U.S., Memorial Day is celebrated on a day other than May 30th. 1927—The last Model T rolls off the Ford assembly line. 1921—A black WW I veteran in Tulsa refuses a demand to surrender his pistol. During a struggle it fires; a massive "race war" ensues. 1921—The mistrial of Sacco and Vanzetti begins under Judge Webster "Did you see what I did with those anarchistic bastards the other day?" Thayer. 1916—The Battle of Jutland begins: 151 British ships, including 28 battleships, against 99 Germans (16 battleships). The results are inconclusive, except for the 8,645 dead sailors. 1889—A shoddy dam belonging to Andrew Carnegie, Andrew Mellon, and friends at the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club collapses upstream of Johnstown, Pa. The resulting flood kills 2,200, but the owners are never successfully prosecuted. 1779—General George Washington orders New Hampshire's Gen. John Sullivan to bring "destruction... devastation [and] total ruinment" to the Haudenosaunee [Iroquois]. He does.</p>	<p>2005—With Iraq wrecked, Paul Wolfowitz turns to the World Bank. 2003—The Bush administration nixes a large Iraqi assembly for a smaller, easier to manipulate advisory council. 2002—George W.[MD] Bush announces at West Point that we'll attack pre-emptively if we get nervous. 1980—Ted Turner launches CNN—the 24-hour news cycle begins. 1967—Disgruntled vets form Vietnam Veterans Against the War. 1954—The AEC pulls the security clearance of Manhattan Project boss J. Robert Oppenheimer. 1950—Maine's Margaret C. Smith asks fellow Republicans to renounce the "Four Horsemen of Calumny—Fear, Ignorance, Bigotry, and Smear." She is duly punished by them. 1923—Maine Gov. Percival P. Baxter orders state flags lowered to half-staff to honor the death of his dog, Garry. 1921—Tulsa's whites use planes to firebomb the wealthy, black Greenwood neighborhood into oblivion, murdering hundreds in the process. 1918—Advised by a retreating French officer at Belleau Woods to turn back, U.S.M.C. Capt. Lloyd Williams replies, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here." 1857—The American Party sends Baltimore's Plug Uglies to disrupt municipal elections in D.C. To restore order President Buchanan calls out the Marines, who shoot 10 citizens dead. 1660—Mary Dyer is hanged in Boston for her Quaker beliefs.</p>	<p>2016—Two sisters at air shows watch as planes crash: Cindy Estevane-Vilavicencio in Colorado and Kristyn Lockwood in Georgia; a Thunderbird pilot lives, a Blue Angel dies. 2002—The CIA admits to Congress—in a classified document, to avoid undue alarm—it had tracked one 9/11 hijacker months earlier than it had previously admitted. 1999—The <i>Virginian-Pilot</i> reports that evangelist Pat Robertson has had "extensive dealings" with Liberian war criminal Charles Taylor. 1976—Don Bolles, investigative reporter for the <i>Arizona Republic</i>, is mortally injured by a bomb under his car. Two guys take falls. 1972—Alfred W. McCoy explains to Congress that top South Vietnamese officials, the CIA, and the Mafia are all in the heroin racket together. 1971—"Treating [the press] with considerably more contempt," Nixon writes to Haldeman, "is in the long run a more productive policy." 1919—Anarchist bombs explode in eight cities. Attorney General Mitchell Palmer's D.C. home is nearly destroyed; the bomber's body parts land across the street on FDR's stoop. 1855—Reacting to a newspaper report, a mob breaks into Portland, Maine's City Hall in search of rum bought on orders from Mayor Neal Dow, author of the state's prohibition law. Dow orders militia to fire on the crowd; one man, a sailor, is shot dead.</p>	<p>2009—New Hampshire becomes the first state to legalize same-sex marriage without a court order. 2002—Egypt says it warned the U.S., a week before 9/11, that al-Qaeda was about to strike the U.S. 1983—In Medina, N.D., "Greatest Generation" veteran, Posse Comitatus co-founder, and anti-tax crank Gordon Kahl dies in a shootout with the FBI, having slain five U.S. Marshals. 1980—A failed 46-cent computer chip briefly convinces NORAD that 220 Soviet missiles are incoming. 1974—Brown & Williamson tests a cigarette blended to smell like pot. 1969—In the South China Sea, a navigational mistake takes the destroyer <i>U.S.S. Evans</i> under the bow of the carrier <i>HMAS Melbourne</i>. The bow of the <i>Evans</i> sinks with 73 of her crew. "The Wall" does not include their names. 1961—Henry R. Marshall, investigating LBJ's pal Billy Sol Estes for the Agriculture Department, is found with five .22 slugs in him from a bolt-action rifle. Verdict: "suicide." 1947—At West Point, 56 years before #43 preemptively attacks Iraq, #34 tells graduates, "War is mankind's most tragic and stupid folly; to seek or advise its deliberate provocation is a black crime against all men." 1761—Birth of Henry Shrapnel, inventor of the shrapnel shell. 1678—In Portsmouth, tything men are appointed "to inspect the neighbor's families."</p>	<p>2017—"Last Call" at the Press Room. 2006—A Ukrainian man enters the lion cage at the Kiev zoo, saying "God will save me, if he exists." He does not. 2004—Marvin Heemeyer destroys the Granby, Colo. Town Hall, the mayor's home, and 11 other buildings with his home-made armored bulldozer because "God has asked me to do this." Then he shoots himself. 2003—To prove they're not soft on corporate crime, federal prosecutors pick on Martha Stewart. 1989—The Chinese Army kills thousands at Tiananmen Square. 1963—Allen Ginsberg visits Saigon to assess the political situation. 1962—The first U.S. high altitude nuclear test fails when a Thor rocket malfunctions and is blown up minutes after liftoff over the South Pacific. 1944—For the first time a submarine—<i>USS 505</i>—is captured and boarded on the high seas. 1943—GIs in a fleet of cabs roam downtown L.A. searching for and beating up Mexican Americans. 1939—The <i>St. Louis</i>, with 915 Jewish refugees aboard, is turned away from Florida; 254 later die in Nazi concentration camps. 1919—U.S. Marines invade Costa Rica "to protect American interests." 1917—President Woodrow Wilson—a Democrat—tells the Justice Department to issue badges to 200,000 jingoistic civilians in the American Protective League.</p>	<p>2013—News outlets reveal that the NSA, under a Top Secret court order, has been Hoovering™ up the phone records of millions of Americans. 2008—Blackwater begins training at its San Diego facility, despite the Mayor's objections and a lack of public hearings; a judge says Blackwater's a person whose rights can't be violated. 2003—Two top <i>New York Times</i> editors resign in disgrace. Curiously, many more do not. 1989—One man stops a line of tanks (for a while) in Tiananmen Square. 1976—In Idaho, the \$100 million federal Teton Dam fails, killing 14 and causing \$2 billion in damages. 1969—Taken three weeks earlier, at a cost of 72 American lives and 372 Purple Hearts, Ap Bia Mountain, aka Hamburger Hill, is abandoned. 1968—RFK is fatally shot in Los Angeles. The LAPD convinces the gullible that Sirhan Sirhan did it. 1967—The Supreme Court rules that fire departments cannot randomly inspect business enterprises. 1967—Israel attacks Egypt and Syria. The Six Day War begins. 1965—The State Department admits that U.S. troops are engaged in combat in Vietnam. 1943—GIs and zoot-suited Hispanics get in fights all over Los Angeles. 1862—France gains sovereignty over three Vietnamese provinces under the Treaty of Saigon and the time-honored principle that might makes right.</p>	<p>2013—News reports show that yesterday's stories about NSA spying are just the tip of the iceberg. 2002—Donald Rumsfeld tells the unknowing that unknown unknowns are "things we do not know we don't know." He should know. 2001—Florida man Vance Flosenzier drags a seven-foot shark from shallow water; paramedics drag his nephew Jesse Arbogast's arm from its mouth; doctors successfully re-attach the arm. 1989—Nuclear weapon manufacturing ends at Rocky Flats, Colo. when FBI and EPA agents raid the joint. 1989—Greenpeace reports there are 50 nuclear weapons and nine reactors on the ocean floor. 1988—At a food irradiation plant in Georgia, "unbreakable" cesium capsules break, nuking ten workers. 1980—Nuke-armed B-52s go on alert for the second time in three days after a computer glitch signals a Soviet attack on the U.S. 1978—Voters nuke California's tax base and future by passing Prop. 13. 1975—Governor Mel Thomson calls for the N.H. National Guard to be armed with nuclear weapons. 1949—Orwell publishes <i>1984</i>. Originally a novel, it became non-fiction. 1944—GIs, Brits, Canadians, &c. hit the beach at Normandy, France. 1907—The U. of Bern denies Einstein a PhD: his theories about time and space are radical and his assumptions "more artistic than actual Physics."</p>

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