

The Fortnightly Rant

Insurgency Now

Twelve score and four years ago, smugglers, land grabbers, farmers, and shoe makers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in a curiously narrow vision of Liberty, and dedicated—nominally—to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great difference of opinion, testing whether that nation can endure much longer while ten Army posts continue to honor the names of men who fought against it in a great Civil War.

It would be altogether fitting and proper for us the living to re-dedicate those places. We could give them new names, in honor of others—men, or women, who struggled to complete, rather than halt, the as-yet unfinished work of creating a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The question is whether such changes can be made without that difference of opinion boiling over into a Civil War re-enactment with life ammunition—an outcome certainly better avoided. One American in forty ended up dead during the first go-round. If a remake produced a similar result, the loss would be equivalent to the combined populations of New Hampshire, Maine, Montana, Rhode Island, Delaware, South Dakota, and Guam.

When we first wrote about this issue, on August 2nd, it seemed inconceivable that the Pentagon would ever rename even a relatively minor post such as Fort A.P. Hill—though there were plenty of reasons why it should.

It goes without saying that Hill was both a traitor and a loser; that's true of the whole lot now under discussion. Certain additional factors make Hill a poor role model. One of the most notorious carousers in his West Point class, he had to re-

peat a year to make up for the time it took him to recover from an epic case of gonorrhea. Though he was effective early on in his Confederate career, he was frequently placed under arrest by his superiors. At several crucial times, however, he was unable to perform his duties due to the lingering effects of his youthful indiscretion.

The logistics involved in expunging Hill's name alone—post signage, stationery, organizational charts, &c., &c.—would be considerable. But what of, say, Fort Benning? More than twice the size of Fort Hill, Benning houses more people than Manchester.

As things now stand, though, the nation is in the uncomfortable—one might say, untenable—position of honoring the man who justified Georgia's secession thusly:

“What was the reason that induced Georgia to take the step of secession? This reason may be summed up in one single proposition. It was a conviction, a deep conviction on the part of Georgia, that a separation from the North was the only thing that could prevent the abolition of her slavery. ... [If abolition comes] we will have black governors, black legislatures, black juries, black everything. Is it to be supposed that the white race will stand for that? ... our men will be compelled to wander like vagabonds all over the earth; and as for our women, the horrors of their state we cannot contemplate in imagination. ... Suppose they elevated Fred Douglass, your escaped slave, to the presidency? What would be your position in such an event? I say give me pestilence and famine sooner than that.”

As recently as February, an Army spokesperson had told the website *Task & Purpose* that it had “no plans to rename any street or installation,



including those named for Confederate generals.”

On June 8th, though, *Politico* reported that the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Army were now “open to a bi-partisan discussion on the topic.”

This surprising announcement came after a week of stories about U.S. military forces taking controversial actions in the nation's Capitol.

Perhaps most jarring was a pair of District of Columbia National Guard helicopters hovering over protestors at an extremely low altitude, battering them with rotor wash, tree limbs, and loose street debris. One was a Lakota medevac chopper, marked with large red crosses.

“Misuse of the red cross symbol is prohibited even during peacetime by the First Geneva Convention, to which the U.S. is a party,” Rachel E. VanLandingham, a former Air Force attorney and professor at the Southwestern Law School in Los

Angeles, told the *Washington Post*.

National Guard units are typically under the control of state governors. Since the District of Columbia has no governor, its Guard reports directly to the President. We have not seen any reporting to indicate that the orders for this violation of came directly from the Oval Office—yet.

Members of Congress and retired officers expressed alarm at the scene. Trump, safe within a newly-erected Green Zone around the White House, tweeted praise for the pilots.

Trump had thoughts about renaming Army posts, too. The very idea of renaming “These Monumental and very Powerful Bases,” he tweeted in his inimitable style, which “have become part of a Great American Heritage, and a history of Winning, Victory, and Freedom” was out of the question. His administration would “not even consider the renaming of these Magnificent and Fabled Military Installations. Our history as the Greatest Nation

in the World will not be tampered with. Respect our Military!”

“Respect our Military!” Perfect. He’s not channeling his inner Eric Cartman, he is Eric Cartman: a petulant, two-dimensional cartoon character—with the authority to unilaterally launch nuclear weapons.

On the same day Trump tweeted a demand for respect for “his” military, Republicans on the Senate Armed Services Committee were dissing him. They allowed to pass by a voice vote an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act—put forward by Sen. Elizabeth “Pocahontas” Warren, no less—that would strip Confederate names from military bases within the next three years.

Tomorrow, President Cartman will visit Tulsa, which is currently experiencing a spike in coronavirus infections. There he will try to assuage the emptiness within by basking in the admiration—and exhalations—of thousands of supporters.

Que sera, sera.

The Alleged News®

Just Give Us Some Data

All we wanted was one particular piece of data: the number of Covid-19 deaths per capita in the U.S., compared to...let's just say a couple of other places picked at random. Despite the habitual consumption of mass quantities of news and vaguely news-like material, we could not recall ever having seen the available data sliced that particular way.

That struck us as odd. What better benchmark could there be for judging one country's performance against another?

By quantifying deaths rather than total cases, you may assess not just the effectiveness of a nation's efforts to reduce the spread of the virus, but also the ability of its health care system to keep those who are infected alive. And, by quantifying deaths per capita, you may fairly compare

countries of any size.

Perhaps we're just slipping. Under these conditions...? We've been curious about this for months now, though, and honestly do not recall having seen it addressed. We are not suggesting a conspiracy. We haven't slipped that much yet.

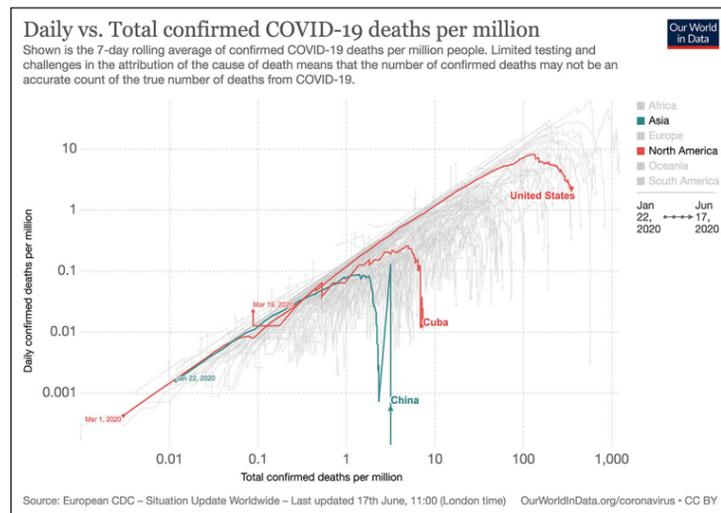
There does seem to be, though, less by design than from habit and convention, a general reluctance among some news operation—those which one might classify as unavoidable, or ubiquitous—to ask a certain sort of question. Some questions yield answers which, if honest and correct, lead the reader to an uncomfortable choice: existential despair, or revolution?

Other news organizations, of course, deal with this sort of question routinely. For our troubles, we are widely ignored.

When our more profit-oriented colleagues universally adopted a new morbid milestone this week—more Americans have now died from Covid-19 than were killed in

the First World War—that finally tripped our trigger.

Getting the answer, it turned out, was easier than we had expected. The answer, however, was worse.



OurWorldInData.org has compiled all the relevant data, from reliable sources, and built an interface easy enough even for us to use. We dialed in our request, and it returned this chart—in color. We considered, for consistency, converting the chart to black and white; color does seem to help, though.

What it shows is that, at the pandemic's worst (so far), one Chinese citizen out of every million was dying every ten days.

Meanwhile, out of every million U.S. citizens, nearly ten are dying every day.

Roughly speaking, it appears from our inquiry that China and Cuba are both outperforming the U.S. by a factor of 100 to one.

The Alleged News®

from page one

The Second Tulsa Massacre

Thanks to the *de facto* censorship imposed on our public schools by the forces of conservatism, few white Americans were aware until very recently of the bloody 1921 Tulsa Massacre. Most of those who were, learned about it last year by watching the terrific HBO series “Watchmen.” Believed to be “the single worst incident of racial violence in American history,” a white mob reduced the wealthiest black community in the U.S. to smoking rubble, killing hundreds in the process.

Recently, President Trump has increased the general awareness of that terrible crime by scheduling a campaign rally in Tulsa to take place on Juneteenth—which celebrates the end of slavery after the alleged defeat of the South in the Civil War.

We can probably rule out public education as Trump’s motive,

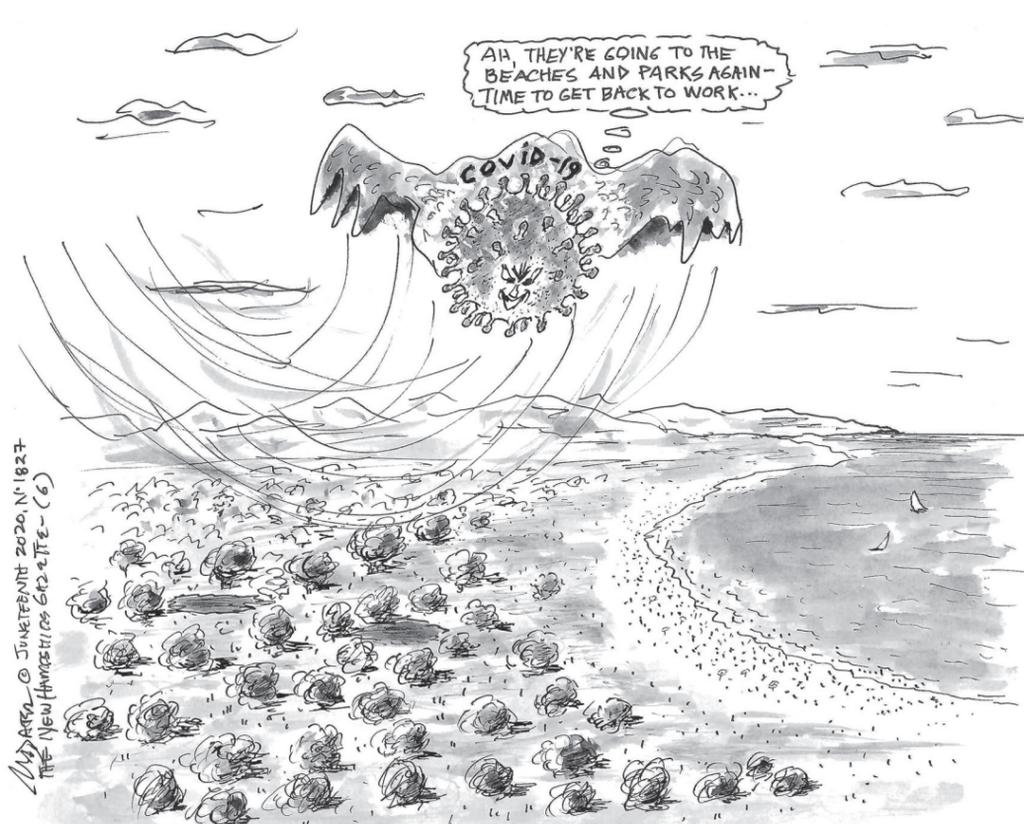
though. More likely he was taking his cue from Ronald Reagan, who kicked off his 1980 Presidential campaign with a rally in Neshoba County, Mississippi, just a few miles from the site where three civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, were murdered 16 years earlier.

The event’s grotesque timing was more than even the Trump campaign could handle—so it was re-scheduled by one whole day.

Trump treats black voters and the coronavirus with about the same level of respect. There is an important difference, though.

Republicans are experts at preventing black people from voting. Indeed, some of them were doing it even before Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, back when they were still Democrats.

The coronavirus is not so easily deterred. Trump and his enablers find that fact inconvenient, so they’re ignoring it. In doing so they’re as-



There are so many windows in this thing we’re going to call it the New Panopticon. Marvins must have been on sale during its design phase. Jeremy Bentham’s original panopticon was a prison, designed so that each guard could observe the cells of 32 prisoners without being seen himself. Since the prisoners could not know when they were being watched, they were motivated to act as though they were being watched at all times. “Thus,” according to the all-knowing Wikipedia, “the inmates are effectively compelled to regulate their own behaviour.” This version, which employs the gray, faux-cinder block motif pioneered at the Temple of Gloom, across the street from Keefe House on Islington Street, seems more suited for surveillance of general public as they negotiate the intersection of Deer and Maplewood Avenue.

suring that it will keep going until it burns itself out.

So, Americans—in Tulsa, and around the country—will get the worst of both worlds. We’re getting the economic effects of a shutdown, without its benefits.

Structural Racism? You’re Looking At It

There appears to be a debate going on about whether this country is inherently racist. Why not? Americans will debate just about anything. Is the sky blue? Well...

This continental land mass was once populated by a people which had sole use of it for more than ten thousand years. Their descendants are now outnumbered fifty to one by more-recent interlopers. The ratio of the net worth of these two groups is also asymmetrical.

During the nation’s economic development, two dominant methods developed for the use of capital. The north invested in machines, the south put its money in men—and women, and children, in the form of

chattel slavery.

One current school of thought seems to hold that since the latter form of economic development came to an abrupt halt in mid-1865, it is no longer relevant and the less said about it, the better. Another would argue that, as a nation, we have not done as well as we should have to understand the central role slavery played in our national economic development.

We count ourselves in the latter camp. We haven’t much choice. For the first 30 years of its existence, this newspaper was dependent upon the enslaved labor of an African man called Primus.

Tobias Ham Miller (1801–1870) was born some eight years after Primus died. As an apprentice, though, he sometimes worked in the printing-office of John Melcher, who knew Primus well.

Today, Juneteenth, in honor of Primus, we re-publish the following column, by “Uncle Toby,” which originally ran on October 11, 1861,

in the *Portsmouth Chronicle* under the heading...

“Old Printers and Printers of Old.”

[A note on the text: In addition to a certain predictable degree of condescension, Miller discounts the possibility that Primus was literate. Some current scholars believe he is wrong on that point. — The Ed.]

John Melcher, Samuel Whidden, Daniel Fowle, and Old Prime—Don’t go to thinking, gentle reader, that Uncle Toby knew all these; for some of them died before he was born; but he knew a part of them, and they knew the rest.

Through one of them, Whidden, Uncle Toby claims a regular (though not exactly apostolic) succession from Fowle and Old Prime, who were the first printers of New Hampshire—of which undisputed succession he is as proud as any man ought to be of so high a distinction.

The order of succession is this: Fowle, who established the *New Hampshire Gazette*, had the old negro Prime, or Primus, for a pressman;

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– Joe Keefe

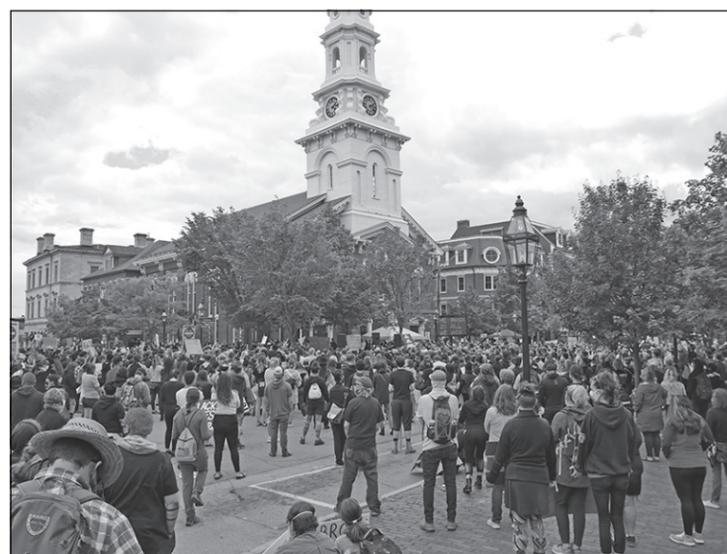
John Melcher was an apprentice to Fowle; Samuel Whidden (who died here only a year or two since) was an apprentice to Melcher; and Uncle Toby was an apprentice to Whidden.

With this man, as kind a man as need be, Uncle Toby wrought at printing some time since, in an office belonging to John Melcher, who was the first State Printer New Hampshire ever had, and who lived until a very recent period. When Uncle Toby was a boy with a stint, Mr. Melcher would sometimes send him on an errand—but he would always take his ‘stick,’ and ‘set’ for him while absent, and when he returned would commonly tell him a story when he laid down the stick or emptied the “stickfull.” He was always certain to set a little more than the boy would have done; always to mark the copy where he left off;—and always to deal in this little matter so justly and fairly, that Uncle Toby was well pleased to listen to his stories. Some of these stories were of *Old Prime*, who was a negro pressman, belonging to Daniel Fowle, founder of the

New Hampshire Gazette.

Mr. Melcher was a correct compositor, a careful proof-reader, and a good pressman; and if any man ever hated blotches and bunglers, he did. When he lost all patience with bad work, he would say, “Why, I have seen a negur, who could not tell a letter in a book, who did better presswork than any of you!” Sometimes I have tried to imagine what old Primus Fowle thought of his business, and how much pleasure he must have taken in printing books he could not read, and working hard without pay. He could not strike for wages, but but he could grumble—and tradition says that he did sometimes; and probably he did it rather often, for his temper was rather peppery, and he could snap out a reply as tart as any reproof that was given him.

Some time before the Revolution, Mrs. Fowle died; and in those days, at funerals, the negroes in a family walked with the whites, as mourners, each white member of the family having a black yokefellow at the left hand. Primus and his master on this



The Black Lives Matter protest Sunday, June 7th, was undoubtedly the largest gathering of people in Market Square since the pandemic began. Our Wandering Photographer skirted the back edge of the crowd, grabbed a few shots, then split. Apparently he needn't have been so cautious—Michael Osterholm, an infectious disease expert interviewed by Terry Gross on “Fresh Air” Wednesday, said such outdoor protests have not been shown to result in the spread of the coronavirus. It's too small to read, but the electronic sign near the front of the church reads, “The mask is all we ask.”

occasion were chief mourners; but when they took their places in the procession, Primus inadvertently got on the *right hand*, which, in this case, was evidently the *wrong side*. His master saw the error, and winked, and nodded, and pointed with his finger for Primus to exchange places; but to no purpose; he touched him; but the negro remained immovable. At last he whispered, “Go to the other side,” expecting to be promptly obeyed in so slight and reasonable request; but, to his surprise and that of the bystanders, Primus screamed out, “Go tudder side *ye’sef*, ye mean jade.” The master complied, and the procession moved off.

In due time Mr. Fowle himself died, and, as he left no children, his newspaper and printing-office passed into the hands of his apprentice, Mr. Melcher, whose term of service being nearly run out by its own limitation, was now closed by the death of his master. With the press went the pressman, and old Primus probably did the same work in the same way, under the new master, as he did under the old, and perhaps

noted no change. Bowing down to the press, as he toiled year after year, he had a permanent stoop, and stood at his work something in the shape of a capital F. In this posture he labored and grumbled for years, and seemed to grow no older—but he did—and by and by he became so stiff and dull and feeble as to be incapable of any labor whatever. He was, however, comfortably cared for by his master, as to food and shelter, and suffered to spend his time as he pleased.

Without companions, and with no ability to read, he seemed to have no higher pleasure than to seat himself on the door-steps of shops or houses in the old paved street of Portsmouth, and sit for hours together, generally in the sunshine. The boys often amused themselves by offering him a copper for standing up straight—a feat utterly impossible; but he would attempt it, and with much effort and strange grimaces, straighten himself out as nearly as possible. To the honor of the boys be it said, he commonly got his copper; and then he sat

down again to sun himself, to look at the passengers’ feet as they went by, and possibly to muse on the passage back to Guinea, whither all the negroes here used to think all black friends went after death. That was the most beautiful superstition of which their minds were capable—and surely nothing of the kind could be more harmless. Primus returned, however, to the dust, not of Guinea, but of New Hampshire, the scene of his toils, and has long occupied that narrow house where the weary are at rest! Primus was buried, with all the negroes of his day, in the old negro burying ground, front of the old jail in other words, his dust now reposes, either under the south end of Chesnut [sic] street, or perhaps under the north side of Court street.

Let no true lover of our noble craft blame Uncle Toby for selecting such a subject for a sketch. One of the earliest printers in New Hampshire was a black slave; and the early history of the State always seems imperfect to him if Prime is not seen working at the press, printing he knows not and cares not what!

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote

“We’re not trying to start a race war.
We’re trying to end one.”

— sign at a protest in Sydney, Australia

“It is difficult to produce a television documentary that is both incisive and probing when every twelve minutes one is interrupted by twelve dancing rabbits singing about toilet paper.”

— Rod Serling

john@wordpraxis.com

“Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve.”

— anonymous graffito

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

President (t)Ramp

To the Editor:

Everyone knows the President was walking slowly down the ramp at West Point due to his bone spurs. The cause of his trouble drinking water is not as widely known, however.

He acquired that disability saving Puerto Rico from the hurricane. He was injured throwing paper towels!

Case closed.

Have a little sympathy, will ya folks?

K. Fowle

The Skunk Farm

Hillsborough, N.H.

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Ewing Says Democrats Are to Blame

To the Editor:

The video of police abusing/killing George Floyd is heart-wrenching. The police perpetrators are being prosecuted and should spend the rest of their lives behind bars.

CNN spokesmen say "systemic racism" caused Floyd's death. That charge is simply an attempt to shift the blame away from the people truly responsible for Floyd's death: the police perpetrators, their police chief, and the Minneapolis Mayor.

The policies, attitudes, decisions of, and training provided by the Minneapolis Police Department, controlled by its Democrat Mayor, enabled this killing. Why was an officer with 18 previous charges of abuse still employed? Does the Minneapolis Police Department condone abuse of citizens? Were these four policemen trained? Where were their supervisors?

Each community has the responsibility to elect officials who oversee the police's implementation of the desired policies, culture, decisions, and training.

At the next election, Minneapolis voters will have the opportunity to approve or disapprove of the political officials responsible to ensure that the police department protect and properly treat the people of Minneapolis; they failed to protect George Floyd.

The evil that happened to George Floyd is being used to excuse the equally evil mobs in cities across our country. The mob has attacked po-

lice with rocks, bricks, guns, knives and other weapons. Rioters have viciously attacked innocent people and killed several. Looters and arsonists destroyed thousands of businesses, including many minority owned; many businesses won't recover. The jobs the businesses provided, the goods and support they provided to the local neighborhood, and the investment they represent were destroyed. Most residents of these destroyed neighborhoods will, in some way, suffer.

Everyone supports peaceful protests; but the rioting, destruction of property, looting, arson, beatings, and killings are not acceptable. President Trump begged Mayors and Governors to protect residents and peaceful protestors by restoring law and order; most Democrat politicians have rejected his pleas.

While some pay lip-service to condemning the violence, most prominent Democrat politicians excuse the violence and refuse to join Republicans in demanding the swift restoration of law and order to protect the law-abiding people and the neighborhood.

Not content with enabling and excusing the mobs that destroyed thousands of people's neighborhoods, jobs, property, dreams, and sometimes people's lives, now some Democrat politicians agree with the mob's demands to cut police funding. Do you think these cuts will reduce protection for the neighborhoods of the rich, the celebrities, and the politicians? These cuts certainly won't make poor and middle-income neighborhoods safer.

Hopefully, in the next election, voters will remember that Democrat politicians sided with the rioters, looters, arsonists, and killers rather than with the law-abiding people.

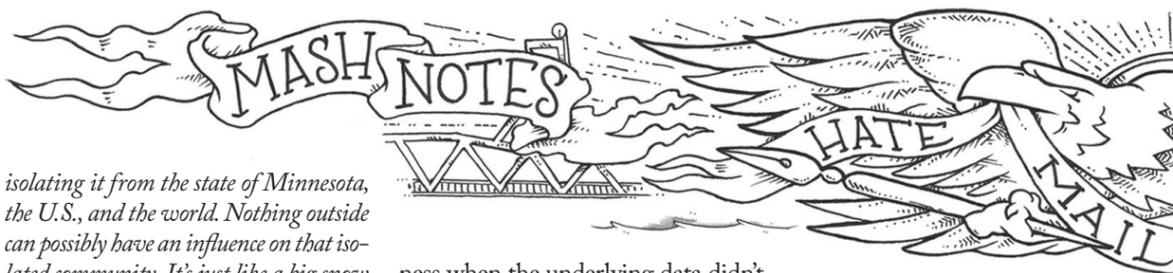
Don Ewing

Meredith, N.H.

Don:

We used to worry that you might be suffering from some cerebro-vascular difficulty. It's a relief to see you displaying such mental agility.

Like Secret Service agents erecting a fence around the White House to protect the nullity residing there, you have imagined a perimeter around Minneapolis,



isolating it from the state of Minnesota, the U.S., and the world. Nothing outside can possibly have an influence on that isolated community. It's just like a big snow globe.

You have also managed to grab—or tried to convince us you have—the great pendulum of the universe, causing time to stop in its tracks. Those 246 years of legally-enforced chattel slavery? Irrelevant; erased from history. And—here's the truly bold aspect of your feat—their lingering effects are gone, as well! You were just warming up, though. A century of Jim Crow? Brushed aside. Redlining? Never heard of it.

No, the only thing that matters is the Minneapolis City Government. If we were you we'd be more careful talking about them like that. Apparently they have powers which would have caused Stalin to weep in bitter envy.

The Editor

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Figures Don't Lie, But Liars Do Figure

Dear Editor,

Everyone is pleased the May unemployment rate dropped to 13.3 percent from 14.7. But no one was more pleased than the President who crowed, "There's a great thing that's happening for our country." Not to be outdone by his own rhetoric, he concluded his June 5th presser with, "Today is probably, if you think of it, the greatest comeback in American history."

Nevermind that 30 million people are still unemployed, and Black and Asian American unemployment actually rose.

I don't trust Trump's celebratory numbers.

Remember when Florida's Governor DeSantis announced on May 20th that a Department of Health data analyst was fired for insubordination? In fact, she refused orders to manipulate the database that keeps track of epidemiological data. She refused to make it say Florida was safe to reopen busi-

ness when the underlying data didn't support that conclusion. She had the professional ethics and moral strength to say "no," although it cost her job. Do those who feed us good employment news from the White House have as much integrity?

The Labor Department has said, due to limitations in data gathering (many unemployed people are misclassified as being employed), the true unemployment rate could be three percent higher than currently estimated.

Bruce Joffe

Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

We share your essential mistrust of any message emanating from this administration. We had missed, though, the Labor Department's candid caveat. Thank you.

The Editor

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A Disgusting Truth About Finance

To the Editor:

Fox News apologized (shocking) for the "insensitive" (on Fox News?) post showing the increase in the S&P 500 with a shooting death of a black person. The awareness of Fox News is quite a surprise in itself, but the posting actually revealed a disgusting truth about the financial industry—the stock market really does thrive on racial violence. Why do we place so much faith in this epitome of our vaunted capitalist economy? Is this who we are?

Dan Mannschreck

Barrington, N.H.

Dan:

We plead "not guilty" to the charge of having faith in this economy.

The Editor

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Whither The Halcyon Days of Yore?

To the Editor:

To paraphrase the golden rule,

treat others as you'd like to be treated. When I was a child, my mother explained that freedom did *not* mean you could yell "Fire!" in a crowded theater. I took that to mean that I couldn't do what I wanted, when I wanted if that put others in danger. Rather, I had a responsibility to others to take their well-being into consideration. This was just common sense. Tell the truth. Don't unnecessarily endanger others. It is *not* freedom to possibly harm others by ignoring public health warnings or by treating others as you would not want to be treated. Surprisingly, it turns out that this is not common sense to many people but extraordinarily important for a safe, fair, just life for all in our society.

Sincerely,

Judy Ullman

Portsmouth, N.H.

Judy:

How charmingly old-fashioned, we say, in a tone devoid of irony.

Having lived now long enough to have a few vague recollections of the Truman Administration, in our estimation the general curdling of our social norms was caused not by the villified juvenile delinquents of the fifties, but the exhortations of that era's Mad(ison Avenue) Men. Drawing on lessons learned from Woodrow Wilson's WWI-era propagandists (Ivy Lee, Edward Bernays, &c.), corporations poked and prodded everyone's ids to stimulate their spending.

The Editor

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Ewing Says Black Lives Matter—But...

To the Editor:

Of course black lives matter; all lives matter. So why are people condemned and fired for saying, "All Lives Matter"? Because "Black Lives Matter" is a term used to advance the far left "Black Lives Matter" (BLM) political

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moral category as the Klan, Jim Crow, and Bull Connors. Interesting take.

To summarize, you're saying that because Black Lives Matter opposes Orange Hitler, it's bad for black people. Uh huh.... We're starting to think that perhaps you have a garage full of monkeys and typewriters. One last thing, though, before we abandon all hope.

White Supremacy and World Supremacy
by Winslow Myers

Recently the Equity Leadership Steering Committee associated with an almost entirely white school district in Maine came out with a strong letter asking citizens to acknowledge not just the anodyne “white privilege,” but the actual “white supremacy” pervasive in our nation. Not unexpectedly, they received some pushback. Fortunately the Superintendent of Schools had the courage to back them up.

Selective listeners heard “you’re accusing me of Ku-Klux-Klan-level rac-

made it easier for whites to acknowledge the depth of the injustice in which they play an integral part.

We humans are selective listeners. We hear what we want to hear, because it fits our mindset. When Donald Trump hears “defund the police,” he thinks “anarchy, chaos, abandonment of law and order.” When the millions of American protestors hear the same phrase, it means “the militarization of the police only brought out their worst tendencies. Reform is a failure. Time to reconceive the police, and put far more funds into social services that meet human needs directly.”

A pervasive paradigm never dies a painless death—in this moment the real deaths of far too many black people. While we’re on the subject of defunding an overmilitarized police corrupted, perhaps from the beginning, by invulnerable power, structural racism, a code of conspiratorial secrecy, and resistance to reform, let’s also remember just how big a paradigm shift we are undergoing in our historical moment—bigger even than racism. Because in this shift, everything is connected.

When Mr. Trump hears “Green New Deal,” he thinks “radical socialism,” where Ocasio-Cortez thinks “new job opportunities and a more sustainable living system; what’s not to like?” Pushed out of the headlines by the pandemic and the police lynching of Mr. Floyd, international challenges like climate change do not abate.

When Donald Trump hears “full spectrum dominance” or “we have more nukes than any other country,” he hears that the “strength” of supremacy enforces law and order internationally as well as domestically. A growing number of the rest of us hear foreboding elements of weakness, decay, misappropriation of limited resources, double standards, and possible nuclear catastrophe.

It isn’t just the police that are overmilitarized; it’s the military itself. Not just in the United States, but the United States is a case in point.

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

Vocabulary Lesson

Idiocracy, n;

- (1) the political system of the United States;
- (2) the system of governance in practice in the United States;
- (3) the culture resulting from such a political system of governance.

Related:

- Idiocrat**, practitioner of said system;
- Idiocratic**, adj;
- Idiocratically**, adv.

Example:

“Donald Trump, Mitch McConnell, and Brett Kavanaugh are living proof that the United States of America is an **idiocracy**.”

– W.D. Ehrhart

“Donations to BlackLivesMatter.com go to the DNC...” That’s not true, as you could easily have learned if you gave a damn. It’s another lie from an inexhaustible fount of lies, Candace Owens, who works for Turning Point, USA, a GOP feed-lot that does its best to make sure Republican-susceptible kids come out of college dumber than they went in.
The Editor

ism.” But “white privilege,” compared to “white supremacy,” has the ring of a garden party to which I somehow deserved an invitation. “White supremacy,” enforced by the police and structures too long set in cultural concrete, is closer to the truth. The events of the past two weeks, especially so many young whites demonstrating alongside blacks in the streets, have

politicians are joining this demand. Defunding the police will make poor and middle income neighborhoods even more dangerous, reduce local investment, and destroy job opportunities.

The “institutional racism” (poor schools, lack of economic opportunities, institutional injustice, and dangerous neighborhoods) that harms most blacks occurs almost exclusively in Democrat controlled cities. For decades Democrat politicians have figuratively had their knees on the throats of inner city blacks, ruining millions of lives.

Yet “Black Lives Matter” supports the Democrat politicians, including Mayors, City Councilors, Governors, Congressmen, Senators, and Presidents who have done nothing to improve the lives of inner city blacks. Donations to *BlackLivesMatter.com* go to the DNC, Democrat committees, Democrat politicians, and other Democrat causes.

BLM opposes Republicans who fight for things that Black Americans need: strong economic growth providing good jobs, safe neighborhoods, equal justice, and school choice so children can escape bad and/or dangerous schools.

The “Black Lives Matter” movement only cares about the black problems and black deaths that can be used to increase its political power; it isn’t interested in fixing the problems that harm black people.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

More mental gymnastics? Has somebody been getting into the Geritol again?

When black people join in self-defense under the banner “Black Lives Matter,” they do so out of dire necessity. In your view, though, that puts them in the same

movement. Americans sympathize with suffering or unjustly treated people and are unknowingly seduced into supporting the BLM political movement.

The BLM movement is the Democrat Party’s new enforcement arm. Like the KKK, Jim Crow Laws, and officials like Bull Connors, the BLM movement uses intimidation and violence to coerce support for, and to suppress opposition to, Democrat politicians and policies.

But neither the actions nor the policies of the BLM movement indicate an interest in improving the lives of most Black Americans.

The riots encouraged by BLM and allowed by Democrat Mayors since the horrible, unacceptable killing of George Floyd have killed many blacks and injured thousands. Thousands more blacks have had their property stolen or destroyed, and/or lost their jobs or businesses. “Black Lives Matter” doesn’t care.

Annually black murderers kill about 90 percent of the thousands of black murder victims; “Black Lives Matter” doesn’t care.

“Black Lives Matter” policies make black lives more difficult and dangerous.

BLM supports illegal immigration which stifles black economic success and makes poor neighborhoods more dangerous.

BLM exacerbates the problems of poverty and fatherless children by advocating further erosion, started by Democrat Welfare Laws, of the traditional family.

BLM advocates the release of convicted felons who often return to victimize poor neighborhoods.

BLM demands defunding police departments, and many Democrat

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Echoes of 1942

by William Marvel

Somewhere in my house is an envelope containing my grandfather's World War II certificate for a Class C gas-rationing sticker. I last saw it a quarter of a century ago, before my father tucked it away again, probably in one of the trunks in the upstairs closets.

Gasoline was one of the first commodities rationed by the Office of Price Administration after the attack on Pearl Harbor. They called it "mileage" rationing, and gasoline was not the item they were saving. What we were lacking was rubber, since the Japanese had taken early control of the rubber plantations of Southeast Asia. Metal soon became scarce, too. Restricting the use of gasoline indirectly kept drivers from wearing out their tires, and their cars.

The rationing was calculated on an average fuel consumption of 15 miles per gallon. Average working slugs were issued Class A stickers for their windshields, and could only buy three gallons a week. Employees in certain industries and those

whose jobs required regular travel were allowed eight gallons a week on a Class B sticker. Commuter life was a postwar phenomenon, and short hops to work were the rule, but rationing still motivated the first widespread carpooling.

My grandfather came out of retirement during the war and went down to Wellfleet, Mass., to replace the town doctor for the duration. That entitled him to a coveted Class C sticker, with no limit.

The next rationed commodity was sugar, which was still a luxury in 1942. Eventually, ration stickers were needed to buy most processed foods, so packaging plants could make enough C-rations for the servicemen of that war and the next two (and the boned chicken stamped 1944 was still tasty in 1969). Fresh fruits and vegetables were never rationed, and wartime posters lauded the patriotism of women who did their own canning in jars.

All this came to mind repeatedly over the past two months, especially after local stores started taping "one-per-customer" signs on the

empty shelves where toilet paper and hand sanitizer used to be. It's hard to predict what people will choose to hoard in a crisis, even for an old prepper like me. I was way ahead of the toilet-paper rush, but I never thought of hand sanitizer—and why would I, with a few dozen bars of soap stashed away?

The hysteria over the latest mutation of coronavirus may also have resurrected another unpleasant reminder of World War II. The Chinese origin of the virus has apparently led some people to confuse ethnology and epidemiology sufficiently to prejudice them against anyone who looks remotely Chinese. Let's hope this is more reflective of news outlets exercising their habit of disproportionately emphasizing isolated incidents, but at least a few people have been insulted or even assaulted for "coughing while Asian," as one of them put it.

It's preposterous to find something malicious in naming a virus for the place where it was first identified: German measles never inspired that complaint. Blaming people for



it because of presumed Far Eastern ancestry, however, is equally absurd. The obvious analogy between that and World War II would be the fear that drove Nisei internments, but advocates of internment could at least make a tenuous argument for cultural sympathy with the enemy. And before condemning such paranoia in paroxysms of progressive outrage, remember Andrew Cuomo's assertion that it's better to be safe than sorry, despite terrible consequences. Anyone frightened enough to agree in 2020 might have concurred in 1942.

A third echo of the past is the effervescing self-righteousness of

those who endorse the precautionary guidelines du jour. In the late 1950s, war-era jokes still appeared in cartoons, and a scowling bureaucrat might interrupt a chase scene to ask "Is this trip really necessary?" Others depicted air-raid drills, with self-appointed compliance constables screaming "Turn out that light!" when they spotted houses without blackout curtains. Equivalent pretensions to superior virtue emanate today from mask scolds, and from the independently wealthy or comfortably retired proponents of interminable lockdowns, who condescendingly lecture a strapped working class to "get a clue."

The main difference between World War II and now is the lack of unity. In 1942, a common threat of existential proportions persuaded Americans to set aside their differences to a greater degree than they had during any previous crisis—or any future one. Today, a somewhat less apocalyptic threat seems only to pose an opportunity to attack each other with more ferocity than ever before.

from page five

The Lockheed F-35 Strike Fighter is expected to cost a trillion dollars over its 60-year lifespan. The plan to renew our nuclear arsenal over 10 years will cost us taxpayers \$1.6 trillion—leaving aside our futile and unnecessary wars, including the racist one in Vietnam and our indecisive long-running campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. Imagine the trillions expended upon bloated military programs and stupid wars that end up diminishing our security repurposed to give everyone in our nation authentic equality of opportunity, equal access to health care, equally well-funded schools.

We, and not just in the U.S. but also in other autocracies like Brazil



or Hungary or Russia or China or Iran or Myanmar, are invited to rethink the age-old question of fundamental relationship between the state and the individual citizen. Is the purpose of the state to control, or is it to support human dignity and equal opportunity and clean air and water?

The U.S. Declaration of Independence says that citizens will create an ideal society and government by "laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

The people in the streets yearning for something new and hopeful, not only in the U.S. but all around the world, including Hong Kong, don't want to be controlled by an intrusive state; they want to be free from the state unless it is repurposed to more effectively champion their needs and rights.

Nuclear weapons, like our over-armed police, are also the expression of a brutal, dysfunctional, obsolete attempt at supremacy and control. Defund and reconceive the police. Defund subsidies for fossil fuels and support alternative energy systems.

Defund and reconceive international security by forging new arms agreements which lift the anxiety of being annihilated off our necks. "I can't breathe" has more than one meaning.

Winslow Myers, the author of Living Beyond War: A Citizen's Guide, serves on the Advisory Board of the War Preventive Initiative.

—~—~—

Let Them Eat Weapons: Trump's Bizarre Arms Race

by Lawrence Wittner

In late May of this year, President Donald Trump's special envoy for arms control bragged before a

Washington think tank that the U.S. government was prepared to outspend Russia and China to win a new nuclear arms race. "The president has made clear that we have a tried and true practice here," he remarked. "We know how to win these races and we know how to spend the adversary into oblivion."

This comment was not out of line for a Trump administration official. Indeed, back in December 2016, shortly after his election, Trump himself proclaimed that the United States would "greatly strengthen and expand" the U.S. government's nuclear weapons program, adding provocatively: "Let it be an arms race. We will outmatch them at every pass and outlast them all." In a fresh challenge to Russia and China,

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Beware a of a Trump Coup!

by Jim Hightower

These mass protests against systemic racism are driving Donald Trump plumb crazy! Of course, that's a pretty short drive for him.

He would be hilarious if his buffoonery was not so dangerous and destructive. For example, he had peaceful protesters gassed, clubbed, and shoved out of the public square across from the White House so he could walk out and pose stone-faced

with a Bible, as some sort of political stunt.

Especially dangerous, though, is the craven willingness of our top military officials to play along with his infantile attempts to appear manly. When Trump strutted out to do his little Bible photo-op, guess who was loping along right behind him, like eager-to-please puppy dogs? Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of America's joint military

forces.

Yes, our nation's top two war chieftains were adding their symbolic blessing to Trump's pathetic desire to look tough, suppress our constitutional right to dissent, and militarize his claim of autocratic powers. Milley even wore combat fatigues to the media show, apparently to model the authoritarian look We the People can expect in Trump's brave new world.

Esper has been even more servile,

playing up to Trump's grandiosity by describing our country as a "battlespace" that "We need to dominate." Of course, that would make you and me the dominated, which is as un-American as they could get, short of trying to crown The Donald as America's king—and don't put that past them.

To their credit, dozens of U.S. military leaders immediately assailed Esper and Milley for even implying that the armed forces could be any-

one's political pawn to police our own people, and both have since retreated. But their willingness to toy with it shows how vulnerable our democracy is to autocrats...and how vigilant We the People must be.

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from page six

delivered in October 2018, Trump again extolled his decision to win the nuclear arms race, explaining: "We have more money than anybody else, by far."

And, in fact, the Trump administration has followed through on its promise to pour American tax dollars into the arms race through a vast expansion of the U.S. military budget. In 2019 alone (the last year for which worldwide spending figures are available), federal spending on the U.S. military soared to \$732 billion. (Other military analysts, who included military-related spending, put the figure at \$1.25 trillion.) As a result, the United States, with about 4 percent of the world's population, accounted for 38 percent of world military spending. Although it's certainly true that other nations engaged in military buildups as well, China accounted for only 14 percent of global military spending that year, while Russia accounted for only three percent. Indeed, the United States spent more on its military than the next 10 countries combined.

The vast military superiority enjoyed by the United States, however, was not nearly enough for the Trump administration. In February 2020, the administration introduced a 2021 fiscal year budget proposal that would devote 55 percent of the federal government's \$1.3 trillion discretionary spending to the military. By 2030, the military proportion of the federal budget would rise to 62 percent.

Today, about four months later,



this top priority for military spending might strike many Americans as bizarre. After all, a disease pandemic continues to plague the nation (with more than 117,850 deaths thus far), a large portion of the economy has collapsed, unemployment has reached the catastrophic levels of the Great Depression, and American cities are torn by strife. Wouldn't this be an appropriate time to focus America's financial resources on public healthcare, educational opportunity, decent housing, and a major jobs program—or, in the words of the U.S. constitution, to "promote the general welfare"? But Republican officials argue that these and other public assistance measures are "too expensive."

What are not "too expensive" are the administration's big ticket weapons programs, which, even by military standards, are of dubious value. Not surprisingly, Trump continued pouring money into purchasing Lockheed Martin's F-35 combat aircraft, which, though an operational disaster, had cost U.S. taxpayers \$1.4 trillion by 2017. Another pet project, quickly embraced by Trump, was the newest and costliest U.S. aircraft carrier, delivered with fanfare to the Navy in late May 2017 for \$13 billion. Its only problem was that it had difficulty launching planes from its deck and facilitating their landing. Yet another very expensive military project is U.S. missile defense. Originally derided as "Star Wars" when Ronald Reagan began promoting it

in the 1980s, it has become an obsession with Republicans, who have managed to secure more than \$250 billion in U.S. government funding for it thus far. Nevertheless, it continues to fail most of its tests against intercontinental ballistic missiles, despite the fact that these tests are heavily scripted.

One of the most cutting-edged of the U.S. government's current military weapons projects is the hypersonic missile. Capable of traveling five times faster than the speed of sound (3,800 mph), hypersonic missiles with nuclear warheads are immensely appealing to the military establishments of Russia, China, and the United States. In this case, too, however, there is a serious problem: Given the missile's incredible speed, it produces immense heat while traveling through the atmosphere, thus diverting or destroying it before it reaches its target. Even so, this weapons project should produce yet another bonanza for Lockheed Martin, the world's largest arms manufacturer, which has already received \$3.5 billion for preliminary work on it.

Of course, the Trump administration has not forgotten about an array of its high tech weapons that do work. America's 5,800 nuclear weapons, capable of being launched from land, sea, and air, provide staggering firepower—more than enough to destroy most life on earth. The current nuclear arsenal,

however, is viewed as insufficient by the Trump administration, which is engaged in a vast "modernization" program to rebuild the entire nuclear weapons complex, including new production facilities, warheads, bombs, and delivery systems. The price tag for this enormous nuclear buildup, which will occur over the next three decades, has been estimated as at least \$1.5 trillion.

Against a backdrop of economic and social collapse, plus potential global destruction, the obvious thing to do is to pull out of this immensely costly and bizarre arms race and, instead, foster arms control and disarmament agreements with other nations. But Trump seems determined to cast off whatever progress in this direction his predecessors have made, scrapping the INF Treaty, withdrawing from the Iran nuclear agreement, terminating the New START Treaty, and scuttling the Open Skies Treaty. For a variety of reasons—rewarding giant corporations, getting reelected, and dominating the world—Trump remains fixated on "winning" the arms race.

When it comes to increasingly desperate Americans, their lives and livelihoods spiraling downward, his message seems to be: Let them eat weapons!

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

"Our democracy is but a name. We vote? What does that mean? It means that we choose between two bodies of real, though not avowed, autocrats. We choose between Tweedledum and Tweedledee.... You ask for votes for women. What good can votes do when ten-elevenths of the land of Great Britain belongs to 200,000 and only one-eleventh to the rest of the 40,000,000? Have your men with their millions of votes freed themselves from this injustice?"

— Helen Keller

"Sooner rather than later, the great avenues will open again and free men will walk through them to construct a better society. Long live Chile! Long live the people! Long live the workers! These are my last words, and I am certain that my sacrifice will not be in vain, I am certain that, at the very least, it will be a moral lesson that will punish felony, cowardice, and treason."

— Salvador Allende, September 11, 1973

"What we find in books is like the fire in our hearths. We fetch it from our neighbors, we kindle it at home, we communicate it to others, and it becomes the property of all."

— Voltaire

"Descartes spent far too much time in bed subject to the persistent hallucination that he was thinking. You are not free from a similar disorder."

— Brian O'Nolan

"Be held truthful that your lies may count."

— Addison Mizzner

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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, JUNE 21	MONDAY, JUNE 22	TUESDAY, JUNE 23	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24	THURSDAY, JUNE 25	FRIDAY, JUNE 26	SATURDAY, JUNE 27
<p>2006—Fox News, citing Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), reports that WMD had been found in Iraq.</p> <p>2005—Edgar Ray Killen, 80, is found guilty of manslaughter in the case of Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney.</p> <p>2004—<i>SpaceShipOne</i> reaches an altitude of 100 kilometers; Mike Melvill becomes the first civilian astronaut.</p> <p>1994—As Jose Martin and his wife drive near Madrid, a 3-lb. meteorite crashes through their windshield, bends the steering wheel, and lands in the back seat. She is unscathed, he gets a broken finger.</p> <p>1989—The U.S. Supreme Court rules flag-burning is legal.</p> <p>1964—Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney are murdered in Mississippi by the KKK.</p> <p>1942—A Japanese sub shells Fort Stevens, Ore., damaging a phone cable.</p> <p>1935—The top cop busts a cap at a Eureka, Calif. sawmill; chaos ensues but a jammed machine gun keeps the death toll down to three strikers.</p> <p>1919—Germans scuttle their captive fleet at Scapa Flow. Brits shoot nine Germans in lifeboats.</p> <p>1877—Ten Molly Maguires, miners arrested by private detectives and prosecuted by private attorneys for the coal companies, are hanged by Pennsylvania officials, private executioners apparently being unavailable. Pardons for two arrive minutes too late.</p> <p>1788—New Hampshire ratifies the U.S. Constitution. You're welcome.</p> <p>12:34 1:16</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6:58 7:05</p>	<p>2009—Republican Governor Mark Sanford's spokesman says South Carolina's Chief Executive is hiking the Appalachian Trail.</p> <p>2005—The Republican-led House, undeterred by futility, passes a Flag Protection Amendment.</p> <p>2004—On the floor of the Senate, Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney tells Sen. Pat Leahy, "Go f_ yourself."</p> <p>2004—In Iraq, yet another cash-laden C-130 arrives. This one's got the biggest load, though: \$2,401,600,000.</p> <p>2002—Enron execs admit they hid \$1.5 billion in illegal profits gouged from California ratepayers.</p> <p>1977—Nixon's ex-AG John Mitchell begins a 19-month prison sentence.</p> <p>1972—UPI's Helen Thomas gets a call from Martha Mitchell: "I'm a captive..."; the phone goes dead. On the scene, Nixon's lawyer orders that the AG's wife be sedated by injection.</p> <p>1970—The 24th Amendment gives 18-year-olds the vote.</p> <p>1969—In Ohio, the Cuyahoga River burns for 20 minutes.</p> <p>1964—The U.S. Supreme Court rules the Post Office can't ban Henry Miller's <i>Tropic of Cancer</i>.</p> <p>1950—Retired FBI agents help a paranoid fabric importer publish <i>Red Channels</i>, a pamphlet claiming radio and TV are full of Communists.</p> <p>1942—Congress adopts the Flag Code, thus replacing the embarrassingly Nazi-like "Flag Salute" with FDR's hand-on-heart gesture.</p> <p>1:23 2:06</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7:48 7:54</p>	<p>2016—During W.Va.'s worst flooding in 100 years, a burning house is filmed floating down a creek.</p> <p>2008—James Hansen warns Congress about global warming—again.</p> <p>2005—Roller coaster safety expert Richard H. Brown, 64, dies of injuries received in a fall in his own driveway.</p> <p>2001—"Dark Winter"—a war game simulation of a smallpox outbreak in the U.S.—shows lack of preparation for pandemic would result in chaos.</p> <p>2001—CNN reports on threat of "imminent attack" by bin Laden.</p> <p>1988—NASA's James Hansen warns Congress of the seriousness of the threat of global warming.</p> <p>1976—Edwin Walker, former Army General and Lee Harvey Oswald target, is arrested for fondling an undercover cop in a Dallas men's room.</p> <p>1972—Nixon's own tape recorder catches him telling H.R. Haldeman to order the CIA to block an FBI investigation of his Watergate crime.</p> <p>1955—Bill Loeb writes in the <i>Union Leader</i> that Ike has "done more to destroy the respect, honor and power of the U.S. than any President in its history." He ain't seen nothing yet.</p> <p>1950—A Douglas DC-4 with 58 aboard vanishes over Lake Michigan.</p> <p>1947—The U.S. Senate puts the screws to labor by overriding Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act.</p> <p>1937—George Orwell, wounded, flees Spain with his wife after Communists suppress anarchists.</p> <p>1:23 2:57</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8:37 8:45</p>	<p>1994—Air Force Lt. Col Arthur Holland, hot-dogging during air-show practice maneuvers, crashes a B-52 at Fairchild AFB in Washington State.</p> <p>1982—All engines fail on a British Airways 747 en route to Australia after flying through a cloud of volcanic ash; 14 minutes later, pilots re-start the engines and land successfully.</p> <p>1971—Nixon's Special Counsel Charles Colson circulates the first White House "Enemies List."</p> <p>1970—Staging fails on the Kittery side of the Piscataqua River Bridge project. Four men fall 75 feet to their deaths, seven others are injured.</p> <p>1968—Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, tells a Long Island audience, "The enemy has lost whatever chance he had of taking South Vietnam by military force."</p> <p>1968—Cops and the Guard shut down "Resurrection City U.S.A." in D.C. with dogs and smoke grenades.</p> <p>1947—Private pilot Kenneth Arnold reports "flying saucers" over Washington state.</p> <p>1924—The Democratic National Convention begins. It ends 17 days later, having voted down an anti-Klan plank.</p> <p>1902—Deadline looming, Joseph Conrad uses an oil lamp and accidentally burns the second installment of <i>The End of the Tether</i>.</p> <p>1524—Countess Helena von Lupfen orders Stühlingen peasants to collect snail shells for her maids, triggering the German Peasants War.</p> <p>3:04 3:49</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9:27 9:38</p>	<p>2013—The Supreme Court rips the guts out of the Voting Rights Act.</p> <p>2005—"I could kill someone with this," says Vladimir Putin putting Bob Kraft's Super Bowl ring in his pocket.</p> <p>1998—The Fed OKs the Travelers/Citicorp merger: the fuse is lit.</p> <p>1996—Al-Qaeda kills 19 U.S. servicemen in Saudi Arabia and wounds 372. Saudis and the CIA blame Iran.</p> <p>1973—Ex-White House Counsel John Dean, on live TV, blows the big whistle on his crooked former boss.</p> <p>1971—ITT lobbyist Dita M. Beard writes a memo noting that Pres. Richard "Dick" Nixon knew ITT was giving the Republican National Committee a \$400,000 bribe to get a favorable Justice Dept. decision.</p> <p>1969—Secretary of Defense Mel Laird gives National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger a menu of options for his boss to use against North Korea. One includes up to 47 nukes.</p> <p>1962—God is expelled from U.S. schools by the Supreme Court.</p> <p>1938—FDR signs into law the minimum wage and the 44-hour week, and puts an end to child labor.</p> <p>1914—A factory full of volatile chemicals explodes in Salem, Mass. The ensuing fire burns 1,376 buildings and leaves 18,000 homeless or jobless.</p> <p>1876—Five companies of the 7th Cavalry, including Gen. Custer and two of his brothers, and an AP reporter, are killed by Native Americans near the Little Big Horn River.</p> <p>3:57 4:43</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10:19 10:35</p>	<p>2015—The Supreme Court puts an end to marriage discrimination.</p> <p>2013—Byron Low Tax Looper [actual name], convicted of murdering his political opponent, dies at 48, of a heart attack, hours after assaulting a pregnant prison guard.</p> <p>2006—Rush Limbaugh's illicit Viagra stash is confiscated on his return from the Dominican Republic, a popular sex tourism destination.</p> <p>2002—A Federal court edits "under God" out of the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>1995—In Golf Manor, Mich., EPA workers dismantle a homemade nuclear reactor in the suburban backyard of David Hahn, 17.</p> <p>1976—Gov. Kit Bond rescinds a predecessor's "Extermination Order" banning Mormons from Missouri.</p> <p>1954—Bao Dai, the feckless puppet Emperor of South Vietnam, appoints Ngo Dinh Diem as premier.</p> <p>1947—Boston Mayor James Curley goes to federal prison for five months.</p> <p>1940—At the Waldorf in NYC, Gerhard Westrick hosts a gala celebration of the Fall of France to Nazi Germany. His former law partner, future Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, defends Westrick from critics.</p> <p>1919—Dist. Atty. and future Congressman T. Webber Wilson cheers on a crowd of 10,000 at the lynching of John Hartfield in Ellisville, Miss.</p> <p>1894—The American Railway Union strikes in solidarity with Pullman workers: soon U.S. rail traffic halts.</p> <p>4:53 5:38</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11:12 11:34</p>	<p>2018—Donald Trump's banker's father announces he's creating a vacancy on the Supreme Court by retiring.</p> <p>2006—Gutless pinko bastards in the Senate block a Flag Protection Amendment by one vote.</p> <p>2003—On the first day it's possible, more than 735,000 people sign up for the "Do Not Call" list.</p> <p>2000—"Until I'm the President," says George W.[MD] Bush, "it's going to be hard for me to verify that I think I'll be more effective."</p> <p>1986—The International Court of Justice rules the U.S. was out of line in funding the Contras.</p> <p>1973—While reading Nixon's "Enemies List" live on CBS News, Daniel Schorr discovers that he's on it.</p> <p>1954—CIA-sponsored rebels overthrow Guatemala's democratically elected government, napalming a British cargo ship in the process.</p> <p>1950—Syngman Rhee, U.S. ally and President of South Korea, orders military police to massacre leftists. Between 100,000 and 200,000 die; Rhee blames communists.</p> <p>1905—In Chicago, 203 trade unionists from 43 outfits assemble to found the Industrial Workers of the World.</p> <p>1905—Russian sailors aboard the battleship <i>Potemkin</i>, ordered to eat maggoty borscht made from rotten beef or die, choose to mutiny instead.</p> <p>1833—In Canterbury, Conn., Prudence Crandall is arrested for conducting an academy for black females.</p> <p>5:51 6:34</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12:05</p>
SUNDAY, JUNE 28	MONDAY, JUNE 29	TUESDAY, JUNE 30	WEDNESDAY, JULY 1	THURSDAY, JULY 2	FRIDAY, JULY 3	SATURDAY, JULY 4
<p>2018—A Trump defender with a grudge and a shotgun kills five in the <i>Capital Gazette</i> newsroom.</p> <p>2009—Stephen Hawking throws a party for time travelers. No one shows.</p> <p>2005—Operation Red Wings goes sideways: 19 U.S. special operators die in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley, including Daniel R. Healy of Exeter, N.H. It's the greatest single loss for U.S. special ops since WW II.</p> <p>1994—The Department of Energy admits hundreds of U.S. citizens were used as unwitting guinea pigs in radiation experiments during the Cold War.</p> <p>1975—Rod Serling enters another dimension....</p> <p>1972—Nixon says no new draftees will be sent to Vietnam, further eroding an anti-war movement already weakened by the lottery.</p> <p>1971—Muhammad Ali's conviction for draft evasion is overturned.</p> <p>1969—Gays and lesbians battle cops at the Stonewall Inn in N.Y.C.</p> <p>1957—At 295 Broome St., New York City's last known opium den is busted.</p> <p>1943—The Sub-chaser <i>PC-815</i> fires target rounds at the Coronado Islands, off San Diego; Mexican Coast Guardsmen there object. Ship commander Lt. L. Ron Hubbard [yes, him] is relieved of duty.</p> <p>1689—Retaliating for a massacre he conducted 13 years earlier, Abenakis kill Maj. Richard Waldron of Dover with his own sword; 22 other Anglos die, too, and 29 are sold into slavery.</p> <p>6:50 7:27</p> <p>12:34 12:59</p>	<p>2016—The 477-foot tanker <i>Chem Venus</i> runs aground off Goat Island, damaging itself and three boats at the Kittery Point Yacht Club.</p> <p>2006—"It was not always certain," says George W.[MD] Bush, "that the U.S. and America would have a close relationship."</p> <p>1989—The <i>Washington Times</i> reports that high officials in the Reagan & Bush I administrations are under investigation for involvement in a homosexual prostitution ring. The story quickly and conveniently evaporates.</p> <p>1987—"We don't care," declares Attorney General Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese, "about the political or ideological allegiances of a prospective judge." His audience bursts out laughing.</p> <p>1966—U.S. starts bombing major oil facilities in Hanoi and Haiphong harbor.</p> <p>1956—The U.S. Federal Highway Act OK's 42,500 miles of new highway as the Pentagon can move stuff around if the Cold War turns hot.</p> <p>1940—The Smith Act, requiring aliens in the U.S. to register with the government, is enacted.</p> <p>1897—The Chicago Cubs score 36 runs in one game against Louisville.</p> <p>1620—Tobacco growing is banned in England, conveniently giving the Virginia Company a lucrative monopoly.</p> <p>1613—A performance of Shakespeare's Henry VIII is interrupted when the Globe Theater burns to the ground.</p> <p>7:48 8:17</p> <p>1:33 1:50</p>	<p>2014—The Supreme Court rules in <i>Hobby Lobby</i> that people who are corporations have religious rights, too.</p> <p>2003—The <i>Army Times</i> reports that the Bush administration wants to cut combat and family-separation pay for troops in combat zones.</p> <p>1984—GOP Chairman Frank Fahrenkopf proposes adding Ronald Reagan's face to Mt. Rushmore.</p> <p>1980—The Supreme Court rules that a woman's right to a federally-funded abortion is nullified by other peoples' religious beliefs.</p> <p>1973—Dwight E. Stone, a black, 24 year-old plumber's assistant from Sacramento, under indictment for failure to appear in 1969, is the last man drafted into the U.S. Army.</p> <p>1971—The Supreme Court rules that the White House cannot prevent publication of the <i>Pentagon Papers</i>.</p> <p>1956—Two airliners collide over the Grand Canyon, killing 128 and leading to the creation of the FAA.</p> <p>1928—Alabama ends a half-century of leasing out convicts as coal-miners.</p> <p>1908—A meteor explodes above Tunguska, Siberia, leaving a flattened area in the forest 30 miles in diameter.</p> <p>1882—Charles Guiteau goes to the gallows for assassinating President Garfield, chanting "I am going to the Lordy, I am so glad."</p> <p>1864—N.H.-born Treasury Sec. Salmon P. Chase resigns, charging speculators are plotting to prolong the Civil War for monetary gain.</p> <p>2:27 2:38</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8:43 9:04</p>	<p>1981—Irish Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich descends in a helicopter for a mass on London's Clapham Common, bearing the head of Oliver Plunkett.</p> <p>1973—The U.S. military draft ends. Henceforth, the ranks will be replenished by economic coercion.</p> <p>1968—A DC-8 carrying 214 U.S. soldiers to Vietnam strays into Soviet airspace and lands in the USSR.</p> <p>1956—On "The Steve Allen Show," Elvis sings "Hound Dog" to a basset hound dressed in formal wear.</p> <p>1946—The U.S. Army detonates the world's 4th nuclear explosion at Bikini Atoll. U.S. Navy sailors board radioactive target ships the following day.</p> <p>1943—Willem Arondeus, who blew up Amsterdam's Public Records building to fight Nazi oppression, says before a firing squad, "Let it be known that homosexuals are not cowards."</p> <p>1917—In Boston, 8,000 march against the Great War.</p> <p>1916—On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 19,240 British soldiers die and 35,493 go missing. On the plus side, the Brits take three square miles.</p> <p>1895—Buffalo Soldiers take San Juan Hill, while T.R. takes the credit.</p> <p>1884—Allan Pinkerton, founder of the strike-breaking, union-busting detective agency, dies of gangrene at 64 after biting his tongue in a fall.</p> <p>1681—Irish Archbishop Oliver Plunkett, found guilty of treason after a rigged trial on bogus charges, is drawn and quartered in London.</p> <p>3:18 3:24</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9:34 9:47</p>	<p>2003—George W.[MD] Bush says, "There are some who feel that the conditions are such that they can attack us [in Iraq]. My answer is, bring 'em on."</p> <p>1982—Vietnam vet "Lawn Chair Larry" Walters, 33, ascends to 16,000 feet in a lawn chair buoyed by 45 helium-filled weather balloons.</p> <p>1980—The Supreme Court rules that OSHA must consider corporate profits when protecting employees' health.</p> <p>1976—The Supreme Court rules it's neither cruel nor unusual for the government to kill certain people.</p> <p>1967—On their worst day in Vietnam, U.S. Marines suffer 84 KIA, 190 WIA, and 9 MIA in Operation Buffalo near Con Thien.</p> <p>1964—L.B.J. signs the Civil Rights Act, telling Bill Moyers, "I think we just delivered the South to the Republican Party for a long time to come."</p> <p>1917—After a carload of white males conducts a drive-by shooting in black East St. Louis, Ill., the worst U.S. race riot of the 20th century begins.</p> <p>1894—Ex-railroad director & U.S. Attorney General Richard Olney enjoin Pullman workers from striking.</p> <p>1881—"Stalwart" Republican Charles Guiteau shoots Pres. James Garfield, a "Half-Breed" Republican, in the back.</p> <p>1822—Charged with plotting insurrection, former slave and co-founder of Charleston, S.C.'s Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Denmark Vesey is hanged after a secret trial.</p> <p>4:03 4:06</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10:19 10:27</p>	<p>1994—The Mayor of Boulder, Colo. declares this "Allen Ginsburg Day."</p> <p>1993—In just leather jacket, dog collar, and jockstrap, punk rocker G.G. Allin is laid to rest at St. Rose Cemetery in his hometown, Littleton, N.H.</p> <p>1988—The <i>U.S.S. Vincennes</i>, in Iranian waters, shoots down an Iranian airliner ascending within a commercial air corridor; 290 civilians die.</p> <p>1979—President Carter OKs covert aid to the mujahideen, despite Z. Brzezinski's warning it will spur a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.</p> <p>1978—The Supreme Court rules that seven words are too dirty to broadcast—using those words in its ruling, "Jews are all through the government...you can't trust the bastards."</p> <p>1894—Pres. Cleveland sends Federal troops to Chicago to break up the Pullman Strike.</p> <p>1883—Happy B'day F. Kafka.</p> <p>1863—Portsmouth-born Benjamin F. Falls captures a flag at Gettysburg. He subsequently receives the Medal of Honor in recognition of his valor.</p> <p>1850—Australian newspaper publisher James Harrison shows off a refrigeration plant, dooming New Hampshire's ice-export industry.</p> <p>1847—To celebrate the Fourth of July, Portsmouth hooligans in Market Square set a stagecoach on fire.</p> <p>1835—In Paterson, N.J., 2,000 mill girls strike for a shorter work week. Two months later they win.</p> <p>4:45 4:46</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11:02 11:05</p>	<p>1994—Nye County, Nev., Commissioner Dick Carver re-opens a Federally-closed road with a bulldozer, reigniting the Sagebrush Rebellion.</p> <p>1975—Just 11 years after Goldwater got the GOP nod there, the Ant Farm stages "Media Burn." A customized Cadillac crashes into a wall of burning TVs at San Francisco's Cow Palace.</p> <p>1970—Billie Graham and Bob Hope preach and joke at "Honor America" day in D.C. Also: protestors smoke pot atop a truck shoved into the Reflecting Pool, and neo-Nazis snarl and jeer.</p> <p>1951—In Madison, Wisc., 99.2 percent decline to sign a petition containing excerpts from the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights.</p> <p>1947—The Boozefighters, a subset of "The Greatest Generation," take over Hollister, Calif. Three days of debauchery inspire <i>The Wild One</i> and spawn a generation of poseurs.</p> <p>1925—The Pickwick Club, a five-story Boston speakeasy with 125 people doing the Charleston inside, collapses at 3:00 a.m.; 44 die in the rubble.</p> <p>1924—Four thousand Klansmen march in Long Branch, New Jersey.</p> <p>1892—The People's Party meets in Omaha, calling for an 8-hour day, regulation of railroads and communication, and a graduated income tax.</p> <p>1857—With New York City's two rival police forces distracted by their own feud, tension between the Dead Rabbits and the Bowery Boys escalates into an unrestrained gang war.</p> <p>5:26 5:26</p> <p>12:34 12:59</p>

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