The Fortnightly Rant

Every Day, In Every Way

Like many Americans, we have been struggling. Authoritarian gibberish has an anesthetizing effect on some, but we are not among them. Eventually, someone has to throw off the yoke of free news.

We will go on, of course. At our age—having recently begun our 265th year—we can imagine no other course. For the record, though, these conditions are intolerable; reader, forgive us, please, for lacking against our will.

Perhaps we’re being predictable, but we lay the responsibility for this predicament on someone we’ll call, for variety’s sake, The Usual Suspect. At last count more than 210,000 Americans have been killed by the plague he failed to stop. His own White House has more cases now than the state of Vermont. It may be that such a record seems impossible to imagine that things could get any worse—and therein lies the trap.

Not long ago we published a photo of a banner depicting the Suspect as Captain America—a so-called superhero. So he appears to the gibberish masses to be some kind of messiah. It pains us to say it, but he does fit the description in one limited way: he has a power we’ve never seen elsewhere.

Every day, he makes things worse—and not just any old worse, but a far worse worse than any worse you could imagine on your own.

It’s a pattern that, once noticed, is impossible not to see: every day, in every way…

“Every day, in every way…”

—Dr. Émile Coué

January 31, 1923

We are filling in the blanks. We could probably handle the blanking. It’s not like we need to have the rest of the text in our possession.

“...your eyes and assure yourself calmly that you are going to get rid of it. Now gently stroke with your hand the afflicted part and repeat at the same time as fast as you can, producing a continuous stream of sound, the words, ‘It is going, going, gone...’”

—Dr. Émile Coué


Little question for today: Who was Dr. Émile Coué?

—Filler item

Boston Globe, June 15, 1925

Confirming our recollections of Dr. Coué, we learned that the linkages between him and our Usual Suspect transcended a mere shared belief in... let’s be kind and call it “woven cannon.”

According to our old friend Wikipedia, “Although Coué’s teachings were, during his lifetime, more popular in Europe than in the United States, many Americans who adopted his ideas and methods, such as Maxwell Maier, Napoleon Hill, Norman Vincent Peale, Robert H. Schuller, and W. Clement Stone, became famous in their own right by spreading his ‘doctrology.’

Individual 1—let’s call him what Mueller did, for the nonce—has often cited Peale as his ‘family pastor’—as if that were something of which to be proud. To the best of our knowledge, however, he has never admitted that Peale learned his grift from Coué, the O.G., the Master.

That’s not surprising, though; neither has he acknowledged that the family fortune was founded by a draft-dodging whoremonger, his grandfather Frederick.

Gwenda Blair was on to this connection in October of 2015. A teacher of journalism at Columbia, and the author of The Trumps: Three Generations of Builders and a Presidential Candidate, got definitive for an article in Politico: “When Coué’s follower Dr. Norman Vincent Peale published The Power Of Positive Thinking in October 1952, Trump’s parents, Fred and Mary, felt an immediate affinity for Peale’s teachings. On Sundays, they drove into Manhattan to worship at Marble Collegiate Church where Peale was the head pastor. Donald and both his sisters were married there, and funeral services for both Fred and Mary took place in the main sanctuary.

‘I still remember [Peale’s] sermon,’ Trump told the Iowa Family Leadership Summit in July. ‘You could listen to him all day long. And when you left the church, you were disappointed it was over. He was the greatest guy.’

BLOUTS—we trust you to whom we refer—has now, finally, come down with a case of the disease which he has bestowed upon millions of others. Unlike him, he has access to what may be the best socialized medicine on Earth.

Or might be, if he didn’t meddle.

Patient Zero of the White House Clusterfuck has apparently been channeling a certain stout, dapper, bowlered and moustached gent who was not, for the record, a real locust after all.

Full of steroids and a miracle cure from a company in which he holds stock, the Man With His Finger On the World’s Largest Nuclear Arsenal returned to the World’s Most Expensive Public Housing Unit a couple of days ago. That event was filmed for campaign purposes. Readers deserve to have the news presented to them in a manner that makes some kind of sense. When the news makes no sense, that becomes somewhat problematical. Rather than throw up our hands, and then possibly... oh, never mind.

Without further ado, or don’t, or might, here, in no particular order, are a few things that we think may have happened.

Department of Anguries and Signs

During the recent Vice Presidential Debate, incumbent Mike Pence took time out from ignoring moderator Susan Page and talking over Senator Kamala Harris to serve as a landing pad for a house fly. Pence’s noogin, with its white hair-helmet, turns out to be a perfect background for showing off the common pest, Musca domestica.

Judging from the post-debate reaction, the audience was relieved to have something to think about other than the Vice President’s rudest. Unsurprisingly, given Pence’s unselfishness, the incident engendered many ecclesiastical interpretations.

An unofficial correspondent in the U.K. said, ‘After all, according to the Hebrew Bible, “Beelzebub” in Hebrew, means, literally, “Lord of the Flies,” which is another name for the Devil, “Satan,” or “Lucifer,” and is also the title of William Golding’s novel, by that name. How appropriate, therefore, that a fly should...”
choose to settle on Pence’s head, as it would on a dung-heap: the Devil knows his own!”

To balance out this view from an obvious heathen, we turn to Hank Kunneman, of Lord of Hosts Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Speaking on evangelist Gene Bailey’s program “Flash Point,” Kunneman went right to the top for an answer.

“I said, God, what’s up with the fly landing on the Vice President’s head? Why didn’t it land and buzz right on the nose of the sneering head? Why didn’t it land and buzz right on the nose of the sneering [Kunneman laughs at his own retort], mocking Kamala Harris?”

Perhaps someone should warn the President’s medical team that a Higher Power may be contemplating a personed change.

---

**Constitution 2.0?**

Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Speaker of the House, spoke Friday about creating a commission to assess the President’s ability to lead the country, specifically citing provisions in the 25th Amendment allowing for the removal of an unfit Chief Executive.

He remarks came the day after the President—who has been taking the powerful steroid dexamethasone, for the removal of an unfit Chief Executive—saved her.

Despite this steaming mountain of fresh evidence that the President is deranged, Pelosi told reporters, according to ABC News, “This is not about President Donald Trump—he will face the judgment of the voters.”

Pelei solo says, has legendary political skills. We must be rubes.

---

*A Second Trump Term Would Be “Game Over” for the Climate, Says Top Scientist*

By Mark Hertsgaard

[This story originally appeared in The Guardian on October 2, 2020, and is republished here as part of Covering Climate Now, a global journalism collaboration strengthening coverage of the climate story.]

Michael Mann, one of the most eminent climate scientists in the world, believes averting climate catastrophe on a global scale would be “essentially impossible” if Donald Trump is re-elected.

A professor at Penn State University, Mann, 54, has published hundreds of peer-reviewed scientific papers, testified numerous times before Congress and appeared frequently in the news media. He is also active on Twitter, where earlier this year he declared “A second Trump term is game over for the climate—really!”, a statement he reaffirmed in an interview with The Guardian and Covering Climate Now.

“If we are going to avert even more catastrophic climate change impacts, we need to limit warming below a degree and a half Celsius, a little less than three degrees Fahrenheit,” Mann said. “Another four years of what we’ve seen under Trump, which is to outsource environmental and energy policy to the polluters and dismantle protections put in place by the previous administration…would make that essentially impossible.”

None of Mann’s 200-plus scientific papers is more famous than the so-called “hockey stick study,” which Nature published on Earth Day of 1998. With two co-authors, Mann demonstrated that global temperature had been trending downward for the previous one thousand years. Graphed, this line was the long handle of the hockey stick, which surged abruptly upwards in about 1950—represented by the blade of the stick—to make the 1990s the warmest decade in “at least the last millennium.”

In 1999, Mann became an assistant professor at the University of Virginia, where he was targeted by the climate denier crowd, an experience detailed in his 2012 book *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars*. He received death threats, he says, and had emails stolen. Virginia’s former attorney general Ken Cuccinelli, a hard-right Republican, subpoenaed documents related to Mann’s research funding in an effort to prove fraud. A Washington Post editorial blasted Cuccinelli for “mis[using] state funds in his own personal war against climate science.” In 2014, affirming a lower court’s decision, the supreme court of Virginia ruled against Cuccinelli, who now serves as a top official in
much global carbon emissions are projected to fall in 2020 due to the Covid-19 economic lockdowns that shrank driving, flying and other carbon-intensive activities.)

The numbers get unrealistically challenging if Trump gains another four years as president.

“Four more years of relative inaction, of flat emissions, means that four years from now that number might be closer to 15 percent [emissions reductions] a year,” Mann says. “And that may be, although not physically impossible, societally impossible. The rate at which we shift away from a fossil-fuel-driven infrastructure, it just may not be economically possible or socially viable to do it that fast.”

“Our destiny is determined by our behavior.”

Fortunately, there is encouraging news about climate science as well. It was long thought that Earth’s climate system carried a substantial lag effect, mainly because carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere, trapping heat, for many decades after being emitted. Even if all CO₂ emissions were halted overnight, global temperatures would keep rising and heat waves, droughts, storms and other impacts would keep intensifying “for about 25 to 30 years,” Sir David King, the former chief science advisor to the British government, said in 2006.

Mann says research over the last decade has overturned this interpretation. “This reprieve will not necessarily spare polar ice sheets or evade tipping points that cannot be recrossed, such as Joe Biden, and against Donald Trump and other Republicans who obstruct it.”

“The future of this planet is now in the hands of American citizens,” he says. “It’s up to us. The way we handle the Covid-19 economic lockdowns that shrank driving, flying and other carbon-intensive activities.”

Goats, please, medium.


Mann derisit that it’s a partisan statement to say that four more years of Trump would mean “game over” for the climate.

“It is a political statement, because it speaks to the need to enact policies to deal with climate change,” he says. “But it isn’t partisan to say that we should act on this crisis.”

It’s also a scientific statement, Mann adds. Two years ago this month, scientists with the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published a landmark study, “Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees,” which found that humanity had to cut heat-trapping emissions roughly by half by 2030 to avoid catastrophic climate breakdown. Headlines warned we had 12 years to save the planet. Those 12 years are now 10.

Except more than two years have been lost, because in that time, the Trump administration has prevented the world’s biggest economy from making “the dramatic reductions that were necessary to keep us on that path” of halving emissions by 2030, Mann says. “So now the incline is steeper. It’s no longer five percent [reductions] a year for the next 10 years. It’s more like seven and a half percent.” (As a comparison, seven percent is how
This Is Far Worse Than Partisan Divide
To the Editor:
Hyper-partisanship, national polarization, party politics blinding into areas it does not belong, and a dys-functional Congress are no longer the biggest threats to our democracy. The cult-like self-identification of Trumpism is beyond political division and is pulling our nation into fascism. Fascism has always been veiled in patriotism, powered by insecurity, and prioritized blind loyalty. The question is, will Americans step up to fight this common threat, or will we be complacent, consumed by apathy, and hope that someone else will save the day?

There is now common cause, for Conservative, Liberal, Moderate, and others, to jointly shut the door on Trumpism. Conservatives can still vote for Republicans, Liberals for Democrats and Moderates can continue to not have acceptable options, but we all must oppose Trumpism.

To put our democracy back on the track, Americans need to do something our nation has not done in a long time: we need to talk. We need to bring back verbal dialog between individuals. It is only through true discussion and debate that we realize if we are seeing multiple perspectives or just regurgitating propaganda. Online chats, emails, Facebook, and any one-to-many communication may be easy, but they are the wrong tool for our current crisis.

If you know anyone in a swing state, pick up the phone and call them. Send a text and ask for a time to speak. Have them pick up the phone and call them. Send again, etc. You recommend "ignoring partisan ties, and any one-to-many communication may be easy, but they are the wrong tool for our current crisis.

It is time for all of us to be active patriots and choose to invest our time in having verbal conversations. Start with your personal and professional network and then look to do more. If you have a conversation time that will not carry over, use a few days in October to talk with others about our collective responsibility to protect democracy and end partisan self-identification (which enables fascism).

Even if you disagree with someone, ask them to explain their opinions. If they are ignoring inconvenient facts, just ask them to explain their points so you can understand what is behind their thinking. There are topics, such as abortion or capital punishment, that we need to agree to disagree on, but we cannot come to common ground solutions until we are better at listening to each other and ignoring biased media. I suppress the urge to scream at Trump flag wavers because it is not effective. For those who have already wrapped themselves in fascist garb, they must take the first courageous step out of the fascist current. We help by listening and talking respectively from the shore, not pulling or pushing. Start with acknowledging that Trump has done some positive things. Take Covid-19 as an example, and how travel between China and other hot spots was prohibited. However, there were hundreds of possible actions. Assume Trump had positive Covid-19 actions, he also had at least 20 negative Covid-19 actions and maybe another 60 things that should have been done. So that is 20 good and 80 misses, which is much worse than an F- and explains why with four percent of global population we have around 23 percent of global cases and 21 percent of deaths globally.

During the Republican National Convention, people cloaked in Trumpism may have believed those who said Trump had fame and moror-ey and explain why with four percent of global population we have around 23 percent of global cases and 21 percent of deaths globally.

At the Manchester, N.H. Trump rally, I was watching bus after char-ter bus unloaded people sans masks, wondering where they were coming from. I can't fathom from where, in very New Hampshire, a resident would bother to take a charter bus for around an hour ride? Polarized identification drives people to bus into New Hampshire on a summer Friday evening.

For love of country, in respect of vet-erans, for the chance to heal and work on our very big problems, get out there and end Trumpism. Let people know they don't have to vote Democratic, just no voting for Trump. Also, refrain from voting for all those who endorse Trump, since we desper-ately need political leaders and problem solvers, not followers.

Steven Rye
Rye, N.H.
Steven:
Pardon us for pre-judging, but your reputation for trying to reconcile our polarized body politic proceeds you. Whatever success you might achieve would be a great public service.
We fear, though, that under the circumstances you're running against the Pisa-turpa while towing a large. [F]arison self-identification (which enables fascism) [that sounds like both sides-ism.]

You, Trumpism enables fas-sicism. Hell, it is fascism. How, though, does identifying as, say, a member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (which is a real thing) make one a pro-fascist?

Also, you seem to be assuming that it's possible to have a rational discussion with a person in the full throes of Trumpism. Would that it were so, but we believe the odds are remotely small. As we used to say before guns came to it, "the game's not worth the candle."

You recommend "ignoring partisan ties, and any one-to-many communication may be easy, but they are the wrong tool for our current crisis." We print your design.

We print.

Spreading Truth, Humor, and Love
To the Editor:
We don't want to accuse you of profess-ing, even slightly, any ideology, but that is the only term we can think of that ade-quately describes what you're doing right now.
The Editor

I Was Wrong

To the Editor:
In July of 2018 I wrote a letter to the Editor which stated, “What is almost 100 percent certain—is that Trump's businesses are kept afloat by launder-ing money for the Russian mafia, oligarchs and other crooks. This has been going on for years.” I added, “The Russians are able to control Trump… by keeping him out of the source of funds that keep him afloat...”

Trump's tax returns, released against his will, four years after his promis-ence, show that he personally owes the banks $400 million, due in the next few years. No bank would loan this kind of money to Trump (six bank-rapacies) unless there was another guarantor to pay back the loan. In this case, Putin’s Russia.

Vietnam before Putin totally wrecks the U.S.A. through his tool.

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:
We can't touch for the accuracy of your assertions, but we agree that Trump's finances smell like a month-old sturgeon hidden in a storage locker.
The Editor

Here's A Way You Can Help Veterans
Stay Housed

The Veterans Affairs Support- ed Housing (VASH) program provides permanent housing and ongoing case management and treatment services for homeless veterans who would not be able to live independently without the support of case management. VASH cannot provide furniture, household appliances, pots and pans, or household items.

VASH can accept these items, and distribute them to veterans who need them. Call or email Tracy Noonan, svash@nshp.org, at (603) 657-5612 or email tracey.noonan@va.gov

Your contribution can make a difference.
Dear Editor:
In every election I've voted in, be it local, a primary, presidential or non-presidential, I always see voters taking their children with them as they vote. They clearly want their children to know participating in the democratic process is important. Just as my parents did before me, I watch the Presidential debates with their children. I wonder how they can explain President Trump’s behavior in Tuesday’s debate? His constant interrupting, his arguing with the moderator, his total ignoring of the rules he had agreed to. His behavior would not be allowed in kindergarten and is no example of how any adult should behave.

If you approve of Trump's behavior, then your children will see this is the way they should behave if they want to be rich, powerful or a leader. That is your right, but keep them out of our public schools where the other children can become educated and civilized.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Small Man in a Big Job

Dear Editor:
It takes a big man to represent this great country. A President worthy of office must stand for the justice, democracy, liberty, and diversity that have created our well-being. He must set an example to the world of the ideals that all can aspire to. He must also have created our well-being. He must be a man is at once the sign and proof of the inner state.” Granted, politics is entirely incongruous that any thinking American (much less citizens even in ancient times, “senior moments” be damned) would not have conceded to aging citizens. Share with me, if you will, please, and believe me, there was once a Republican Party; and a commonsense of practicing church and state.阳光

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.
Portsmouth N.H.

Remembrance of Republicans Past

Dear Editor:
Bear with me while I reminisce in ancient times, “senior moments” be damned to aging citizens. Share with me, if you will, please, and believe me, there was once a Republican Party; and a commonsense of practicing church and state.

The New Hampshire Gazette, Friday, October 9, 2020 — Page 5
Trump & the Military: Is Anyone Really Surprised?

by W.D. Ehrhart

A recent article in September’s The Atlantic titled “Trump: Americans Who Died in War Are ‘Losers’ and ‘Stickers’” details our current commander-in-chief’s flaunting disrespect for the men and women in uniform. He does this either with the generations of American service personnel who went before them, or with the expectations that those who served their country. You can readily find the article online and read it for yourself, if you haven’t already done so.

What amazes me is not what the article says, but the fact that so many people are only now expressing their outrage over Trump’s disrespect for the military of which he is constitutionally commander-in-chief. The storm of shock and anger at Trump’s apathy leaves me scratching my head.

from page five

tainable perfection, but simply to be a better person today than you were yesterday and to leave the world a better place than you found it.

Normal people don’t brag about their imperfections but are prone to try and correct them, not cultivate them. Donald Trump is a shameless conman, a textbook narcissist. His imperfections but are prone to

The New Hampshire Gazette
The Nation’s Oldest Newspaper™
PUBLISHED FORTNIGHTLY ON ALTERNATE FRIDAYS
FOUNDER: DANIEL FOWLE (1715 – 1787)
ENVELOPED PRESSMAN: PRIMUS X (CA. 1700 – 1793)
PO BOX 756, PORTSMOUTH, NH 03802
WWW.NHGAZETTE.COM • EDITORS@NHGAZETTE.COM

SUBSCRIPTIONS:
$25 per year for 26 issues
MAILED FIRST CLASS
SEE PAGE FIVE FOR SUBSCRIPTION FORM

EDITOR: STEVEN FOWLE • STARVING ARTIST: MICHAEL DATER
BUSINESS (SUCH AS IT IS) MANAGER: ROSE EPPARD

THE ARTS ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESS.
They bring $58 Million per year to Portsmouth.

THE ARTS ARE GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY.
People come together to share an experience that lasts long after the curtain falls.

THE ARTS ARE GOOD FOR THE SOUL.
They break you free from the confines of your day-to-day.

THE ARTS NEED YOU.
We are proud to be part of an arts-rich community, but we are all being hit hard during this crisis.

Help us ensure that our vibrant arts community is still thriving when all of our doors are open again.

Please consider supporting the arts today.

THE ARTS MATTER.
RICKETS & INFO 603.436.2400 • THEMUSICHALL.ORG

LOFT • 311 CONGRESS ST • MH • MUSICALL • MUSICHALLNH.COM
212 BOX OFFICE AT THE HISTORIC THEATER • 27 CHESTNUT ST • PORTSMOUTH NH

Anthony’s Home Services LLC
Repair & Maintenance Residential & Commercial
(775) 984-5514 • Durham anthonyashleymau@gmail.com

Mike Date’s BANDDO OriginaLs
AND OTHER DRAWINGS BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE OWNED ARTISTS
WWW.MIKEDATER.COM

Visit www.jimhightower.com

- Personally autographed copies and exclusive access to bestselling books
- Subscriptions to the monthly Mike Date’s Limerick Newsletter
- CDs + Tapes
- Videos + Pamphlets

THE ARTS MATTER.
RICKETS & INFO 603.436.2400 • THEMUSICHALL.ORG

LOFT • 311 CONGRESS ST • MH • MUSICALL • MUSICHALLNH.COM
212 BOX OFFICE AT THE HISTORIC THEATER • 27 CHESTNUT ST • PORTSMOUTH NH

The New Hampshire Gazette
The Nation’s Oldest Newspaper™
PUBLISHED FORTNIGHTLY ON ALTERNATE FRIDAYS
FOUNDER: DANIEL FOWLE (1715 – 1787)
ENVELOPED PRESSMAN: PRIMUS X (CA. 1700 – 1793)
PO BOX 756, PORTSMOUTH, NH 03802
WWW.NHGAZETTE.COM • EDITORS@NHGAZETTE.COM

SUBSCRIPTIONS:
$25 per year for 26 issues
MAILED FIRST CLASS
SEE PAGE FIVE FOR SUBSCRIPTION FORM

EDITOR: STEVEN FOWLE • STARVING ARTIST: MICHAEL DATER
BUSINESS (SUCH AS IT IS) MANAGER: ROSE EPPARD

THE ARTS ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESS.
They bring $58 Million per year to Portsmouth.

THE ARTS ARE GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY.
People come together to share an experience that lasts long after the curtain falls.

THE ARTS ARE GOOD FOR THE SOUL.
They break you free from the confines of your day-to-day.

THE ARTS NEED YOU.
We are proud to be part of an arts-rich community, but we are all being hit hard during this crisis.

Help us ensure that our vibrant arts community is still thriving when all of our doors are open again.

Please consider supporting the arts today.

THE ARTS MATTER.
RICKETS & INFO 603.436.2400 • THEMUSICHALL.ORG

LOFT • 311 CONGRESS ST • MH • MUSICALL • MUSICHALLNH.COM
212 BOX OFFICE AT THE HISTORIC THEATER • 27 CHESTNUT ST • PORTSMOUTH NH

Anthony’s Home Services LLC
Repair & Maintenance Residential & Commercial
(775) 984-5514 • Durham anthonyashleymau@gmail.com

Mike Date’s BANDDO OriginaLs
AND OTHER DRAWINGS BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE OWNED ARTISTS
WWW.MIKEDATER.COM

Visit www.jimhightower.com

- Personally autographed copies and exclusive access to bestselling books
- Subscriptions to the monthly Mike Date’s Limerick Newsletter
- CDs + Tapes
- Videos + Pamphlets

THE ARTS MATTER.
RICKETS & INFO 603.436.2400 • THEMUSICHALL.ORG

LOFT • 311 CONGRESS ST • MH • MUSICALL • MUSICHALLNH.COM
212 BOX OFFICE AT THE HISTORIC THEATER • 27 CHESTNUT ST • PORTSMOUTH NH

The New Hampshire Gazette
The Nation’s Oldest Newspaper™
PUBLISHED FORTNIGHTLY ON ALTERNATE FRIDAYS
FOUNDER: DANIEL FOWLE (1715 – 1787)
ENVELOPED PRESSMAN: PRIMUS X (CA. 1700 – 1793)
PO BOX 756, PORTSMOUTH, NH 03802
WWW.NHGAZETTE.COM • EDITORS@NHGAZETTE.COM

SUBSCRIPTIONS:
$25 per year for 26 issues
MAILED FIRST CLASS
SEE PAGE FIVE FOR SUBSCRIPTION FORM

EDITOR: STEVEN FOWLE • STARVING ARTIST: MICHAEL DATER
BUSINESS (SUCH AS IT IS) MANAGER: ROSE EPPARD

THE ARTS ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESS.
They bring $58 Million per year to Portsmouth.

THE ARTS ARE GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY.
People come together to share an experience that lasts long after the curtain falls.

THE ARTS ARE GOOD FOR THE SOUL.
They break you free from the confines of your day-to-day.

THE ARTS NEED YOU.
We are proud to be part of an arts-rich community, but we are all being hit hard during this crisis.

Help us ensure that our vibrant arts community is still thriving when all of our doors are open again.

Please consider supporting the arts today.

THE ARTS MATTER.
RICKETS & INFO 603.436.2400 • THEMUSICHALL.ORG

LOFT • 311 CONGRESS ST • MH • MUSICALL • MUSICHALLNH.COM
212 BOX OFFICE AT THE HISTORIC THEATER • 27 CHESTNUT ST • PORTSMOUTH NH

Anthony’s Home Services LLC
Repair & Maintenance Residential & Commercial
(775) 984-5514 • Durham anthonyashleymau@gmail.com

Mike Date’s BANDDO OriginaLs
AND OTHER DRAWINGS BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE OWNED ARTISTS
WWW.MIKEDATER.COM

Visit www.jimhightower.com

- Personally autographed copies and exclusive access to bestselling books
- Subscriptions to the monthly Mike Date’s Limerick Newsletter
- CDs + Tapes
- Videos + Pamphlets
Whatever happened to our sense of right and wrong?

by Jean Stimmell

We\[s]t\[i]n was young, success was not being rich but being a person of good repute: honest, hardworking, and willing to help others. We were taught stories in school about how presidents should be honest. In the case of good character: stories about how George Washington confessed about cutting down the cherry tree and Abe Lincoln walking 5 miles to return a quarter he had overcharged a customer. Of course, 1960s hippies have always been blamed for pursuing an "anything goes" morality. But one could make a strong case that we were experimenting, searching for a new caring, person-centered ethics, as opposed to the existing patriarchal model that dropped atomic bombs on Japan and flooded millions of peasants in Vietnam.

Another signal event that helped usher in our moral decline happened 50 years ago this month when Milton Friedman, a leading economist, wrote a seminal essay that the New York Times Magazine called "the free market manifesto that changed the world." In essence, he said forget about morality and ethics. In non-technical terms, he asserted that business should not concern itself with the welfare of its workers or society at large; its sole responsibility is to make money. His call to arms spread like a virus.

Spurred on, in part, by his manifesto, the 1980s became known as the "Decade of Greed," personalizing sycophancy and an anything-goes attitude, according to the National Review. Meanwhile, our society continued to become more secular, with fewer people going to church. I don't know if that is a lagging or leading indicator.

The contagion has now spread until it is the only game in town. Everything has become transactional. Forgetting the Golden Rule: if a transgressor gets away with it, the effect on public morality will be twofold: a symptom of a disturbing trend. I've been mulling what has gone wrong and what can be done to reverse the trend.

Trump judges require that ex-felons pay to vote

by Jim Hightower

How nasty is the Republican Party's massive campaign to disfranchise felons? Ask the good people of Florida.

This was one of only three states that permanently took away the voting rights of felons — who completed their punishment. In 2018, though, a whopping 65 percent of Floridians voted for a state Constitutional amendment that finally struck this malicious bit of legal ugliness from the books, thus restoring the political personhood of about a million people who'd served their time.

But, led by Ron Desantis, Floridians right-wing governor of a Governor, the GOP demanded that an appeals court of hyper-partisan federal judges overrule 2018's landmark vote by the people and slam the door once more on the rights of discharged felons. They're not entitled to vote, squawked these vindictive ballot suppressors, unless and until they've paid off the full amount of court costs and fees they were assessed.

Money, asserted Republican leaders, must trump social justice, human decency, and political rights for these mostly indigent people who're unable to pay up a thousand bucks or so. Even if ex-felons are regularly making payments to clear the debt — tough luck say the Republican enforcers, no vote until every penny is paid.

It's a flagrant case of rigging the system to steal the votes of a low-income constituency generally inclined to support Democratic policies and candidates. It also amounts to an unconstitutional poll tax, made more intolerable by applying it to one class of citizens (largely people of color) specifically to disenfranchise them.

The court's six-judge Republican majority (five appointed by Trump) cynically defied the U.S. Constitution and the Florida electorate just weeks before November's presidential election, effectively incarcerating some 774,000 potential voters in a partisan debtor's prison. Yet, the people's battle for justice goes on — to say connected, go to Florida Rights Restoration Coalition: Floridareform.org.


---

Put Out Water for the Birds

Dear Editor:

Outdoors yesterday I saw one bird, then a second (sparrow, chickadee) land on my water-dish water rim and then a third, a long time later. After this week a traveling-through hummingbird came down out of the sky and refueled at my hummingbird feeder that I keep ready, though my regulars have migrated away. Now migrating hummers might stop briefly.

Makes me want to ask — if you are able to do this, put water out for the birds. Now I'm keeping my three dog waters high (so small birds can perch on the rim and reach the water, that height of water needed). I also have rimmed dinner plates of water. I am keeping my dog bowls full. If I've seen them come to drink. We are in drought, and it's not necessary to own a bird-bath. Put out water for these creatures that brighten our days. (In the case of bees, pollinate our garden crops and field crops.)

Saint Francis can't do his work without our helping hands.

Lynn Rudin Chong Sanbornton, N.H.

2 https://www.nationalreview.
3 Murdoch, Iris.