

*The Fortnightly Rant*

## GOP Makes Last Chance Power Grab

Horrifying times often bring with them a certain measure of clarity; it's a paltry consolation prize, and rarely makes up for what's been lost, but it does help to dispel confusion—or would if we ever used it.

Recent events have made this much clear: having done a heck of a job wrecking the nation, the goon squad calling itself the Republican Party is hard at work dismantling the apparatus with which we might rebuild it. Their goal is nothing less than to stamp out democracy itself.

Perhaps we exaggerate—but if so, not by much. They have thrown the nation's transmission into reverse and hit the gas. They're steering by squinting—right eye only—at the rear-view mirror. Let's take a look at our destination: the late 18th century.

On May 6th, 1776, James Sullivan—already a sitting Justice on Massachusetts' highest court, though born up-river from here, in Berwick, just 32 years before—wrote to Elbridge Gerry [yes, of gerrymander fame] on the need for a new state government. It was a timely issue, what with the Revolution and all.

Sullivan hoped that in the new assembly, "there will be the most full and equal representation that this Colony ever saw. This Assembly will undoubtedly suppose it to be their duty to provide for a future less unweildly [sic] and more equal representation than themselves. And how this can be done is the question. In order to do it must we not lay aside our old patched and unmeaning form of Government? The Scars and blotches of the feudal Sistem [sic], the Foot steps of Vassalage, and the paths to lawless Domination compose so great a part of it, that no friend to his Country can wish to

See it ever put in exercise again."

A man ahead of his time, was our Sullivan, in his views on ballot access and in his hair style. We know not what John Adams thought of Sullivan's Mohawk, but he was clearly appalled by his appetite for "full and equal representation."

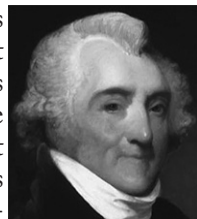
"Depend upon it, sir," he wrote, "it is dangerous to open So fruitfull a Source of Controversy and Altercation, as would be opened by attempting to alter the Qualifications of Voters. There will be no End of it. New Claims will arise. Women will demand a Vote. Lads from 12 to 21 will think their Rights not enough attended to, and every Man, who has not a Farthing, will demand an equal Voice with any other in all Acts of State. It tends to confound and destroy all Distinctions, and prostrate all Ranks, to one common Levell."

This is not to say the upper crust thought that working folks were useless. They, too had their place—in the front lines. Some things never change.

The Spirit of '76 largely consisted of land speculators and importers saying to each other, "Let's round up the rabble to throw out the Redcoats, so we can start in on the Indians and do some real business."\*

The Spirit of '21 is not dissimilar: "If we don't head off democracy at the pass, we're going to have to obey laws made by the rabble. Hell, they might even make us pay taxes, to boot."

\* If you think we exaggerate—or if you just want to read this century's best book so far about early American history—read William Hogeland's *Autumn of the Black Snake: The Creation of the U.S. Army and the Invasion That Opened the West*.



Today's reactionaries share Adams' contempt for commoners without property. Unfortunately they can no longer muster up his level of honesty. To be fair, the truth would be a mighty hard sell: "Step right up, folks, and vote Republican. You, too, can work longer hours at lower pay, with no job security and none of those annoying benefits."

Hence we get an unending series of lies, delivered at high volume in the most stirring and patriotic tones.

Voter fraud—which is statistically non-existent—is said to somehow threaten our elections. It's a ludicrous argument, but it provides the unscrupulous with an excuse to erect more hurdles in front of wrong-headed non-white voters.

Fair and honest elections—audited and re-audited by duly elected or appointed officials—are in doubt if a Democrat won. Only random crackpots like Jovan Hutton Pultzner can determine the truth.

Bogus calls for audits, it now appears, are the last-ditch defense for

feudalism, vassalage, and lawless dominion. Masses of ballots in bins really get some people excited. And why not? Remember the Brooks Brothers Riot?

On November 22, 2000, as Miami-Dade officials were trying to conduct a legitimate recount, Joe "Congressman Kick-Ass" Sweeney [R-N.Y.] yelled "Shut it down." Literal hand-to-hand combat ensued. Sweeney—who, true to Republican form, called Florida election officials "thugs"—and his merry band of Congressional staffers won that battle: the recount was shut down, and the election went to the Supreme Court. Bush won, everyone else lost, Iraqis most of all.

Five months ago a certain former President could be seen on live television exhorting a mob which had assembled at his invitation on the Ellipse. He ended his harangue with a command: go to the U.S. Capitol and "stop the steal." And off they went, thousands of them, scurrying like lemmings toward the Capitol.

Hundreds then proceeded to batter their way into the building—a process which cost five lives. Their intent was to prevent Congress from certifying their hero's loss in the November election.

For the first time in history an incumbent American President tried to use a violent mob to prevent the orderly transfer of power. Though he gave it his best shot, the Republic was saved—by his extraordinary incompetence.

Sadly, good fortune won't solve our underlying problem. Last weekend, as the rabid rallied at a QAnon conference in Dallas, General Michael Flynn was asked why "what happened in Myanmar can't happen here?" Flynn replied, "No reason. I mean, it should happen here."

Flynn's call for a coup was videotaped, but that hasn't stopped him from denying it.

What we have is systemic delusion: the Republic is going to go on needing to be saved every damn day for the foreseeable future.

*The Alleged News®*

## Who Knew Dr. Strangelove Was a Documentary?

Just a week into the Biden administration, a familiar old bugbear reared its ugly head: would the U.S. go to war with China in defense of Taiwan? Should it?

Speaking of "should," we know we ought to be concerned about the geostrategic implications behind this issue, not to mention the serious humanitarian concerns, but—and you can sue us for this if you like—remembering, as we do, all the hot air generated on this topic back when Ike was in office, we're just going to yield to temptation. Here-with: a few spitballs from the back of the class.

The right wing in those days was made up of men like Senator Joe McCarthy and General Douglas MacArthur. But for an untimely car crash, General George Patton would have stood alongside them.

Passing as part of the mainstream

media then was the *Time/Life/Fortune* magazine empire—all were the profitable playthings of Henry R. Luce. Then, as now, the so-called "mainstream" listed heavily to the right. Luce, who was born in China and was the son of a missionary, held right wing views roughly equivalent to the aforementioned generals and Senator.

Luce was a central figure in the China Lobby. Its primary goal was to stomp Mao and his commies into the dust so that the saintly Chiang Kai-shek could preside over a peaceful, profitable, capitalist mainland China. To that end, *Time* magazine featured Chiang on the cover ten times between 1927 and 1955.

It may have been myopia—which, if genuine, would make Mr. Magoo seem eagle-eyed. Or, it may have been moral relativism—"he's not perfect, but he's on our side, so let's

overlook his flaws." Whatever their excuse, the China Lobby picked a strange bird to back.

Throughout his career, Chiang's primary concern was probably diverting as much foreign support as possible into his bank account—unless it was expanding the market share of his personal army/drug gang, the Kuomintang, or KMT.

During WW II, the KMT were our supposed ally against the Japanese. General "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell, FDR's liaison to the KMT, estimated that, while Chiang wasted or pilfered \$380 million in 1944 dollars, more than half of his conscripts either deserted or starved to death before completing their training. Fed up, FDR gave Stillwell the OK to bump off Chiang. A pilot was to fake an emergency. All on board would line up to bail out, Chiang first—with a sabotaged parachute.

Before Stillwell could terminate Chiang with extreme prejudice, though, FDR sent a new Ambassador to China. Patrick J. Hurley was born in Ireland but grew up in Indian Territory—now Oklahoma—where he learned to hunt with the Choctaw. Hurley made an unusual diplomat, what with the cowboy hats, the prodigious drinking, the off-color remarks, and the Choctaw war whoops during official dinners.

In a few years the inevitable happened: Mao drove Chiang off the mainland; the KMT fled to Taiwan. The China Lobby blamed Stillwell and State Department "China Hands"—more-or-less sober, clear-eyed professional diplomats—for "losing China." As if it had ever been ours to begin with.

His decades of failure notwithstanding, Chiang retained the aura of glory bestowed upon him by

Henry Luce. America's rabid right champ at the bit. "Unleash Chiang Kai-shek" was the war cry—as if that inept boodler could even have been induced to take a serious crack at the Red Army.

Now Daniel Ellsberg has leaked an unredacted history of the 1958 Taiwan Straits Crisis. Naturally, it is appalling. Chiang was using Quemoy and Matsu, just off the Chinese mainland, as bases for launching "commando raids"—the only true purpose of which was to keep foreign aid coming in. Mao, tired of Chiang's BS, began throwing artillery shells at the islands. Our brass hats started leaning on Ike: "C'mon, let's nuke those red bastards."

We were lucky then, but now they're all at it again.



**The Alleged News®**  
*from page one*

**Veterans For Peace: Fuck War**

[Note: Despite constant provocation, we generally try to maintain a civil tone in our pages. In this case, we make an exception. The heading above, and the text that follows, are this year's official Memorial Day statement from Veterans For Peace. The Editor is a member, but likes to think that if he were not, he would still publish this statement. — The Ed.]

Veterans For Peace has commemorated Memorial Day every year to remember the true costs of war. We know that this year physical gatherings may not be possible even as the current virus has revealed the massive need to put people over the Pentagon and the need to fund healthcare and human needs over the massive expenses of the military.

Our message for Memorial Day is to remember all who have died in war and to understand that no one wins. We understand that those who fight the wars gain the least from them and those who send us to war gain the most from war. There are many people who either profit from war or are misled by war-mongers

and profiteers. These are the people who seek to block our message to question war and to work for peace.

Not all members of Veterans For Peace seek to be present in public events honoring veterans, because the events tend to be a platform to venerate war and spread militarism. However a significant number of members choose to participate by providing an alternative message of peace and nonviolence. We seek to honor the dead by telling the horrible truth about war in an effort to protect the living. VFP will not be intimidated by efforts to block member participation and we will take all steps necessary to participate in any public event members consider appropriate.

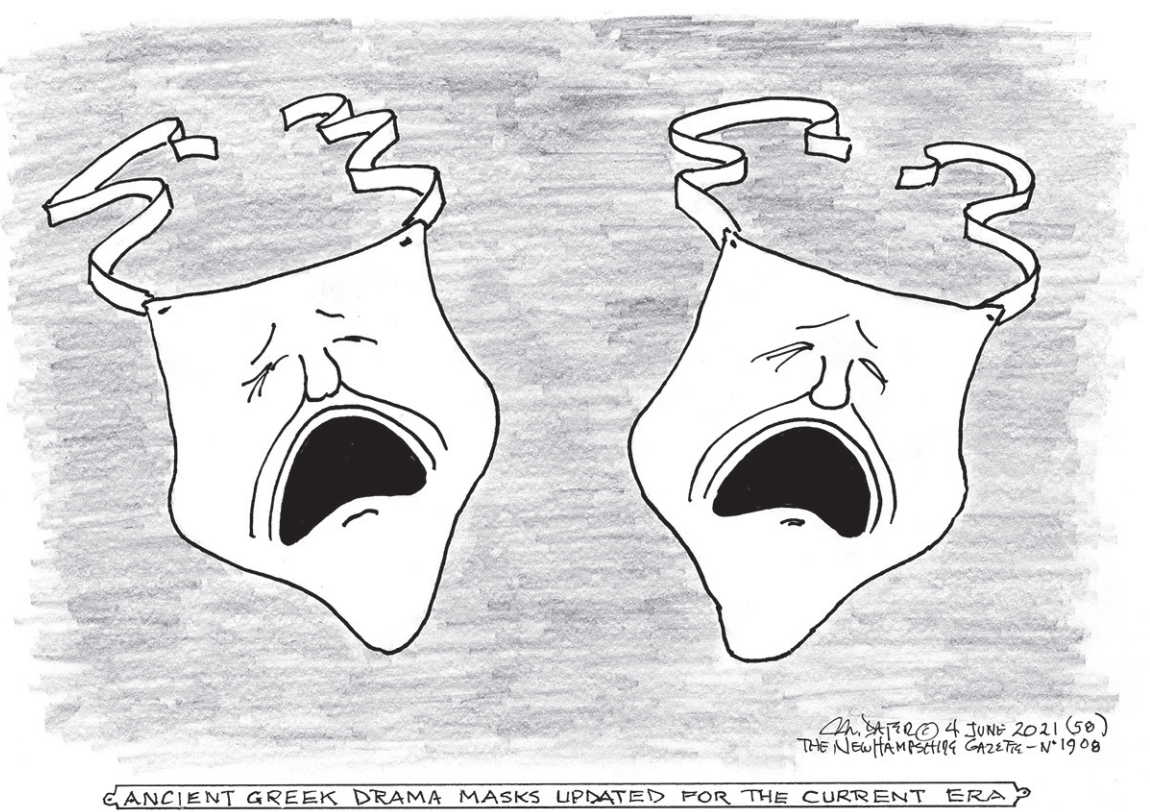
We are tired of parades, memorials and pageantry.

Take back your "thank you for your service" and 50 percent off sales.

We want people to live without threats of U.S. bullets and bombs.

We remember the enormous loss of civilian life that is forgotten in today's memorials and hidden from view in the U.S. consciousness. America has no space on its calendar to memorialize these victims.

We grieve the loss of friends and



It was the most meteorologically dismal Memorial Day weekend in living memory. Further, due to the global pandemic, there was no parade. And yet, our annoyingly chipper Wandering Photographer managed to find a bright spot: high above the lovingly restored, now gorgeous YMCA building on Congress Street, flew a brand spankin' new U.S. flag.

the death of veterans unable to forget the tragedies and forgive themselves.

We are **angry** that there is a holiday that glorifies nationalism and patriotism and ignores the trauma that U.S. militarism enacts all over the globe.

We are filled with rage as we continue to watch the empty political platitudes from the two largest political parties praising soldiers and veterans as they continue to send them off to wars that line the pockets of the rich.

We are frustrated that mainstream media and popular culture glorifies U.S. militarism.

We are exhausted from nightmares of our participation and the images of ongoing trauma from a system of violence we once propped up. We live with the wounds of our moral injuries, scabs that we can't let heal for fear we'd recreate the injury.

On Memorial Day we don't want to remember and we are afraid we will forget.

All we know for sure is...  
Fuck War.

[To which we would only add: yes, one of those words is obscene; no, it's not the one with four letters. — The Ed.]

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**Arizona Plans Executions With Same Gas Used by Nazis at Auschwitz**  
by Brett Wilkins, staff writer, *Common Dreams*

Death penalty abolitionists have expressed shock in recent days following the revelation that Arizona officials are preparing to execute death row inmates using hydrogen cyanide, the same gas with which the Nazis killed over a million people during the Holocaust under the trade name Zyklon B.

Documents obtained by *The Guardian* show that Arizona's Republican-controlled Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation, and Reentry (ADCRR) has spent \$2,000 to obtain the materials needed to make cyanide gas, including a brick of potassium cyanide purchased last December for \$1,530, as well as sodium hydroxide pellets and sulfuric acid.

The documents also revealed that the state's gas chamber at Arizo-

na State Prison Complex in Florence—which was built in 1949 and hasn't been used to kill anyone in 22 years—has been "refurbished."

*The Guardian* called some of the techniques used to test the death chamber's efficacy "astonishingly primitive," including checking its air-tightness by lighting a candle and holding it up against a sealed door and windows.

The last Arizona gas chamber execution stands as a cautionary tale for death row inmates facing the choice of whether to die by gassing or lethal injection. In March 1999, Walter LeGrand, a German national, took 18 minutes to die as he suffered what an eyewitness described as "agonizing choking and gagging" in a cloud of cyanide vapor.

On April 6, Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich announced the state was ready to resume killing prisoners, and that he would ask the state Supreme Court to begin issuing execution warrants. Brnovich's announcement came a month after ADCRR said it had obtained a supply of the lethal injection drug pen-

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**Sometimes Old is Good**

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



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— Joe Keefe



tobarbital. *The Guardian* reported in April that Arizona officials spent \$1.5 million to acquire pentobarbital from an undisclosed source.

This single-drug execution method causes victims to endure “excruciating suffering, including sensations of drowning and suffocation,” according to anesthesiology expert Dr. Gail Van Norman.

As *Common Dreams* reported at the time, the last inmate executed by lethal injection in Arizona took nearly two hours to die. Joseph Wood, who was killed in July, 2014, gulped and snorted hundreds of times as 15 shots of an experimental mix of midazolam and hydromorphone coursed through his veins.

States have been accused of using condemned prisoners as human guinea pigs as they experiment with substitute lethal injection drugs amid growing refusal by companies to sell their products for use in executions.

Wood’s botched execution prompted a temporary suspension of capital punishment in Arizona, as lawyers for condemned convicts and human rights defenders argued such killings violated the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment.

According to *The Guardian*, offi-

cials have selected two of Arizona’s 115 death row inmates as likely candidates for killing once executions resume. Joseph Perkovich, an attorney for Frank Atwood, one of the candidates, told the paper that “neither option”—gassing or lethal injection—“is tenable.” Perkovich said a discrepancy between the potassium cyanide obtained by corrections officials and the sodium cyanide called for under state execution protocol “is not a small detail.”

“The specific compound is vitally important,” he stressed.

Anti-death penalty campaigners have sounded the alarm over Arizona’s plan to kill prisoners using the same gas with which the Nazis murdered around 1.1 million people in extermination camps including Auschwitz.

“This is not justice—it’s horrifying,” the ACLU tweeted.

“You have to wonder what Arizona was thinking in believing that in 2021 it is acceptable to execute people in a gas chamber with cyanide gas,” Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) executive director Robert Dunham told *The Guardian*. “Did they have anybody study the history of the Holocaust?”

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### Piscataqua Company Encampment in South Berwick

**South Berwick, Maine**—Old Berwick Historical Society will be hosting the Piscataqua Company reenactors on Saturday, June 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Counting House Park, next door to their Counting House Museum, at 2 Liberty Street in South Berwick.

A presentation of Harmon’s Company of Snowshoemen, the historical encampment will represent the settlers along the Piscataqua River, 1623-1640, including Dover, Portsmouth, N.H., “Old” Berwick, York, and Kittery, Maine. Unlike the Pilgrims at Plymouth and the Boston area under the Massachusetts Bay Company, these were not Puritans seeking freedom to worship as they wanted, they were men under contract by landed proprietors to establish economically viable communities. There was a focus on fishing, salting, lumbering, and trade. Part of their responsibility included defense of the communities. The Piscataqua

Company attempts to remember those men and women who first settled New Hampshire and Maine.

The society’s Counting House Museum will be open during the encampment from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Encampment and Museum admission is free to the public; donations are gratefully accepted. Social distancing measures and masks are still encouraged.

This season, the Counting House Museum will be open June – October on Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and by appointment. Admission is free. More information is available by calling (207) 384-0000, or at [www.oldberwick.org](http://www.oldberwick.org).

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### On Returning to Newsprint

Did we make it?

We ask because we don’t know right now. We’re trying to return to newsprint, a process which requires us to stop writing before we go to press. Until we have bundles of papers, we won’t know that everything came together properly.

For 32 fortnights now we have been reduced to sounding our barbaric yawp into a nearly-echoless digital void. Soon—or now, dear newsprint reader, in your time frame, presuming we have indeed managed to pull this off, and you are actually there, in what is currently our future, holding an ounce of newsprint in your hands, or perhaps having laid it on a table before you, trying to make some kind of sense out of this baffling string of assorted letters—we will greet you with all the goofy Whitmanesque earnestness we can muster.

Thus endeth—or so we hope—fifteen months of newsprint deprivation, now brought to a hectic conclusion by a unnaturally truncated twelve-day production cycle, necessary to bring ourselves back into synchronization with the inexorable schedule of the mighty, multi-ton offset web press.

Thank you for waiting. Thank you for your support during this difficult time. We can’t wait to see you again.



Monday may have lacked the full panoply to which we’ve become accustomed: cops on Harleys, Color Guard, marching bands, vintage jeep sporting a Ma Deuce.... The spirit was still present, though, if you knew where to look—or, as we believe to have been the case here, you just stumble over it during the course of your random wanderings.

**Murph’s Fortnightly Quote**

*“A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him.”*

— David Brinkley (1920-2003) newscaster for ABC and NBC 1943-1997.

*“In our country the lie has become not just a moral category but a pillar of the State.”*

— Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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*“Words—so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of one who knows how to combine them.”*

— Nathaniel Hawthorne

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

*As soon as it’s safe for them to do so, our volunteer distributors will resume bringing this newspaper to following locations:*

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**Don Ewing Goes Green...ish**  
To the Editor:

We all want a clean, healthy environment. We all want the inexpensive and reliable energy, from whatever source, that enables us to prosper, have a healthy environment, and live healthy lives. And, we want these for ourselves and for future generations.

Energy sources like solar, wind, and biomass have been promoted as solutions to the alleged Man-Made Climate Change problem that I, and some others, believe is overstated, if not enormously inflated. This has, perhaps, not enabled an adequate independent consideration of solar, wind, and biomass (green) energy production, without being influenced by considerations of climate change.

Michael Moore is very concerned about our planet and our climate. I disagree with him on almost everything. So, in an effort to hear the other side's arguments, I watched his documentary, "The Planet of the Humans." This documentary opened my eyes to things I hadn't known about these energy sources.

Everyone should watch this documentary. While I disagree with some of the opinions expressed, I can't dispute the facts presented in the film. Whether you believe or are a skeptic of Man-Made Climate Change, watch this film. Whether or not you believe that solar, wind, and biomass energy production provide earth saving "Green Energy," watch this film.

I could try to present some of the documentary's main points, but I probably wouldn't do them justice. I think it's fair to say that the film addresses the questions about how well these "green" energy sources meet our objectives of providing inexpensive and reliable energy that enable humans to prosper, have a healthy environment, and live healthy lives.

The "Planet of the Humans" can be seen for free on *YouTube*. It's also available free to Amazon Prime members. It's probably available from your local library; the Meredith Library has a copy.

Everyone who wants future generations to inherit a healthy planet that

allows humans to prosper and live healthy lives should see "Planet of the Humans."

Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

*For a minute, there, you really had us going—"Ewing is talking up a clean, healthy environment, and wants us to watch a Michael Moore movie? What else? Are the damned ice skating in Hell?"*

*Then we realized what movie he's touting. Moore has done some good work. "Roger and Me," and "Where to Invade Next" come to mind.*

*"Humans" is...well, not having seen it, we'll let others judge it:*

**Leah Stokes**, Assistant professor of Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara, interviewed May 13, 2020 by *Renewable Energy Magazine*:

"I think that Jeff Gibbs was working on this film for a really long time. I certainly noticed that it is really out of date. So I think he was starting a film in around 2010 or 2012, a while ago, and he just collected footage, and when Michael Moore went on as co-producer to promote it on Earth Day, he mentioned that they just edited together during the coronavirus pandemic because they were at home and so thought 'Let's just get this movie done' and just put it out into the world. I think it was just a rush-job. They just wanted to...take on the idea that certain renewables are bad and that the climate movement is somehow corrupt.

"A lot of people will say Michael Moore is narcissistic, so I think they were just moving in a bubble with themselves saying 'Let's put this together and we'll get a lot of attention' and 'climate change is a hot topic right now so we'll do our take on it and tell everybody that they're wrong', which is a very Michael Moore thing to do."

Stokes went on to say something that you, Don, may find particularly relevant:

"I think it's a very nihilistic film. When you think about it, these are two people, probably in their 60s, white men, who have an enormous amount of privilege, near the end of their lives,



and so they can just sit around and say we're screwed and there's nothing to be done about it and that's perfectly fine for them. But there are lots of young people, including women, including diverse people, who have to live in the world that's coming and have to solve the problems we've been handed from people in Michael Moore's and Jeff Gibbs's generation."

**Michael Mann**, Director of the Earth System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University:

"What I can tell you is that it's a great way for an increasingly irrelevant filmmaker to try to jump-start his career at the expense of our planet."

*We'll give you an "A" for effort, though, Don.*

The Editor

=====  
**There Are Worse Ways to Spend Money**  
To the Editor,

There are few things Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan could support that would do more to reduce suffering in this world than federal funding for cultured-meat research. For those who don't know, cultured meat is grown from cells, without slaughter. This revolutionary technology will help usher in a more compassionate future.

We kill over a trillion aquatic and land animals every year for food. The amount of suffering this represents is impossible to comprehend. While the field of cellular agriculture has made significant strides, more open-access research is needed to reach price parity and develop whole-cut meats. I hope Congress will back this important effort.

Jon Hochschartner  
Granby, Conn.

*[A note to readers: Mr. Hochschartner has been single-mindedly writing to us about cultured meat for some time—so much so that we became suspicious. We wrote to him, "at some point we would be grateful if you would a) write about*

*something else—because you do write well—or, b) assure us that you do not have any significant holdings in any corporate entities which stand to make a profit from the cultured meat industry."* He replied, "I have no holdings at all in the cultured meat industry. I'm just an animal rights activist who believes cellular agriculture stands the best chance of relieving nonhuman suffering." — *The Ed.]*

Jon,  
*When one considers the unimaginably vast sums which Shaheen and Hassan routinely shovel into the furnaces of the weapons industry, and compares it to the the paltry sums Congress might allocate for your proposal, the mind simply boggles.*

The Editor

=====  
**Can Any Republican Officials Be Trusted?**  
To the Editor,

Most of the current red states have been red states for decades. Some large areas in these states do not have any viable Democratic Party presence at all. Can we expect a red state that loses a considerable number of key offices and majorities to allow the will of the voters to prevail? Will they even count votes properly in a situation they will lose in?

The national scene is troubling now, but at the state level will we see red state coups resist democracy at the state level?

My guess is that we will see red state voters throw Republicans out only to see Republican disgracefully, and perhaps successfully hold on to power.

Tom Laperriere  
Milton, N.H.

Tom:  
*If we understand your letter correctly, you are wondering if Republican election officials in red states might refuse to go along with the will of their own Repub-*

*lican voters, if those voters should happen to support the wrong Republicans.*

*We had not considered that possibility. To answer your question, yes. We can easily imagine this crew doing exactly that.*

The Editor

=====  
**Holding Out for a Mirage**  
Dear Editor,

Our country's Capitol was attacked January 6th. Far worse than the attack on our embassy in Benghazi, this was an insurrection against our democracy. Republicans mounted six Congressional investigations into Benghazi. A majority of 54 Senators voted **yes** to investigate the Capitol attack. A Republican minority voted against investigating. The Senate's filibuster rule requires a 60-vote majority. Fifty-one Democratic votes could rescind the filibuster, but Senators Manchin and Sinema are holding out for "bipartisanship."


The truth about January 6 must come out. The truth must identify those responsible for the attack. Truth must counter those Republican liars claiming the Capitol terrorists were merely tourists. Democrats negotiated in good faith with Republicans to craft a fair, bipartisan investigating commission. Then, on May 28th, Republicans pulled another "Lucy/football" trick, blocking the investigation. Will Manchin and Sinema now vote to end the filibuster? Or will they continue to seek bipartisanship that doesn't exist?

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:  
*We can't decide which is worse—Democrats who behave as if Republicans act in good faith, or corporate media robots who treat Republican lies with undeserved respect?*

The Editor

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Hummingbirds!

Dear Editor,  
May 1, 2021—News has reached me from friends in Groton, Mass., that their hummingbirds have arrived! I keep track of their arrival date here. In 2011 I had mine in the yard on April 30th. In 2012 it was May 1st. Other years, later. May 18th in 2013. Most years somewhere in between, with its being closer to the start of May.

Time to put out the feeders. We have no black flies for them yet, nor their favorite flowers. Ours fly more than 3,000 miles from their winter habitat in Mexico, at 30 miles per hour! Let's be ready for them.

Lynn Rudmin Chong  
Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:  
On behalf of the late Robert Barry Forwle, who had many feathered friends but was particularly fond of hummingbirds, we thank you for this.

The Editor

GOP Senators Block a Jan. 6th Commission  
To the Editor:

Apparently an insurrection to overthrow the U.S. Government, derail the 200+ year tradition of peaceful transition of power, murder elected officials, steal an election and riot against the Capitol police isn't sufficient grounds to have a bipartisan investigative commission? Why? Because the truth "might make Trump or the GOP look bad."

Five people died, more than 140 police officers were injured, the Capitol was overrun and ransacked. It was the first invasion since the British burned the White House in the War of 1812. And the Republicans tell us they "have better things to do with their time." Oh, and it "might make Trump or the

GOP look bad."

Please remember this "waste of time," a phrase Republicans kept repeating, comes from the party that held 33 hearings on Benghazi over several years. The only purpose of those hearings, as admitted by minority leader Kevin McCarthy, was to derail Hillary Clinton's campaign!

What do you call such people: hypocrites? liars? traitors? Trumpist sycophants? I don't have an answer, but I can tell you this, the words "honest," "patriotic," and "decent" don't fit.

Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:  
Since you ask, we would call these people the Spawn of the Gerrymander.

Once the Republican Party has a lock on a district, the only way to win that district's primary is by being more Republican than your opponent. These days that means being more deranged improves your chances.

It must be noted that this is only so because we stupidly insist on conducting elections under plurality voting rules: voters get one vote, they can only vote for one candidate, and whatever lunkhead gets the most votes wins.

Ranked-choice voting would change all that, but nooo....

The Editor

The Anti-Semitism Slur  
To the Editor:

As a concerned human being and a Jew who also lives in Portsmouth, I can certainly sympathize with Ari Alexenberg and his family on their recent trip to Israel, as Mr. Alexenberg described in his guest column on May 30th in the Portsmouth Herald.

My life was not in danger on my

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

New Hampshire's Original Craft Brewery  
Celebrates 30 Years

The Portsmouth Brewery credits its longevity to a community-minded approach and an ability to innovate [Normally we jettison all press releases for being irrelevant, unreadable, or ads in disguise. Frequently they meet all three of these criteria. We are pleased to publish this—an exception on all counts. Long-time readers will know that the Portsmouth Brewery played a critical role in supporting this newspaper for many years. We send our heartfelt congratulations and sincere thanks to Peter, Joanne, Maxine, and the entire staff of the Brewery, current and former, on this auspicious occasion. — The Ed.]

Portsmouth, New Hampshire—The Portsmouth Brewery, New Hampshire's first licensed craft brewery, is raising a pint to its 30th anniversary. The brewpub created the foundation for an industry that exploded during the last decade. The Portsmouth Brewery continues to develop some of the most interesting craft beers in the region and is a top rated destination on the Seacoast for both locals and tourists. Co-founder Peter Egelston looks back to 1991 and says at the time, Portsmouth was a gritty seaside town with lots of potential: "My sister, Janet, and I started looking for a second location shortly after we opened the Northampton Brewery in Massachusetts in 1987. After two years of frustration, we stumbled across Portsmouth and knew immediately that it was where we were meant to be all along. We hired a local architect and contractor for the challenging task of designing and building a restaurant and brewery in the historic downtown space we'd purchased. Because brewing beer on premise was something most people had never heard of at the time, we put our brewhouse in the dining room behind glass, visible to our guests."

Egelston credits a desire to remain

true to their principles as a factor in the Brewery's success: "We are first and foremost a public house, in the truest sense of the word—a place of public gathering for people of all ages and persuasions. We have always strived to set deep roots in our community, to source quality ingredients, to make as much as we can by hand, to use sustainable practices and to encourage our brewers to be creative and original."

Egelston says he is proud that the Brewery's small brewhouse has launched the careers of many brewers. Head Brewer Maxine Munsey says "It's an exciting place to be; to evolve and adapt while maintaining the familiarity that people have grown to love and expect. That's true in the brewhouse, the kitchen and in the front of the house."

Egelston's partner, Joanne Francis, helped provide the creative design sensibility that has become iconic. "We serve all types"—the motto she coined before the Brewery even opened its doors, continues to guide the company. Thirty years ago Francis would hunt for antique photos and prints that provided a vintage feel for the Brewery's branding, in addition to working with talented local artists like Dan Gair and Dan Blakeslee. Says Francis, "Working for a brewery/restaurant was an opportunity to have extra fun. We were all young and full of beans and definitely pushed the envelope—but it worked! Our style has always been off-beat yet accessible, which speaks to our personalities and our desire to create a friendly experience, where it's not just the great beer, food, and atmosphere, but a place to make lifelong connections, too."

The Portsmouth Brewery also pushed the envelope on its menu from the get-go: offering vegetarian items, which was a breakout concept for a brewpub at the time.

Folks that were 21 years old when the Brewery opened are now in their 50s and they still gather at the bar, sometimes with their own adult children, and feel the camaraderie they experienced when it was the only craft brewery in the state. Seacoast restaurateur Michael Landgarten says the



Portsmouth Brewery co-owners Peter Egelston and Joanne Francis, along with Head Brewer Maxine Munsey. Photo by Scott Kaplan.

fact that beer was being brewed in the restaurant was very new for the area: "Glass enclosed tanks! The art was outrageous and fabulous. The room was alive. The beer—a revelation. The menu was fun and had healthy and vegetarian options. They set a new standard in town for what could be. Along the way they became an institution, a cornerstone, due in large part to the courage, imagination and values of the owners Peter and Joanne. Community leaders in every sense. I got to know them when we began Taste of the Nation together in the mid 90's. Restaurateurs fighting hunger locally together. We had raucous, purposeful meetings at the Brewery. There was no more fitting place. But my fondest memory is playing in bands in the downstairs bar. I had a cover band and a serious Elvis impersonator named George wearing a rhinestone studded white body suit would jump on stage and belt out Viva Las Vegas to a howling crowd. It was non-stop fun down there. Thank you Peter and Joanne and congratulations on 30 wonderful years. The Portsmouth Brewery has been a gift to us all."

For more information, visit the PortsmouthBrewery.com.

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# Dreaming about Retirement

by Jean Stimmell

I recently had a vivid dream about getting a call from my professional licensing board telling me they were revoking my license because I was abusing pain medication. I tried to tell them I took no such drugs, that they were prescribed for Coco, my 15-1/2-year-old dog, who is in at-home hospice care. But they hung up on me, throwing me into a tizzy. While I intend to retire the end of next month, I wasn't ready yet.

I ponder what my dream is trying to tell me. Certainly, I will miss seeing my patients, but my practice takes more out of me each year. At the age of 75, I admit I've lost a step. I no longer seem to have time for the other things I love: friends and family, photography, and playing around at writing.

Then again, some folks don't realize what a job means to them until they no longer have it. And, I can't deny that it makes my heart feel good when I can help a patient improve the quality of their life. Or is that just my ego talking, taking pleasure in my professional status?

Speaking of retirement and status, I gave a terrible title to my last column in this space: "Youth drives change, not us grizzled elders." I

ruffled the feathers of several older readers who emailed me to object. I never meant to imply that old people couldn't make a difference; such people are all around us: Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Grannny D. What I ham-handedly was attempting to convey is a sociological fact: major social change doesn't happen within a generation but between generations.

One reader, having recently retired—and perhaps having dreams like mine—wrote poignantly: "Are we really too old to make a difference, to participate, to be part of the change that needs to happen? Do we have nothing to offer?"

I think the missing ingredient that prompted her rhetorical question is something I, too, will have to contend with in the coming months: Will I still feel like a valued member of my community? Will I still be seen, or will I feel invisible? Being seen and appreciated is what sociologists call status and having it is essential to a person's well being.

Unfortunately, in today's society, status is not determined by how caring and giving you are or how essential you are to your family or community. Sadly, instead, our worth as a human being is largely determined by what we do for work and how good we are at it. That's

what we put on our résumés and brag about at cocktail parties. It's no wonder that more and more of us feel left out, particularly after retirement.

Michael Sandel calls this the tyranny of merit in his new book by that same name.<sup>2</sup> He says our emphasis on meritocracy is creating ever-widening inequality in our country, fueling the surging polarization that threatens to tear our country apart. On top of that, it has created a toxic economy of esteem.

As Elizabeth Anderson has written in a recent *Nation* article: "The winners in meritocratic competition feel entitled to take all they can, while the losers feel humiliated, continually told they deserve the fate to which elites consign them. However socially necessary their jobs may be, their contributions to the common good are disparaged by elites as uncredentialed and "low skill."<sup>3</sup>

I appear destined, without either credentials or a job, to be assigned a seat in that same overloaded, low status boat. Yet, despite my musings, I am confident I can retain my self-esteem. When I was younger, I never had the time to smell the roses because I was overwhelmed with too much stuff I thought I needed to do. Finally, now is my opportunity to open myself fully to the present mo-



Coco the Plott hound, on the shore of Jenness Pond. Photo by Jean Stimmell.

ment which, according to many wise people, is the road to enlightenment.

It is also a reminder that I will soon have to change my *Concord Monitor* byline<sup>4</sup> to reflect these changes in my life: I will no longer be a psychotherapist, and Coco, most likely, will have departed to chase rabbits in doggie heaven. Yet I am not deterred: understanding that all life is change, I am looking forward to embracing a new, simplified byline: "Just another old person

from Northwood."

- 1 *Concord Monitor*, May 9, 2021.
- 2 *The Tyranny of Merit: What's Become of the Common Good?*
- 3 <https://www.thenation.com/article/society/sandel-tyranny-merit/>
- 4 My current byline reads as follows: "Jean Stimmell is a semi-retired psychotherapist living with the two women in his life, Russet the artist and Coco the Plott hound, in Northwood. His blog can be found online at [jeanstimmell.blogspot.com](http://jeanstimmell.blogspot.com)."

*Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.*  
from page five

visit to Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza border on a visit a year ago. We related to average citizens, not terrorists. I'm afraid that my experience and beliefs do not align with Mr. Alexenberg's. For example, I do not believe that the dispute in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood is merely a rent dispute. I do not think the occupation by Israel of Palestinian territory on the West Bank and Gaza is right or legitimate especially given what I've learned are Jewish values of welcoming the stranger

and making the world a better place.

Mr. Alexenberg does not mention the occupation at all. The checkpoints, humiliation, loss of home, loss of timely healthcare are what I saw. There has been terrible violence from all sides. He does not mention the permanent settlements established by Israel on Palestinian land which slowly but surely make it very difficult to create an equal Palestinian state. He does not mention that many Palestinian men have been jailed.

On one of our first days on the trip there were explanations for me of some of the anger and a lot of the

fear that I know I would experience if I lived in Israel or Palestine. In the morning, we visited Yad Vashem, a museum of the Holocaust, and in the afternoon we visited a demolished Palestinian village, Lifta. Each explained the strong feelings—horror, fear, and anger—to me of both peoples, Israeli and Palestinian. I know I would want safety above all else if I'd experienced the Holocaust, and I would hate to lose my home and way of life on the other hand.

Of course, I am scared by the anti-Semitism that seems to be sweeping the United States. I think we can find a great deal of blame ev-

erywhere as this conflict in the Middle East is not an easily solved peace puzzle as Mr. Alexenberg suggested. I just hope we have the courage of some of the people we met in Israel and Palestine who work together to solve these issues.

Judy Ullman  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Judy:  
Your letter highlights an inherent flaw in papers such as the *Herald*. Its local editors no doubt make a valiant effort. We suspect, though, that the workload imposed on them by their corporate overlords precludes their addressing the issues you bring up. One

also has to wonder: if they had the time, would they have the freedom to scratch up the information missing from Mr. Alexenberg's piece?

The Editor  
=====  
"In capitalism 'haves' rip off 'have nots.' When revolution threatens, 'haves' fund a temp middle class, the 'think they haves.' Once revolutionary threats pass, funding stops for 'think they haves.' They sink back into 'have nots.' To grasp this pattern is to bring capitalism's end nearer."  
—Richard D. Wolff, Professor Emeritus, U. Mass., Amherst  
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## “We Forced Them to Be Brutal to Us”

by W.D. Ehrhart

Does anyone ever notice those ubiquitous black-and-white POW/MIA flags anymore? You see them everywhere: post offices; federal, state, and municipal buildings; many banks and other privately owned properties; even at all the rest stops on the New Jersey Turnpike.

I'd be willing to bet that almost no one under the age of 40 has any idea what those flags are supposed to represent, or how and why they got where they are. Indeed, even most people over 40 probably don't know or have long since ceased to think about it.

But for over a quarter of a century, the issue of American prisoners of war and missing in action in Vietnam (POW/MIA) was seldom far from the headlines. It became the *raison d'être* for Richard Nixon's continuation of the war, and the argument for refusing to grant diplomatic recognition to Vietnam for another two decades.

H. Bruce Franklin's *MIA, or Mythmaking in America* convincingly detailed how the myth of the POW/MIA became mythology. And Elliot Gruner's *Prisoners of Culture* explained how the POWs were transformed from survivors into heroes. Both books were published in 1993, and neither was a bestseller, but soon after they were published, the Clinton administration extended diplomatic recognition to Vietnam, and the POW/

MIA issue faded into obscurity.

But now comes a new book that illuminates a side of the POW story that has been largely neglected: the story of POWs who willingly and voluntarily opposed and spoke out against the war while they were still in captivity: *Dissenting POWs: From Vietnam's Hoa Lo Prison to America Today* by Tom Wilber and Jerry Lembcke (Monthly Review Press, 2021).

The accepted understanding of those “dissenting POWs” is that they were cowards, traitors, weak, brainwashed, or seeking to curry favor with their captors. The authors argue otherwise.

Tom Wilber is the son of one of these “dissenting POWs,” Commander Gene Wilber. Jerry Lembcke is the author of the myth-busting book *The Spitting Image* (1998). They have produced an important book that challenges the argument that dissenting POWs were somehow psychologically damaged, weak, or otherwise compromised, but were instead motivated by conscience, morality, and logic.

Wilber and Lembcke explain how senior ranking officers (SROs), all of them career military men, took control of their subordinates in the camps, and demanded adherence to what these men saw as their “duty” to sacrifice and suffer for the United States of America. As Navy commander and future U.S. Senator Jeremiah Denton admitted years later, “We forced them to be brutal to us.”

In the wake of the apparent weakness of American POWs during the Korean War—largely mythology itself—for senior career military men like Denton, James Stockdale, and Robinson Risner “torture became a way to confirm their worth as American warriors.... When the torture they wanted from the Vietnamese wasn't forthcoming, they provoked it. When that didn't work, they inflicted their own damage.” As Stockdale later wrote, he wanted his wife and his sons to be “proud” of him.

When a few SROs opted out of that masochistic approach, these men ostracized them and threatened them with court-martial in post-captivity, a threat that Stockdale and others tried unsuccessfully to carry out. They did, however, win the cultural war to portray the Vietnamese as sadistic, inhuman monsters who routinely and with relish resorted to torture, and few former POWs dared to challenge their version of captivity.

The public perception of that experience was powerfully fostered by the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia, the ubiquitous metal bracelets sold by the Victory in Vietnam Association (later renamed Voices in Vital America), and the Hollywood film industry through dozens of movies starring the likes of Sylvester Stallone, Chuck Norris, and Gene Hackman, not to mention the incredibly successful campaign to cre-

ate and display the POW/MIA flag.

Like Franklin's and Gruner's books, *Dissenting POWs* is not going to make the New York Times Bestseller List, nor will it alter most people's perceptions of the American POW experience during the

Vietnam War. But at least, for the sake of posterity and accurate history, the book exists for those who care to know. It illuminates an entirely neglected aspect of that sorry episode in American history that the Vietnamese call the American War.



*The POW/MIA flag, flying over the New Hampshire State House in Concord, December 12, 2012. Photo by Alexius Horatius, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.*

### Richard Nixon and the National League of Families

The National League of Families created the POW/MIA flag. Many of its members believed that Richard Nixon shared their anguish, and was doing all he could to bring them home.

The opposite was true. Nixon had sabotaged peace negotiations in 1968 to win the election, thus prolonging the war, and the imprisonment of the POWs.

On October 16, 1972, another election loomed. That night, to create a distraction from a headline reading, “Lawyer for Nixon Said to Have Used GOP's Spy Fund,” Nixon addressed the annual meeting of the League of Families.

After promising not to abandon the men he had already abandoned, he promised to punish the innocent: draft dodgers and deserters.

## Let's Create a Bank System That Serves People, Instead of Bankers

by Jim Hightower

Corporate ideologues never cease blather that government programs should be run like a business.

Really—what businesses would they choose? Pharmaceutical profiteers? Big Oil? Wall Street money manipulators? High tech billionaires? Airline price gougers?

The good news is that the great majority of people aren't buying this corporatist blather, instead valu-

ing institutions that prioritize the Common Good. Thus, by a 2-to-1 margin, Americans have stunned smug right-wing privatizers by specifically declaring in a recent poll that our U.S. Postal Service should not be “run like a business.” Indeed, an overwhelming majority, including half of Republicans, say mail delivery should be run as a “public service,” even if that costs more.

In fact, having proven that this 246-year-old federal agency can consistently and efficiently deliver

to 161 million homes and businesses day after day, it's time to let the agency's trusted, decentralized, well-trained workforce provide even more services for our communities. How about “postal banking?” Yes, the existing network of some 31,000 post offices in metro neighborhoods and small towns across America are perfectly situated and able to provide basic banking services to the one-out-of-four of us who don't have or can't afford bank accounts. The giant banking chains ignore these mil-

lions, leaving them at the mercy of check-cashing exploiters and payday loan sharks.

The Post Office can offer simple, honest banking, including small-dollar checking and savings accounts, very-low-interest consumer loans, low-fee debit cards, etc. The goal of postal banking is not to maximize corporate profits, but public service. Moreover, there's nothing new about this—our post offices served as banks for millions of us until 1967, when Wall Street

profiteers got their enablers in Congress to kill the competition.

We The People own this phenomenal public asset. To enable it to work even better for us, go to [AGrandAlliance.org](http://AGrandAlliance.org).

=====


*Populist author, public speaker, and radio commentator Jim Hightower writes The Hightower Lowdown, a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America's ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at [HightowerLowdown.org](http://HightowerLowdown.org).*

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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 6	MONDAY, JUNE 7	TUESDAY, JUNE 8	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9	THURSDAY, JUNE 10	FRIDAY, JUNE 11	SATURDAY, JUNE 12
<p><b>2002</b>—Donald Rumsfeld explains to the unknowing that unknown unknowns are “things we do not know we don’t know”—and he should know.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Florida man Vance Flosenzier drags a seven-foot shark from shallow water; paramedics drag his nephew Jesse Arbogast’s arm from its mouth; doctors successfully re-attach the arm.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Nuclear weapon manufacturing ends at Rocky Flats, Colo. when FBI and EPA agents raid the joint.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Greenpeace reports there are 50 nuclear weapons and nine reactors on the ocean floor.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Nuke-armed B-52s go on alert for the second time in three days after a computer glitch signals a Soviet attack on the U.S.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—Voters nuke California’s tax base and future by passing Prop. 13.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Governor Mel Thomson calls for the N.H. National Guard to be armed with nuclear weapons.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Native Americans briefly occupy the top of Mount Rushmore.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—Orwell publishes <i>1984</i>. Originally a novel, it became non-fiction.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—GIs, Brits, Canadians, &amp;c. hit the beach at Normandy, France.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Leaders of a racist wildcat strike at Packard, who had fallen for the company’s union-busting gambit of promoting Blacks—lose their jobs.</p> <p><b>1907</b>—The U. of Bern denies Einstein a PhD: his theories about time and space are radical and his assumptions “more artistic than actual Physics.”</p>	<p><b>2018</b>—Attacked by a bobcat in her Georgia driveway, DeDe Phillips, 46, strangles the rabid animal.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Activists are arrested for passing out the Bill of Rights outside the pro-nuclear Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—An article in the <i>Armed Forces Journal</i> says “our army...in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse.”</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Busted for “disturbing the peace,” [<i>i.e.</i>, wearing a jacket with “Fuck The Draft” on the back in a California courthouse], Paul Cohen is sprung by the U.S. Supreme Court.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—Marine PFC Dan Bullock is KIA in Vietnam. He is 15, and Black. His enlistment is deemed “fraudulent,” so he’s denied a grave marker.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Walking for voting rights and freedom, James Meredith, 32, gets three blasts from a shotgun in Hernando, Miss. He’s now 87.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—A BOMARC missile at a site in N.J. catches fire, melting the 10-kiloton nuclear warhead on board; eleven ounces of plutonium go missing.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—In Los Angeles, 5,000 soldiers, sailors, and civilians strip and beat zoot-suited Hispanics.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—George Mallory goes missing near the summit of Mt. Everest.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—KKK Imperial Wizard William J. Simmons hires two PR experts: membership soon explodes.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Brits blow mines under Messines. The town and 10,000 Germans vanish; Dublin hears the blast.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—Condoleezza Rice admits Pres. George W.[MD] Bush’s State of the Union claim that Saddam tried to buy uranium from Niger was “wrong.”</p> <p><b>1991</b>—In a National Victory Celebration, Abrams tanks and 85” heat wreck D.C.’s Constitution Ave.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Israeli planes and boats attack the unarmed U.S. spy ship <i>Liberty</i> with rockets, machine guns, and napalm; 34 sailors are killed, 171 wounded.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Five U.S.A.F. jets fly in formation over Barstow, Calif., for a photo requested by GE marketers. Two crash, including the Valkyrie, worth \$5 billion in today’s money. Two pilots die.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Tech. Sgt. Richard B. Fitzgibbon, Jr. becomes the first U.S. serviceman to die in Vietnam. He’s murdered by a fellow American airman.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—“I would never send troops [to Vietnam],” says Pres. Eisenhower.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—U. Chi. Pres. R.M. Hutchins warns the GI Bill will turn “colleges [into] educational hobo jungles.”</p> <p><b>1943</b>—The Zoot Suit Riots end after military brass put L.A. off-limits and civil authorities impose a dress code.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—A 1,200-foot electrical cable, insulated by oil-covered cloth and being lowered into Butte’s Granite Mountain mine for safety purposes, lands in a heap 2,400 feet down. As a miner inspects it his helmet lamp sets it alight; 168 miners die in the inferno.</p> <p><b>1844</b>—With odds against them 70 to 15, Texas Rangers slay 23 Comanches in their first use of Colt revolvers.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—Donald Trump’s son, son-in-law, and campaign manager meet at Trump Tower with a whole slew of Russians with peculiar associations.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—James Watt, Ronald Reagan’s Interior Secretary, admits to a House committee that he was paid \$400,000 for making a few phone calls on a topic about which he knew nothing.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—The Mormon Church drops its policy of excluding black men from the priesthood.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Under orders from Winona, Miss. cops, jail inmates beat civil rights pioneer Fannie Lou Hamer, 45, nearly to death.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Atop an armored car in Cyprus, British writer Auberon Waugh shakes the barrel of a malfunctioning machine gun, accidentally shooting himself in the chest several times.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Jerry Lee Lewis takes out a full page ad in <i>Billboard</i> to explain his second divorce and third marriage; this one’s to his cousin Myra, who’s 13.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—At a committee hearing, Army attorney Joseph Welch asks Sen. Joseph McCarthy, “Have you no sense of decency, sir?” As the gallery erupts in applause, McCarthy asks Roy Cohn, “What happened?”</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Ted Williams hits a ball that lands in the 37th row of Fenway’s bleachers, over 500 feet away.</p> <p><b>1893</b>—As Edwin Booth, John Wilkes’ brother, is being buried in Boston, the floors collapse at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C., killing 22 people.</p>	<p><b>1990</b>—British Airways pilot Tim Lancaster is sucked half-way out of Flight 5390 when its windshield blows out over Oxfordshire. The plane lands safely; Lancaster resumes flying.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—The Justice Dept. says “no entry” to a bike messenger in a T-shirt saying “Experts agree: Meese is a pig.”</p> <p><b>1975</b>—The Rockefeller Commission finds that the CIA’s CHAOS operation spied on 300,000 Americans and infiltrated political movements.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—The Supreme Court says cops can “stop and frisk” based on “reasonable suspicion.” [Or racist whim?]</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Muted by a tumor, weeks from death, Sen. Clair Engle [D-Calif.] points to his eye; his “aye” vote ends the filibuster of the Civil Rights Act.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—After a big speech saying he’ll negotiate with the USSR and seek world peace, JFK has 165 days to live.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The mishap-prone destroyer <i>William D. Porter</i> evades a kamikaze off Okinawa, but is over the sunken plane when it explodes. Though <i>Porter</i> sinks, all its crewmen survive.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—The Reds’ Joe Nuxhall gives up five runs in the 9th. Hey—he’s 15.</p> <p><b>1940</b>—Black nationalist Marcus Garvey dies of a stroke after reading his own obit in the <i>Chicago Defender</i>.</p> <p><b>1871</b>—U.S. Marines avenge the 1866 loss of the <i>U.S.S. General Sherman</i> by attacking a number of Korean forts on Gangwha Island, killing 243 Koreans in the process. Three months later the Americans withdraw.</p>	<p><b>1995</b>—In Claremont, N.H., Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich shake hands and pledge to reform lobbying and campaign financing. Yeah, right.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—The Supreme Court rules flag desecration laws are unconstitutional.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—The Supreme Court gives prosecutors a new loophole for using illegally-obtained evidence.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—In Saigon, motionless, burning, Thich Quang Duc bends history.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Briefly, George Wallace takes a stand for segregation in the school-house door. Then he scuttles away.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—John and Clarence Anglin, with Frank Morris, escape from Alcatraz. Maybe they drown, maybe not.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—Forget Article One, Clause 3 of the Constitution, says Congress, the House shall have 435 members.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Republicans meeting in the original “smoke-filled room” select, to their discredit, Warren G. Harding.</p> <p><b>1914</b>—A bomb explodes under the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey; British suffragists are thought to be the culprits.</p> <p><b>1851</b>—Having, in four hours, caught, tried, convicted, and sentenced John Jenkins, the First San Francisco Vigilance Committee hangs him.</p> <p><b>1837</b>—Drunken nativist firefighters encounter Irishmen at a funeral: Boston’s Broad Street riot ensues.</p> <p><b>1345</b>—The Chief Minister of the Byzantine Empire inspects a new prison without his bodyguards. Political prisoners hoist his head on a pike.</p>	<p><b>2000</b>—The Energy Department admits that two hard drives holding top-secret data on nuclear weapons have been missing for over a month.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—White House Chief of Staff John H. Sununu takes a government limousine from D.C. to New York City to attend a rare stamp auction.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Failing to recognize the only Black person in his Cabinet, President Reagan, calls Housing Secretary Samuel Pierce “Mr. Mayor.”</p> <p><b>1971</b>—As <i>N.Y. Times</i> presses roll with the “Pentagon Papers,” Daniel Ellsberg and Howard Zinn, in a theater, watch “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid”—completely stoned.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The Army Corps of Engineers stops the American Falls at Niagara.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—The Supreme Court rules interracial marriage is legal.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Medgar Evers is shot and killed in Mississippi; his murderer is convicted 31 years later.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—“We have exactly 342 men,” says General Samuel T. Williams, head of the U.S. MAAG, Vietnam, “the number allowed by the Geneva Armistice Conference. It would be a breeze if we had more.”</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Under interrogation by the House Un-American Activities Committee, Paul Robeson declares, “You are the Un-Americans.”</p> <p><b>1929</b>—First Lady Lou Hoover sparks a national freakout by inviting Jessie DePriest, wife of the only Black man in Congress, to the White House.</p>
9:37 9:54	10:26 10:36	11:10 11:15	11:51 11:51	12:29	12:26 1:05	1:01 1:41
3:22 3:32	4:10 4:15	4:54 4:56	5:34 5:34	6:12 6:10	6:48 6:46	7:24 7:24
SUNDAY, JUNE 13	MONDAY, JUNE 14	TUESDAY, JUNE 15	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16	THURSDAY, JUNE 17	FRIDAY, JUNE 18	SATURDAY, JUNE 19

**2005**—Congress apologizes for having failed to pass 200 anti-lynching bills between 1882 and 1968.

**1985**—Thomas L. Slade and son William are among passengers hijacked on a flight from Beirut, their second such experience in three days.

**1983**—*Pioneer 10* exits the solar system.

**1971**—The *Pentagon Papers* are published. Because they cover only the Kennedy and Johnson years, Kissinger and Nixon laugh in the Oval Office.

**1968**—A U.S. helicopter crew blasts a Vietnamese command post, accidentally killing Saigon’s Chief of Police.

**1966**—The Supreme Court rules that cops can’t make you talk.

**1944**—News reports say Rep. Francis E. Walter (D-Penn.) gave FDR a letter-opener made from the arm bone of a dead Japanese soldier. In 1955, Walter will become chair of HUAC.

**1944**—Germany begins attacking England with V-1 “buzz-bombs.”

**1942**—*U-202* lands eight Nazi saboteurs at Amagansett, Long Island.

**1934**—Hollywood producers conspire to enact the Hays Code, to protect their profits from prudes.

**1920**—Fuddy-duddies at the U.S. Post Office rule that children may no longer be shipped by Parcel Post.

**1914**—On Butte’s Miner’s Union Day, dissidents assault officials, snatch the union’s safe, throw the sheriff out a 2nd-story window, blow open the safe, blow up a union official’s house, and bust two members out of jail.

1:37 2:18

8:02 8:03

**2016**—Lane Graves, 2, is killed by an alligator at Disney World. In response, Disney installs signs warning that alligators are present.

**2001**—Dennis Koslowski throws a \$2.1 million party on Sardinia for his wife Karen’s 40th birthday. Half the cost is covered by Tyco International.

**1954**—Dwight D. Eisenhower signs a bill adding “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1951**—Sen. Joe McCarthy (R-Booze) accuses President Eisenhower and General George Marshall of serving the policies of the Kremlin.

**1949**—The U.S. sends Albert II, a rhesus monkey, into space.

**1943**—The Supreme Court rules that children cannot be forced to salute the flag if it offends their religious beliefs.

**1928**—Ernesto “Che” Guevara is born in Argentina.

**1924**—The KKK attacks an IWW labor hall in San Pedro, Calif. Two kids scalded by coffee are left motherless when Lizzie Sunstedt later dies.

**1922**—In D.C., 5,000 African Americans march silently for an anti-lynching bill which has passed the House. Democrats filibuster it, though.

**1905**—Russian sailors aboard the battleship *Potemkin* mutiny.

**1864**—Inept General Leonidas Polk, CSA, aka “The Fighting Bishop,” is KIA by a 3-inch Federal shell.

**1662**—Former Massachusetts Governor Henry Vane, [1636-37], is beheaded in the Tower of London.

2:16 2:58

8:42 8:46

**2006**—Over Justice Souter’s dissent, the Supreme Court rules that evidence seized by cops breaking “no knock” rules can still be used as evidence.

**2002**—High class accounting firm Arthur Anderson is convicted of obstructing justice by impeding an investigation into G.W.[MD] Bush’s top financial contributor, Enron.

**1967**—Calif. Gov. Ronald Reagan signs a bill liberalizing abortion laws.

**1920**—A mob of thousands drags three Black circus workers from the Duluth, Minn. jail; arrested for a rape that didn’t happen, they’re lynched.

**1917**—Woodrow Wilson signs the Espionage Act. Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman are promptly arrested for conspiring to “induce persons not to register” for the draft.

**1913**—At Bud Bagsak in the Philippines, designer John Browning tests his new .45 pistol on Moro rebels.

**1904**—The side-wheeler *General Slocum* burns during an excursion on New York City’s East River. Of the 1,300 aboard, more than 1,000 die.

**1859**—Near Vancouver, American Lyman Cutlar shoots a pig belonging to Charles Griffin, an Irishman, causing a U.S./British military standoff lasting 12 years.

**1381**—War Tyler’s head gets piked for helping lead the Peasants’ Revolt.

**1215**—English barons force King John to sign the Magna Carta, thus protecting their rights. Peasants are left to fend for themselves.

2:58 3:41

9:24 9:34

**2020**—The *Wall Street Journal* publishes Mike Pence’s op-ed, “There Isn’t a Coronavirus Second Wave.”

**2019**—“Last Call” at The Hammer.

**2015**—For \$50 each, 240 actors cheer on cue in the lobby of Trump Tower as the star of a [cancelled] TV show announces he’s running for President.

**2000**—The Energy Department finds missing top-secret computer hard drives in a location which had already been searched twice.

**1992**—Caspar Weinberger, Ronald Reagan’s Secretary of Defense, is indicted for lying to Congress.

**1991**—Otis Nixon steals six bases.

**1966**—Stokely Carmichael, continuing the March Against Fear as James Meredith recuperates from an assassination attempt, introduces “Black Power” to the nation’s lexicon.

**1944**—South Carolina kills George J. Stinney Jr., convicted in a three-hour trial before an all-white jury. Black, 14, 90lbs., he is seated on phone books so the electrodes can reach him.

**1943**—Charlie Chaplin, 54, marries Oona O’Neill, 18; only his death in 1977 does them part.

**1918**—Eugene V. Debs delivers an anti-draft speech in Canton, Ohio that is so effective he is later charged with ten counts of sedition.

**1857**—A riot erupts between New York City’s two police departments. Corrupt Democratic Mayor Fernando Wood’s recently-abolished Municipal Police retains its hold on City Hall.

3:46 4:29

10:10 10:26

**2020**—“[T]he numbers are very minuscule compared to what it was,” says Dolt #45, “[Covid is] dying out.”

**2017**—Brass on the *U.S.S. Fitzgerald* get their nimble destroyer rammed by a container ship; 7 enlisted sailors die, three are injured, repairs bill: \$367M.

**2015**—Oxymoronic “white supremacist” kills 9 in Charleston, S.C.

**1972**—A Black Vietnam veteran catches Nixon’s Watergate spies.

**1971**—“I want it implemented on a thievery basis,” President Nixon tells aides. “Goddamn it, get in [to the Brookings Institution] and get those files [that might reveal my treasonous interference with the Paris Peace talks]. Blow the safe and get it.”

**1967**—Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara commissions a secret history of the Vietnam War.

**1933**—Syphilitic former sheriff and WWI hero Verne Miller, with three armed pals, tries to spring Frank “Jelly” Nash, a safe-cracker. Nash, in the custody of four G-Men and three cops at Union Station in K.C., Mo., ends up dead, as do a G-Man and three cops.

**1932**—The Senate votes not to pay bonuses due to thousands of Great War vets massed outside the Capitol, setting the stage for a violent rout.

**1775**—With powder pilfered from Portsmouth’s Fort William and Mary, New Hampshire men under Gen. John Stark—plus a few others—kill one-fourth of the British Army’s officers in America at Bunker Hill.

4:38 5:20

10:59 11:23

**2009**—Manchester Mayor Frank Guinta steps over a man with a leg broken in a brawl to exit the Fish & Game Social Club before EMTs arrive.

**1989**—RIP I.F. Stone, legendary journalist who said, “Every government is run by liars and nothing they say should be believed.”

**1965**—Operation Arc Light begins: 27 B-52s fly from Guam to bomb the ‘Nam. Two collide and crash due to navigational errors, a third goes down after in-flight refueling fails.

**1959**—Louisiana Gov. Earl Long is committed to a mental hospital; his governance continues unabated.

**1954**—Alabama State Attorney candidate Alfred Patterson [D], who’d vowed to rid Phenix City of vice, is shot dead by ex-sheriff Albert Fuller.

**1954**—Fred C. Trump is grilled about war profiteering from the FHA.

**1954**—A CIA army invades Guatemala to topple democratically-elected President Jacobo Arbenz and make the place safe for the United Fruit Co.

**1948**—Truman OKs plausibly-deniable propaganda, sabotage, demolition, & economic warfare by the CIA.

**1869**—*New York Times* founder Henry J. Raymond dies of a stroke at 49 while entertaining his mistress.

**1865**—Wrapped in a Confederate flag, slavery proponent Edmund Ruffin, unreconciled to “the perfidious, malignant, & vile Yankee race” and undeterred by a misfire, reloads and blows out what brains he had.

5:34 6:14

11:52

**2011**—On the HBO show “Game of Thrones,” George W.[MD] Bush’s decapitated head appears on a pike.

**2006**—Publisher and Bush appointee Phillip Merrill is discovered shot and weighted down in Chesapeake Bay where the CIA’s Bill Colby and John Paisley ended up; all suicides, though.

**1969**—Tobar, Nev.—named for a sign pointing to a saloon—is dealt a death blow by an exploding railroad car full of bombs en route to Vietnam.

**1965**—Thousands of funlovers at the Weirs throw rocks at cops and burn overturned cars. The N.H. National Guard peppers them with birdshot as Laconia’s Riot Squad arrests 150.

**1954**—Warned by Sen. Styles Bridges (R-N.H.) that his son’s homosexuality would be exposed if he did not resign, Sen. Lester C. Hunt (D-Wyo.) shoots himself dead in his Senate office.

**1953**—Julius and Ethel Rosenberg become the first native-born Americans executed for espionage.

**1893**—Lizzie Borden gets off.

**1879**—Gen. Wm. T. Sherman, at the Michigan Military Academy, tells his audience, “There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but, boys, it is all hell.”

**1865**—Slaves in Texas learn they’re free; now this date is “Juneteenth.”

**1864**—The Portsmouth-built ship *Kearsarge* sinks the Confederate raider *Alabama* off Cherbourg.

**1656**—Reputedly a wit, Boston’s Ann Hibbins is hanged as a witch.

6:34 7:09

12:22 12:46



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