

The Fortnightly Rant

So Much for Progress

The American Conservative Union (ACU) boasts of being “the nation’s oldest conservative grassroots organization.”* Born in December, 1964—one month after, and in response to, Barry Goldwater’s epic electoral humiliation—the ACU is now 56.

People used to say that’s “old enough to know better.” Now that folk wisdom has been supplanted by a line of movie dialogue: “stupid is as stupid does.”

In ’64, the ACU’s conservative *bona fides* were above reproach. Among its founders was William F. Buckley, Jr., who famously wrote, introducing his magazine *National Review* in 1955, that it “stands athwart history, yelling Stop.” A more succinct definition of conservatism has yet to be written; a more accurate one would have to include the intent to reverse direction.

The ACU’s founders proclaimed that its “view of world affairs” was “substantially at variance with that taken by Mr. Robert Welch in his most publicized writing. Under the circumstances, the leadership of the ACU will be wholly distinct from that of the John Birch Society.”

Even gun-toting, cat-shooting William Loeb, paleo-conservative owner of the *Union Leader*, called Welch a “bloody nut.” Times have changed, though. Welch would have fit right in at CPAC’s most recent annual event.

“Wait just a minute,” sputters an indignant reader. “That annual event was back in February. We’re used to well-seasoned news in this rag, but this is getting ridiculous.”

* An earlier version of the ACU’s tagline had to be revised. Its original wording was “the nation’s original conservative organization.” That effectively tossed the Federalist Party—political home of the authors of the little read but much revered *Federalist Papers*—into the dustbin of history.

It is indeed ridiculous, dear reader, we can’t argue with that. And CPAC did hold an annual conference in February, in Orlando—where the stage was in the shape of a neo-Nazi symbol, and attendees paid homage to a golden effigy.

Apparently, though, CPAC now holds annual events whenever Chairman Matt Schlapp gets the urge. It’s like those 100-year floods, which seem to come every year now. This time the shindig was held in Dallas. In lieu of neo-Nazi symbolism, the stage bore a subtle resemblance to a penis.

In a 2024 Presidential nomination straw poll, 70 percent of the attendees said they would vote to give the former guy another term. Given the audience, we’re surprised he didn’t do better. Still, that’s not a bad outcome for a guy who used mob violence in an attempt to overthrow the government. Treason is still treason, isn’t it?

Mike Pence didn’t do as well in the poll as his former running mate. Perhaps that’s because, in his role as Vice President, he certified Joe Biden’s electoral victory. Still, getting 0 percent must have stung.

At least he had plenty of company. Nine other Party bigwigs also placed in the zero digits; half a dozen could claim a whopping one percent.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis came in second with 21 percent. If you want to break out of the pack, maybe being rabid helps.

One has to wonder how much farther this can go. Alex Berenson, a former *New York Times* reporter turned anti-vaccine huckster, told the crowd, “the government was hoping that they could sort of sucker 90 percent of the population into getting vaccinated, and it isn’t happening.” In response, the crowd clapped and cheered.



© RIP VAN WINKLE WAKES UP AFTER A 76-YEAR NAP

As CPAC was getting underway, *Newsmax*’s Rob Schmitt laid out the philosophical underpinnings of this position: “[O]bviously, I’m not a doctor. But I’ve always thought about vaccines, and I always think about just nature, and the way everything works. And I feel like a vaccination in a weird way is just generally kind of going against nature. . . . maybe there’s just an ebb and flow to life where something’s supposed to wipe out a certain amount of people, and that’s just kind of the way evolution goes. Vaccines kind of stand in the way of that.”

This is a free country. Everyone should have the right to join a death cult, if that’s what they really want. Something about suicide by contagious disease just doesn’t seem kosher, though. Johns Hopkins announced on Monday that the daily rate of covid infections in the U.S. has doubled in the past two weeks. The rate of infections is rising in 48 states, including New Hampshire.

We suppose that there’s reason to hope nature will wipe out the

un-vaccinated first. If so, it had better hurry. Some freelance genius down in Dallas was handing out cards with a seven-point plan to “Restore Donald J. Trump In Days, Not Years.”

In and of itself this “plan” is probably no cause for alarm. Here’s Step One: “Pull back the curtain on the horror show that is today’s ‘Democrat Party.’ Watch Nancy Pelosi melt, like the Wicked Witch of the West.” Oh, heaven forfend—we’re quaking in our jackboots!

The imaginary sequence of implausible events laid out by this small-time grifter—who, oddly enough, solicits donations by check through a PO Box in the People’s Republic of Somerville, Massachusetts—could serve, though, as the script for a real life remake of January 6th:

Make #45 Speaker of the House, empowering him to expose secret investigations which reveal he won in 2020 fair and square. Congress then would have no choice but to impeach Biden and Harris: Bingo!

It’s madness, of course, and can thus be dismissed. . . just like in 2016.

Writing in the *Daily Beast* recently, David Rothkopf stuck his neck out by asking, “Why are a third of us such gullible rubes?” He answered his own question with this truth: “virtually all of us on the planet—[are] brought up to believe howling absurdities, ridiculous impossibilities, and insupportable malarkey from our very first moments on Earth.”

Nick Carmody, who professes to have a Masters in Psychology, has been tweeting prolifically about the motivations of Rothkopf’s gullible rubes. He argues that “an addiction model may actually explain tribalism, confirmation bias, and even conspiracy theories/QAnon.”

Every time a right wing rage junkie’s subjective beliefs get confirmed by a wingnut authority figure, their brains reward them with a hit of dopamine.

In our considered opinion, Rothkopf and Carmody are both correct. But maybe we’re just gullible too.

The Alleged News®

Big Weekend Gets Off to a Weird Start

The Fourth of July weekend started early in Los Angeles this year. On Wednesday, June 30th, the L.A. Police Department blew up two blocks in the middle of Historic South Central.

Unfortunately, this was not a controlled fireworks display, intended to entertain the local residents and thereby create lasting bonds of amity and goodwill. It was more like the opposite of that.

Seventeen people were hurt in the 7:30 p.m. blast; none had life-threatening injuries. Fifty residents were displaced from their homes for a week.

What’s truly strange about this story is that it could have been a whole lot worse.

Apparently responding to a tip, patrol officers went to the 700 block of East 27th Street. Amid the

modest one- and two-story homes, crowded onto tiny lots, they found a pile of fireworks stacked eight or ten feet high in a back yard. They estimated the weight of explosives to be about two tons.

Speaking at a press conference, Michael Moore—the L.A. Police Chief, not the film-maker—said nearly all of that material was safely hauled off for storage elsewhere, in a day-long operation using three box trucks and a 53-foot trailer. The damage, Moore said, was caused by forty improvised explosives the size of a soda can, and another 200 similar but smaller devices, with a combined weight of less than ten pounds.

Los Angeles Magazine, quoting a complaint filed by the U.S. District Attorney, reported that Arturo Ceja III had “purchased the fireworks

from a dealer known as ‘Area 51’ in Pahrump, Nevada, where they are legally sold.

“The complaint also states that it was an LAPD bomb squad supervisor who made the determination that ‘some of the homemade fireworks and improvised explosives were not safe to transport due to risk of detonation in a densely populated area and therefore would be destroyed on scene using a total containment vessel [TCV].’ The complaint says that ‘LAPD bomb technicians told residents in the area to either evacuate or stay indoors while the fireworks were destroyed in the TCV.’”

Chief Moore said “this vessel should have been able to safely dispose of that material.” Instead, the 500-pound lid of the TCV was found three or four blocks from the

center of the blast.

KCRW reported July 8th that real estate speculators are already trying to buy damaged properties.

“There [are] tons of speculators coming already, trying to buy our properties,” Martha Sanchez told the local NPR affiliate. Sanchez is the Secretary of the South Central Neighborhood Council.

“We receive at least three or four calls every day asking us to sell our properties. If they condemn those properties, they’re going to displace more poor people that have no idea how to pay their rent. That’s unbelievable.”

Or business as usual.

On July 1st, the Boy Scouts of America agreed to pay \$850 million to settle 60,000 cases of child sex abuse. Fifteen days later, we’d wager

that hardly anyone even remembers that headline. Well, the survivors, of course. But then, they didn’t need the headline, did they?

That is a staggering sum of money—until you divide it by the number of victims. How American can you get? Compensate a person for a lifetime of nightmares by giving them enough cash to buy a used pickup truck.

Still, that’s better than the \$1,800-a-pop ‘Nam vets got in the Agent Orange settlement, even adjusted for inflation.

Here are a few other stories likely forgotten:

On Friday the 2nd, the Gulf of Mexico caught fire. We hope Randy

The Alleged News®

from page one

Newman's working on that. . .

Saturday, the 3rd, after a foot of rain fell in 48 hours, a huge mudslide in Japan carried away 19 people.

That same day but closer to home—just fifty miles south of here—Mass. cops had a standoff on I-95, with an armed group of about a dozen camo-wearing Black men calling themselves Rise of the Moors.

Meanwhile in Florida, authorities demolished the standing remnant of collapsed condo building due to fears that Hurricane Elsa might knock it down, thereby complicating the task of searching for survivors in the rubble of the part of the building that had collapsed earlier.

The big story, though—one less likely to be forgotten, because it's not going to end—follows. . .

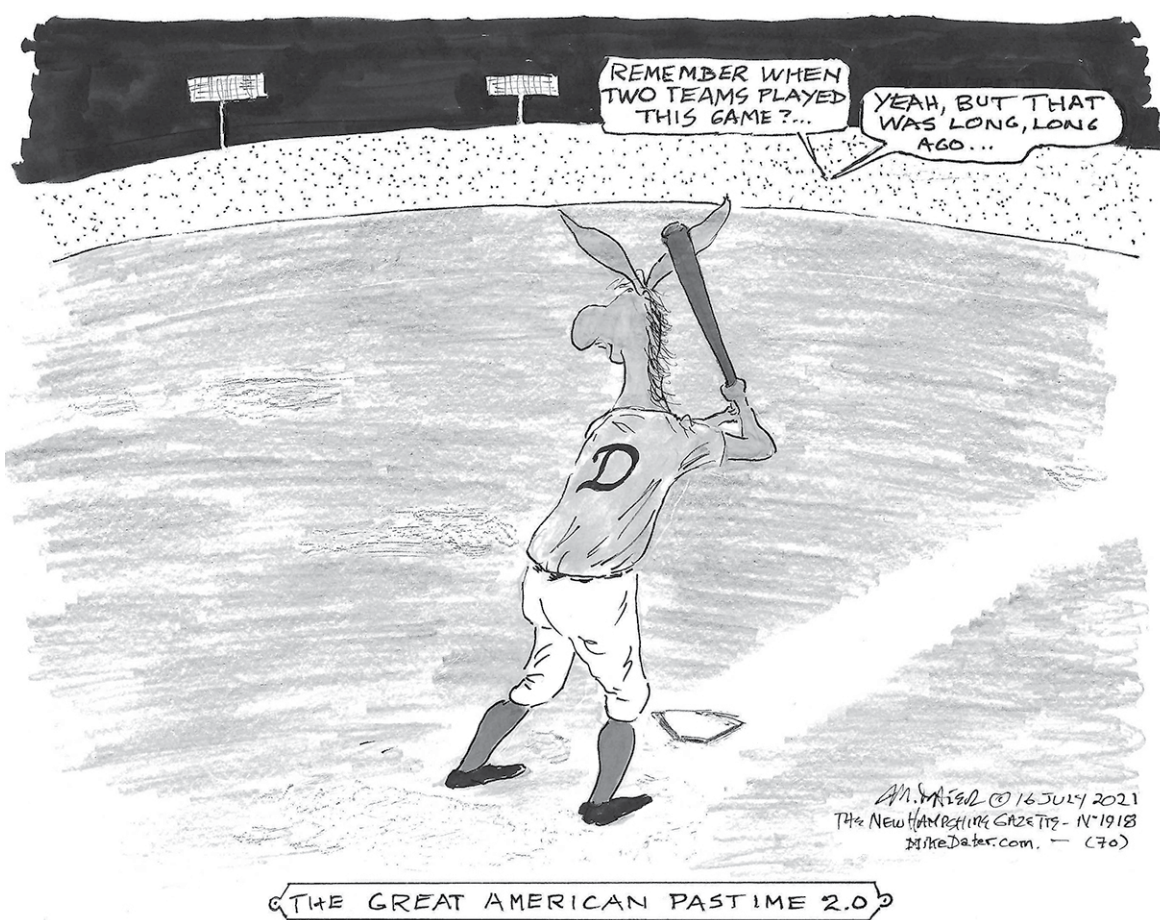
Western Canada Burns And Deaths Mount After World's Most Extreme Heat Wave In Modern History

by Bob Henson and Jeff Masters, for Yale Climate Connections, July 1, 2021

Hundreds of North Americans—and perhaps many more yet to be tallied—have died of heat-related illness over the past week after a mind-boggling heat wave struck the U.S. Pacific Northwest and far southwest Canada. It's virtually certain to be the deadliest weather event on record for the region. The unprecedented death toll is the result of a heat onslaught more intense by some measures than anything in global records, yet very much in line with the expected impacts of a human-warmed climate.

The poster community of this horrific episode has to be Lytton, British Columbia. The town broke Canada's longstanding all-time national high temperature of 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) with a high of 46.6°C (116°F) on Sunday, June 27. The next day brought 47.9°C (118.2°F), and Tuesday a stunning 49.6°C (121°F).

The intense heat flash-dried the rugged, forested landscape, and wildfires mushroomed across the area on Wednesday, June 30. By evening, the entire town of Lytton



It was an injustice that, by 1971, had become too glaring too ignore: a high percentage of the Americans being killed in Vietnam were too young to vote. Ending the war was, of course, out of the question, so the nation ratified the 26th Amendment instead: cannon fodder was thus enfranchised. It has since become politically fashionable to reduce, rather than extend, voting rights—particularly among young people, whose cynicism has not yet had time to fully develop. Traditionalists rallied at Prescott Park on Saturday, to celebrate the 26th Amendment, and to support the "For the People Act," which would defend democracy against its domestic enemies.

was under mandatory evacuation orders, and Mayor Jan Polderman told CBC News that "the whole town is on fire." Most homes in Lytton have been destroyed, according to provincial authorities. . .

Never in the century-plus history of world weather observation have so many all-time heat records fallen by such a large margin than in the past week's historic heat wave in western North America. The only heat wave that close is the great Dust Bowl heat wave of July, 1936 in the U.S. Midwest and south-central Canada. But even that cannot compare to what happened in the Northwest U.S. and western Canada over the past week.

"This is the most anomalous regional extreme heat event to occur anywhere on Earth since temperature records began. Nothing can compare," said weather historian Christopher Burt, author of the book *Extreme Weather*.

Pointing to Lytton, Canada, he

added, "There has never been a national heat record in a country with an extensive period of record and a multitude of observation sites that was beaten by 7°F to 8°F."

International weather records researcher Maximiliano Herrera (@extremetemps) agrees. "What we are seeing now is totally unprecedented worldwide," said Herrera, who tweeted on June 30th, "It's an endless waterfall of records being smashed." . . .

According to Herrera, more all-time heat records have been broken by at least 5°C (9°F) in the past week's heat wave than in the previous 84-plus years of world weather recordkeeping, going back to July 1936. It's worth noting that the record North American heat of the 1930s, including 1936, was largely connected to the Dust Bowl, in which the effects of a multiyear drought were amplified by overplowed, denuded soil across the Great Plains—an example of hu-

man-induced climate change itself, albeit temporary.

Preliminary data from NOAA's U.S. Records website shows that 55 U.S. stations had the highest temperatures in their history in the week ending June 28th. More than 400 daily record highs were set. Over the past year, the nation has experienced about 38,000 daily record highs versus about 18,500 record lows, consistent with the 2:1 ratio of hot to cold records set in recent years. . .

Bob Henson is a meteorologist and journalist based in Boulder, Colorado. Jeff Masters, Ph.D., worked as a hurricane scientist with the NOAA Hurricane Hunters from 1986-1990. Yale Climate Connections is an initiative of the Yale Center for Environmental Communication (YCEC), directed by Dr. Anthony Leiserowitz of the Yale School of the Environment, Yale University. It aims to help citizens and institutions understand how the changing climate is already affecting our lives.

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

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Is QAnon in The [N.H. State] House?

Perusing Twitter, as one does, we came across this alarming message from Alex Kaplan, aka @AlKapDC: "We now know of a 7th QAnon-connected incumbent state legislator currently serving, *this one in New Hampshire*. The others are in Arizona, Maryland, Florida, Tennessee, Washington State, & Connecticut. (h/t @ehananoki)." [Emphasis added.]

What makes Kaplan think Representative Terry [Belknap 5] is part of a cult which believes, according to Wikipedia, in "a discredited far-right conspiracy theory alleging that a cabal of Satanic, cannibalistic pedophiles run a global child sex trafficking ring and conspired against former President of the United States Donald Trump during his term in office"?

The Facebook post shown below, dated November 3, 2020, in which Terry included this cryptic string of characters—"WWG1WGA"—followed by a winking emoji. Wikipedia the All-Knowing explains that the acronym stands for "Where We Go One, We Go All." QAnon cultists lifted the phrase from the 1996 movie *White Squall*.

A cult that lifts its catch phrases from a Hollywood movie—you can't get any more all-American than that. Our mobsters have been mimicking Hollywood actors since the 1930s.

Not wishing to suggest that Rep. Terry believes in a cabal of Satanic, cannibalistic pedophiles running a global child sex trafficking ring without giving him a chance to repudiate his own post on Facebook, we sent him this email Tuesday:



Paul Terry won on November 3rd. He's now a State Representative in Concord. This Facebook post suggests he may also be a QAnon follower.



As the folks on the opposite page celebrated the right to vote, this gentleman used his First Amendment right to freedom of speech to extol the perceived virtues of the Second Amendment. He also flouted the Flag Code to convey his support for law enforcement. Finally, he appeared to be declaring that his mind was made up as to who should be our next President, with a large blue banner reading, "Trump 2024 — Save America Again."



"On November 3, 2020, on your Facebook page, you wrote:

"VOTE today. VOTE like YOUR life and those you love depend upon it. VOTE, so that you will ever be able to say that you were not AWOL, hiding or not caring enough!"

"WWG1WGA! [Winking emoji.] "What did you mean by 'WWG1WGA'?"

"What is the significance of the winking emoji which follows that acronym?"

Post Office Blue[s]

Having weathered more metaphorical storms than whole newspaper chains of more recent vintage, we knew to expect, when we returned to print, that we would meet some unknown challenges. One of them, as things have turned out, was the mailing of papers to subscribers.

Our June 4th mailing went deceptively well: a seasoned postal worker at the Heritage Avenue P.O. processed our First Class bulk mail-

ing expeditiously.

On the 18th, that worker was on vacation, but a co-worker improvised successfully.

From there things went downhill. We visited the Post Office on June 25th, an off Friday, and were advised that we should not expect to find anyone behind the counter trained to accept and process a bulk mailing.

Fearing that our July 2nd paper might be delayed, we took the brute force route. After applying a First Class "Forever" stamps to every outgoing issue, we brought the papers to Kittery, Maine—because what the hell, it's a lot closer. Let's just say, employing a little industrial-strength understatement here, that the results were sub-par. A reader in the Philadelphia area didn't get his copy until the 10th.

After a cordial conversation with Portsmouth's Acting Postmaster Amanda Snow, however, we feel we are back on track. This paper is going out by way of Heritage Avenue.

ProgressPortsmouth.com says:

Haven't voted in the last four years?

Portsmouth residents who have not voted in the past four years will be removed from the voter rolls by the City as required by state law, unless you re-register by August 1, 2021.

You can register or re-register at the City Clerk's office during regular office hours at City Hall:

Mon. 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; Tues., Wed., Thurs. 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Portsmouth Board of Registrars will also host two special registration sessions at City Hall:

Tues., July 13th, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Tues., July 20th, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

To register or re-register, you'll need to:

Present proof of identity, age, citizenship, and home address.

If you don't have proof, sign an at-testing affidavit.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
 "Our major obligation is not to mistake slogans for solutions."
 — Edward R. Murrow (1908-1965) journalist, news correspondent

"Our profoundly unequal society...conditions us to believe that what we have is what we earned. That individual hard work and virtue, or the lack thereof, explains our place in the world. That's a bunch of crap."
 john@wordpraxis.com — Eric Liu, *Become America*, 2019, p. 126

"Senators could seldom give a reason for obstruction. In every hundred men, a certain number obstruct by instinct, and try to invent reasons to explain it afterwards."
 — Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams* (1907)
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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 Franklin Pierce Law School, 2 White St.

Hanover:
 Hanover Public Library, 13 South St.

Keene:
 Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.

Lebanon:
 Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

The Cost of Under-Taxing the Super-Rich
To the Editor:

We often hear conservatives say that government should “live within its means.” I agree. As a nation or a family, we have the option of living within, above or below our means. Living either above or below our means has negative consequences on both a family and a nation.

Since the 1980's, America has been acting like a family whose primary earner has decided to work less than part-time, earning just enough to provide the bare minimum of essentials. This decision is not based on any physical or intellectual limitation, or the inability to earn much more than they are capable, rather it is a conscious decision, that, as a result, deprives its family of basic essentials like quality health care, education, a proper living environment, and quality child care. This is the America of today.

From 1945 to the 1980's, the highest marginal tax rate in America never fell below 70 percent (*N.H. Gazette*), and in the 1950's, under a Republican President, it was as high as 92 percent. During these almost three decades, America experienced unprecedented economic prosperity and growth. We rebuilt Europe through the Marshall Plan, educated millions of veterans with the G.I. Bill, creating a prosperous middle-class, we built the Interstate Highway System, passed Medicare and Medicaid, and provided a strong national defense. And throughout this period, our budget deficit and national debt were almost non-existent, and the wealth disparity between the rich and the middle class was reasonable. America was living within its means.

Unfortunately, since the 1980's America has steadily reduced its earning power by lowering tax revenues, especially on the most wealthy. Today, the highest marginal tax rate stands at 37 percent and, as a result, our budget deficit and national debt have skyrocketed and our wealth disparity is at an obscene level. Currently, the top one percent own more wealth than the bottom 90 percent (*New York Times*). America is intentionally living well

below its means in order to allow the most wealthy to avoid paying their fair share. The result is that we are unnecessarily depriving our “family” of quality health care, a clean environment, quality public education, child care, a livable wage for all workers, and a modern and well maintained infrastructure. In the long-term, such a situation is not sustainable for either a stable family or a nation.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:
Welcome back to our literal pages. We've missed you.

Thanks for making this extremely important point so eloquently.
The Editor

=====
Tossing N.H. Under the Bus?

To the Editor:

A civil engineer by training, Chris Sununu has apparently completed his survey of New Hampshire's political landscape and concluded he needs the blessing of Trump's big-lie machine in Washington more than the support of this state's moderates to secure his political future.

Some still question if Chris will run for Senate, but his willingness to sign New Hampshire's Free-State inspired budget and its draconian trailer suggests he will. After all, who in their right mind would approve such a travesty and then hang around to preside over the consequences?

Also, what better way to signal wealthy GOP donors in Washington that he'll be a tight-fisted team player from north of the Mason-Dixon line? A good move because he'll need those folks-from-away to write the big checks it takes to mount a well-financed Senatorial campaign.

Yup, just another (fill in the blank) Sununu.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:
Thank you for your letter. It gives us an excuse to treat our readers with the great Lily Tomlin's best line ever: “No matter how cynical you become, it's never enough.”

His Hereditariness would have us



believe that he is the kinder, gentler Sununu. Talk about setting a low bar. Granted, Sununu 2.0 does not share his father's propensity for snarling in public. His fast-talking folksiness merely serves to disguise, though, a mean and cruel political agenda.

The Editor

=====
Knock, Knock - Who's There?

Friends,

[Note: Jason Osborne continues to bombard our inbox with fund-raising spam. Since he's trying to help more Free State whack jobs infiltrate the State House, we're categorizing this as hate mail. - The Ed.]

I don't know if you heard the news but the Biden administration has decided to send federal agents into New Hampshire to your doorstep to see if you have taken the vaccine.

[Note: Mr. Osborne seems to be off his feed. He failed to deploy the “jack-booted thugs” meme. - The Ed.]

The Biden Administration has made it abundantly clear that they are not shy about intruding on Americans' right to medical privacy.

[Note: This is prettly rich, coming from the Majority Leader of a 400-person legislature that insists on horning into the most intimate conversations between women and their OB-GYNs. - The Ed.]

The President's call to begin targeting the doors of unvaccinated individuals is yet another reminder that this administration will trample our liberties if left unchecked. The Republican caucus remains committed to continuing our work to strengthen medical freedom and preserve privacy rights in New Hampshire.

[Note: Just so we're clear, here: protecting public health = trampling on people's right to die a horrible and unnecessary death. Right. - The Ed.]

Granite Staters exercising their right to refuse a medical treatment should not be subject to an intimidation campaign at their doorstep. When

the government tries to intrude on our households, it is up to us to slam the door in their face.

[Note: If we ever hear that, God forbid, you're involved in a car wreck, we presume you'll waive off the rescue squad. - The Ed.]

Rest assured, we will do everything in our power to fight this overreach in Concord and make sure that Biden's bureaucrats stay right where they belong—in DC.

[Note: Hmm... (sagely strokes chin)... how long have you been having these delusions of omnipotence? - The Ed.]

While you won't get another chance to vote Biden out of office for three (LONG) years, you can help send a message today by donating to the Committee to Elect House Republicans which will help send more Republicans to Concord to continue to push back on Biden and his gross overreach.

[Note: We would sooner convert our retirement account—currently in the form of small copper disks—into Federal Reserve Notes and burn them. - The Ed.]

Majority Leader Jason Osborne
Chairman, Committee to Elect House Republicans

=====
Highlight Acceptance, Not Skin Color

To the Editor:

When your child is born, you look at the miraculous little human before you in excitement of all the wonders they're yet to experience—but you also feel fear. Fear that they'll be hurt or made to feel so much smaller than those big, bright eyes are ever meant to feel. Imagine knowing that in as few as five years, that child will either be deemed privileged and intolerant or handicapped and—both prescribed opinions by D.C progressives who've never glimpsed the child.

This is the future New Hampshire would actively seek were we to allow CRT *[Note: We presume Katherine means Critical Race Theory. - The Ed.]* to creep into our local school systems. Young children would be told their skin color comes with certain pretenses that simply can't be realistically applied on an individual basis.

Our New Hampshire legislature took measures to protect our children, allowing them to grow up untainted from progressive projections in a place they feel most safe—the classroom. Despite what liberal media attempts to push as a narrative, this budget provision strengthens the state's anti-discrimination laws so that one cannot teach that an individual is inherently inferior to another person, simply because of the color of their skin, their religion, their sexual orientation, or by other means. This bill promotes acceptance, not skin color.

Katherine Arnault
Merrimack, N.H.

Katherine:
Your letter raises a question we frequently ask these days: how are we to distinguish between those who are legitimately confused, and those who are pretending to be confused because, in doing so, they may further their cult's agenda of achieving an even higher level of political dominance?

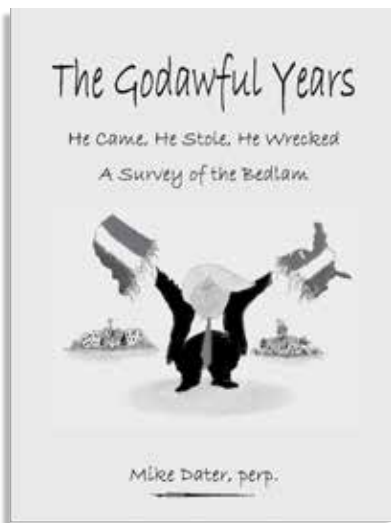
If a person is legitimately confused by something—this red herring CRT argument, for example—one might respond with a gentle application of facts and logic.

If, on the other hand, a smiling person offers us the equivalent of a home-baked pie, the filling of which was shoveled out of the cowshed, a different sort of response is called for.

The bill to which you refer is not an even-handed effort to ensure that all are

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treated fairly. It is an underhanded effort to perpetuate white supremacy by prohibiting teachers from telling the truth.

The Editor

====

The Christian Church in the Spotlight Again
Dear Editor,

The controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention over systemic racism (critical race theory) points to the politicized nature of Christianity from the beginning.

The earliest issue was whether or not to fellowship with heathens. By the time of the Reformation, the church had been on a 1,500-year quest to amass wealth and influence in the world through political means.

When modern nations enforced separation of church and state, the church found protection from marginalization by asserting its supremacy over government in matters like providing for the success of families, the eradication of crime and punishment, and the construction of holy and healthy cities. These things it tries to achieve by bringing more folks into the society of the church, teaching proper lifestyle, and promising happy life in the hereafter.

The process of separation has gone so far that many evangelical churches today see the larger society almost as an enemy, and so they are late comers, if they arrive at all, to social improvement efforts like the civil rights movement.

Jesus himself, however, dove into problems and solutions dealing with all sectors of society. He taught a kingdom of God that emphatically requires individual civic involvement in the secular realm as well as effort in the church realm.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah

Kimball:

We agree: religion certainly has been mixed up with politics since...oh, approximately forever.

We wish we shared your apparent confidence in this country's alleged separation of church and state. Here in New Hampshire our 400-member General Court has managed to interpose itself between women and their doctors.

It's one thing to venerate the Biblical Jesus—the one who said the last shall be first—but let's keep him out of the law books. The minute he gets his sandal in the door, though, Jehovah from Leviticus and Deuteronomy busts down the door behind him.

The Editor

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**Spanish-Style Pardons
For Catalan Political Prisoners**

To the Editors:

The Spanish government has granted a pardon to the nine Catalan political prisoners and it pains me that internationally they attribute good intentions to this farce.

The pardons have been given in a forced manner, because of the recent Council of Europe report, which equates Spain with Turkey, and because of the imminent, presumably condemnatory judgement of the European Union Court of Human Rights. But these are Spanish-style pardons: "reversible pardons."

They are not pardons but conditional release and, if at some point they consider that they are not behaving "correctly," they will put them back in prison.

Furthermore, in Catalonia, there are 3,300 pro-independence supporters with open criminal proceedings for holding peaceful demonstrations. For them there will be no pardons, but fines and imprisonment. Like the recent five-year prison sentence for the

young Marcel Vivet. Convicted without evidence, only on the accusation of a policeman (who, moreover, we have now discovered, had blamed another demonstrator for the same action!)

And there will be no pardon for the exiles (in Belgium and Switzerland), who will still not be able to return home because the Spanish police will arrest them against the criteria of the Council of Europe and against the immunity they enjoy as members of the European Parliament.

But not only that, the Court of Auditors is also involved in the operation against independence. It is a court that audits the accounts of public administrations (although it has not prosecuted the corruption of Spanish governments). It is linked to Franco's dictatorship, made up of non-judges appointed mostly by the Spanish right wing, not very transparent and outside any democratic control. The Court of Auditors accuses the Catalan government of having incurred undue expenses and holds 41 people allegedly responsible who, although not yet sentenced as guilty, will have to pay bail per person of € 3.8M, € 3.3M, € 2.95M, € 2.2M...or have their salaries, bank accounts and family assets seized. These amounts now demanded by the Court of Auditors are in addition to the € 5.2M and € 4.1M previously demanded and paid. The State is prevaricating in order to ruin them and try to scare the independence movement.

Is this the forgiveness and concord offered by the Spanish State? We will not be satisfied with nine "reversible" pardons while the repression continues. However, we do know that, neither this farce nor your repression you will manage to make us more Spanish. On the contrary, you have made us pro-independence: too many grievances, too much violence.

We are and will be Catalans, inhabitants of a nation with over a thousand

years of history. We have survived centuries of Spanish oppression and deserve to be free. If a region of Spain, not the richest, but the most enterprising and hard-working, is economically sustaining the state, what you should do is respect and care for this region. The will for independence is growing and will continue to grow in Catalonia, and it will not be because of the serious economic plundering it suffers, but because of mistreatment, lies and ferocious repression that never ends. Freedom for Catalonia!

Montse Molas Verdaguer
Barcelona, Catalonia

Montse:

While we are gratified to be receiving dispatches from Catalonia, we are conscious of the hazards inherent in presenting but one side of the story.

That said, we can hardly be expected to navigate the Spanish judiciary system in order to solicit a second opinion on this matter.

If an official representative wishes to submit a comment, it will, of course, be considered.

The Editor

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Dissatisfied With N.H. Justice System

To the Editor:

Criminally sentenced lawyer Michael Avenatti...the former attorney of [former] porn star Stormy Daniels, is a corrupt and slime ball lawyer, a habitual liar, is [redacted] former Attorney General Mike Delaney of New Hampshire.

What [do these stories] have in common? ... Delaney, as then-N.H. Attorney General, actually defended a guy named Robert Recio, [who is alleged to have] an Avenatti-type record of claims against him. Recio emailed extortion claims against Mr. Frost back in 2010 and Delaney filed charges against Frost on Recio's behalf to execute Recio's extortion.

N.H. Superior Court Judge McNamara stated that Frost would normally be awarded attorney fees for what then-N.H. A.G. Michael Delaney's abusive costs of litigation caused [cost?] Frost.

The only difference here is a [redacted] attorney working for the State

of New Hampshire is immune under state law so, unlike Trump who will be paid by porn star Stormy Daniels and Avenatti to cover his attorney's cost of her litigation against him, Delaney's xxx ethos doesn't warrant payment.

Delaney, and his witch hunt agents, like former N.H. A.A.G. Karen Gorham were luckier than Avenatti and his porn star client. This pair, back then, worked for N.H. and Frost was the one who got screwed.

Jeffrey Frost
Alexandria, N.H.

Jeffrey:

As Kafka fans, we had to run this letter, despite the challenges it presented. We did what we could to make it comprehensible. If you don't care for the results, we have a suggestion: read your letters before you send them.

The Editor

====

An Extended Mash Note

Dear Steve, staff and volunteers,

The words of a mash note writer from Peabody, Mass. in the July 2nd edition of the *Gazette*, about finding the *Gazette* in her mailbox being like finding an old friend at the door, rings resonant in this Exeter household. A rainy day at a local eatery, the *Gazette* in hand between spoonfuls of seafood chowder and swigs of local root beer, reminded me in the flesh of the love part of the love-hate relationship that many longtime New Hampshire residents carry on with our state, and have for decades.

There's lot of good here in our state, much of it embodied in the *Gazette* and its people and the community around it, but boy oh boy, what an unweeded garden to tend in times of the recent state [excuse for a] budget, with its fetters on working people, educators trying to teach truth, property tax payers, and women seeking reproductive freedom. This list goes on, and the takeaway is that while progressives and moderates *en masse* long ago learned not to trust the Republican Party in this state or this country, those who wished to hope or pretend that our

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

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



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Beyond Politics

by Jean Stimmell

As Christianity's hold on America has weakened, many pundits believed our politics would become more ecumenical and rational, less tempestuous and back-biting. But the opposite has happened: We are now more polarized: in danger of being torn apart by two diametrically opposed ideologies about what America represents. One party I will call "Woke," the other, "Trumpy."

But this column is not about politics. It's about an elementary force underlying our political food fight: Religion. And by that, I mean religion in the broadest sense: a belief in something bigger than the individual. As social animals, it is hard-wired in us: we have a built-in need to feel a sense of belonging and attachment.

This connection has long been known. Over one hundred years ago, Abraham Kuyper, a theologian and prime minister of the Netherlands, argued that all strongly held ideologies were really about religion. As our country has become more secular, our political parties have replaced the church because humans can not exist without some ultimate loyalty.¹

Much has been written recently

documenting how our basic human needs are not just physical. As Mary Worthen tells us in the *New York Times*, we have "spiritual cravings; a hunger for a sense of control over our destinies and reassurance that we're on the side of good against evil."

And, without doubt, Americans exhibit more religious zeal than most countries. "It's rare to hear someone accused of being un-Swedish or un-British—but un-American is a common slur, slung by both left and right against the other."² It's religiously charged, like being accused of heresy.

Our salvation—whether we are "Woke" or "Trumpy"—is to explore beneath the gridlock of our political food fights to find what we really need: an authentic sense of belonging.

And where do we find it? With our families who love and nurture us, providing us with a true sense of belonging. And beyond that, we yearn to be embraced by our nation, our extended family, to give our life existential meaning. As with our families, we need to do whatever it takes to preserve our country and make it better.

But it's never easy. We have to compromise and negotiate in or-

der to move on together toward the common good: No country, like any family, can long survive if individual members insist on complete freedom to do whatever they want.

That's who we really want to worship and love: our family and our country—not our political parties, which tend to be mean-spirited, often in it only for themselves and the corporate lobbyists who now infest our capital.

Luckily, President Biden is hip to this, using religious themes to talk about national unity. Worthen cites examples like, "on Memorial Day, he described the ongoing battle for the 'soul of America,' a conflict between 'our worst instincts—which we've seen of late—and our better angels. Between 'Me first' and 'We the people.' In January, in his Inaugural Address, he quoted St. Augustine: 'A people was a multitude defined by the common objects of their love.'"³

Worthen, a historian, emphasizes the importance of taking wise counsel from those who came before us, like St. Augustine, who wrote *The City of God* in the early 5th century. In it, he "laments the fate of a people who drift from heeding their better angels to obeying their inner demons—like citizens of the Ro-



Humans and canines share a beach. Photo by Jean Stimmell, 2017. CC.

man Empire, who 'declined into... seditions and then to social and civil wars, and so burst asunder or rotted off the bond of concord in which the health of a people consists.'"⁴

George Santayana's famous quote takes on a new urgency today: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

1 <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/04/america-politics-religion/618072/>

2 Ibid.

3 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/11/opinion/god-religion-politics-partisanship.html>

4 Ibid.

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

current hereditary governor could be trusted to hew a moderate course and support reproductive rights, sensible tax and education policy and the overall common good have been disabused and proved naïve. At least we now see young Sununu's true colors, which are essentially the same hues that his father, successor to and ally of Meldrim Thomson, displayed in the Corner Office and later in "service" to George H. W. Bush, but fortunately without the braggadocio of Mensa membership.

And in light of the current governor's display of who he really is

and stands for, I find one item in Volume 265, Number 21 (July 2, 2021) truly salient. To wit, the letter from a Bedford reader who had worked herself into a lather about the possibility that affordable housing and the end of snob zoning for single family houses on oversized lots was about to destroy her "New Hampshire Advantage," what with her misinformed outrage at HB 154. In his response, with flavors of a due rejoinder, the editor cast needed light on several truly grave disadvantages to regular folks in New Hampshire, for whom even affording and maintaining place to live, be it a single family house on two acres or the most modest rental unit.

Kudos indeed to the editor for identifying the regressive, confiscatory and antiquated property tax regime of this state as one of the key lies of the phantom "advantage;" and for disabusing the lady of her misplaced misapprehensions in a state where people of modest means, who have played by the rules and worked hard, are taxed out of their own homes. Some advantage!

I hope and trust that reading the *Gazette* on newsprint, in hand, will inspire more people in this state to tangible activism to reverse to veer to the radical right that politics in our state have taken and mitigate the damage done by what should prove to be short-lived republican major-

ities in our state legislative houses. Please, *Gazette*, ensure that you give robust coverage to the gerrymandering schemes that are sure to emerge from the GOP's attempts to redraw voting districts in the state. With the demise of the Weekly News Round-up and The Exchange from the New Hampshire Public Radio lineup, the work of the *Gazette* and all other truly independent newspapers becomes all the more vital.

Mark Trafton
Exeter, N.H.

Mark:
Congratulations—you have left us speechless.

The Editor

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A Few Brief Mash Notes

"It was a happy day when the June 4th edition of the paper turned up in my mailbox. It was a great edition, especially from the front page to the Veterans for Peace letter. So healthy for us to hear truth spoken from great depth of knowledge + feeling. Thank you.

"We have missed the paper. I am renewing my subscription early as a statement of faith in you and your crew.

"Thank you for being a light in the wilderness, with good writing as well.

—B.D., Philo, Calif.

"I was thrilled to receive a paper copy in the mail! ... Content is excellent, as usual!"

—N.J., Durham, N.H.

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Afghanistan: The Graveyard of Empires

by W.D. Ehrhart

I've never taken any pride in my service to my country in Vietnam back in the 1960s. When people thank me for my service, I think about what I did in Vietnam and want to tell them to go see a priest.

But I've always taken a perverse delight in having participated in this country's longest and stupidest war. Kind of like being a pre-2004 Boston Red Sox fan or a post-Jim Brown Cleveland Browns fan.

Sadly, even that small pleasure was taken from me when the U.S. war in Afghanistan finally eclipsed the longevity and stupidity of the American War in Vietnam a few years back.

The Vietnamese were tough as nails, and didn't like foreigners, having handed the Chinese and the Mongols their asses on multiple occasions, not to mention the Siamese, the French, and the Americans.

But Afghanistan isn't called "the Graveyard of Empires" for nothing. Ask those pesky Mongols. Or the British. Or the Russians. And now you can ask the Americans, too, because after twenty years we're finally throwing in the towel. Bailing out. Or coming to our senses.

Though of course with the usual diplomatic mumbo-jumbo: we're not quitting, we haven't lost, we'll still support the Afghan government. Reminds me of Otto in *A Fish Called Wanda*: "We did not lose Vietnam! It was a tie!"

So what have we accomplished

after two decades? According to the Associated Press and the Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs at Brown University, as of April 30th, we've caused between 66,000 and 69,000 civilian deaths in Afghanistan along with 47,245 dead Afghani military personnel. American casualties have been 2,442 killed in action with 20,666 wounded in action.

Over 3,800 American "private security contractors" have also been killed, but quite frankly, I don't feel too badly about that lot, who are actually mercenaries trained with our tax dollars in the Green Berets, Navy SEALs, Delta Forces, and other elite branches before jumping ship for higher pay and fewer restrictions on the exercise of violence.

Meanwhile, the cost so far to us docile U.S. taxpayers totals \$2,260,000,000,000.* This includes \$815,700,000,000 for actual war-fighting costs: bombs, bullets, MREs, and all that good stuff.

Another \$88,000,000,000 to train the Afghan army and police (who are, even as I type this, throwing down their weapons and turning tail in the face of a Taliban offensive).

Another \$36,000,000,000 for reconstruction, infrastructure, and education (though roads, bridges, dams, and canals remain in notorious disrepair while new hospitals and schools stand empty).

* This in a country where Kevin McCarthy and Mitch McConnell say we can't afford to provide free child care or college education or rural and inner-city internet.

And another \$9,000,000,000 for reduction of heroin production (though opium exports are at an all-time high while 47 percent of Afghans live in poverty).

Meanwhile, we taxpayers have shelled out \$530,000,000,000 in interest payments to service our war debt, while ongoing costs of caring for our war veterans has claimed another \$296,000,000,000, and both of these costs won't be going away any time soon; they'll just keep growing.

All those zeroes could be replaced with the word "billion" (except for the first figure, which would be "2.26 trillion"), but I use the zeroes because it's worth seeing them. That's a lot of zeroes. Through two Republican administrations and now into the second Democratic administration (though in all fairness, Uncle Joe seems finally to realize what's been obvious almost from the start: Ain't nobody gonna whup Afghanistan into shape).

Afghanistan isn't even a country except in some cartographer's imagination. Just a collection of tribes and chieftains and warlords. On a good day, the president of Afghanistan has about as much power as the mayor of Kabul. I'll bet you can't even name the president of Afghanistan.

Doesn't matter anyway because he and all his pals are syphoning off all that U.S. aid money and stuffing it into Swiss bank accounts, and there's nothing you or I can do about it. (How do you think Nguyen Van Thieu managed to buy a palatial es-



The Remnants of an Army, by Elizabeth Butler, 1879. William Brydon, an assistant surgeon in the Bengal Army, is shown approaching the gates of Jalalabad. Sixteen thousand soldiers and camp followers had begun a retreat from Kabul on January 6th. When Brydon arrived on January 13th, he was asked what happened to the army. Brydon replied, "I am the army." Photo © Tate Gallery. Creative Commons licence CC-BY-NC-ND 3.0 (Unported); <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/butler-the-remnants-of-an-army-n01553>.

tate in England after he beat it out of Saigon back in 1975 and lived out the rest of his life in elegant seclusion?)

I do feel sorry for all those Afghan women and girls who are going to go back to what one counterterrorism expert calls "the Middle Ages," but I wonder why he and all those other folks who are wringing their hands over the fate of Afghan women and girls have no problem with Saudi Arabia, which has never left the Middle Ages.

But I also feel sorry for all those American women and girls who are living in poverty in our own country; all those American women and girls who are once again, slowly but surely, losing the right to control

their own bodies; all those American women and men who are steadily being stripped of their right to vote; all those American women and girls and men and boys who are being murdered day after day after day in a country that has more guns and gun violence I would wager to bet than even Afghanistan.

I'm glad the U.S. is finally withdrawing from the Graveyard of Empires, but I can't shake off the conviction that I myself am living in an Empire's Graveyard.

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W.D. Ehrhart served in the U.S. Marine Corps and is author of *Thank You for Your Service: Collected Poems*.

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The Grand Larceny of Bank(er) Robbery

by Jim Hightower

Exciting news from Wall Street: Our wealth markets are booming!

Everything from the Dow Jones Average to gold prices are rocketing to new records, showering us with wealth from above. Oh... wait. Maybe you're one of the big majority of workaday Americans who don't own stocks or gold, so maybe you're not celebrating Wall Street's big boom.

But just chill, because conventional corporate wisdom assures us that the wealthy will invest their good fortunes in enterprises that eventually will produce trickle-down gains for everyone.

Excuse my rudeness, but let's take a peek at how those who're reaping today's big-buck bonanza are actually investing that wealth. Look at Wall Streeters themselves. The big banks have been making money like... well, like bankers, with their

stock prices zooming up by 28 percent just since January. So, how are these moneyed elites spending this windfall? Not by making job-creating investments, but by simply giving the money to their big shareholders, including their own top executives—nearly all of whom are already among the richest people on Earth.

The main way they do this is through a slight-of-hand called a "stock buyback." The honchos sim-

ply cash out the bulk of that 28 percent increase in the value of the banks' stock price, using that money to repurchase more of their banks' own stock from lesser shareholders. Hocus-pocus, this manipulation artificially pumps-up the value of the stock these insider shareholders already own—making each of them even richer than rich, although they've done absolutely nothing to earn this increased wealth.

It's not a small scam. JPMorgan

Chase is now sinking \$30 billion into buying its own stock. Wells Fargo is shifting \$18 billion into the scheme, and Bank of America is throwing \$25 billion into its buyback. Hello—Wall Street bankers are the biggest robbers in America.

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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, JULY 18	MONDAY, JULY 19	TUESDAY, JULY 20	WEDNESDAY, JULY 21	THURSDAY, JULY 22	FRIDAY, JULY 23	SATURDAY, JULY 24
<p>1985—Doped up after cancer surgery five days earlier, Ronald Reagan OKs an arms-for-hostages deal with Iran.</p> <p>1984—James O. Huberty tells his wife he's "going to hunt humans," then kills 21 and wounds 19 at a San Diego McDonald's. A sniper gets him. His widow sues Mickey D's for poisoning his mind with MSG, but to no avail.</p> <p>1981—Norman Mailer's protegee Jack Abbott, on work release after a stretch for robbery and manslaughter, fatally stabs a waiter in the East Village.</p> <p>1972—A sailor disables the <i>U.S.S. Ranger</i> for three months by dropping a paint scraper into its reduction gears.</p> <p>1969—Senator Ted Kennedy gives Mary Jo Kopechne a ride part of the way home from a party, goes for a swim, then takes a nap.</p> <p>1944—Ordered by <i>der Führer</i> to kill a fly, aide Fritz Dargès suggests it's a job for the Luftwaffe. He's immediately banished to the Eastern Front.</p> <p>1938—Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan lands in Ireland after an unauthorized trans-Atlantic flight.</p> <p>1925—H.L. Mencken is nearly run out of Dayton, Tenn. on a rail by its pious Christian inhabitants.</p> <p>1877—Governor Henry Mathews of West Virginia pleads for U.S. Marines to suppress the B & O railroad strike.</p> <p>1863—Black soldiers of the 54th Mass. Infantry Regiment prove their worth at the Battle of Ft. Wagner.</p> <p>1862—Confederate rangers capture Newburgh, Ill. using fake cannons.</p>	<p>2020—"I'll be right eventually," says Dolt #45. "I'll say it again. It's going to disappear, and I'll be right."</p> <p>2011—As her husband Rupert is being grilled before Parliament about phone-hacking, his wife Wendi deflects a flying pie aimed at his head.</p> <p>2010—Terrified by a malignly-edited <i>YouTube</i> clip, Sec. of Ag. Tom Vilsack has USDA employee Shirley Sherrod pulled over by the side of the road and summarily fired.</p> <p>2001—Lord Jeffrey Archer, Deputy Chair of the Conservative Party, is sentenced to four years for perjury.</p> <p>1994—Dining with reporters, Sen. Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) reaches into his pocket for a hankie but somehow wipes his nose with a pair of panties.</p> <p>1991—South Africa's government admits it paid Zulus to undermine the African National Congress.</p> <p>1985—N.H.'s Christa McAuliffe is chosen to be first "Teacher in Space."</p> <p>1979—Sandinistas march triumphantly into Managua.</p> <p>1972—The AFL-CIO announces it won't support George McGovern.</p> <p>1966—In an internal memo, Bill Sullivan, Chief of Domestic Intel, admits the FBI's "black bag" jobs are illegal.</p> <p>1957—A two-kilaton nuclear warhead carried by an air-to-air missile explodes 18,000 feet above five Air Force "volunteers" at Yucca Flats.</p> <p>1919—White Washingtonians enraged by racist headlines begin attacking Blacks in the nation's capital.</p>	<p>2017—Secretary of State Tillerson states the obvious to other Administration officials: Trump is "a moron."</p> <p>2002—The FBI arrests three former NASA interns for stealing a 600 lb. safe holding moon rocks.</p> <p>1984—Famed runner and fitness fanatic Bruce Lee, 32, drops dead.</p> <p>1973—Martial artist and fitness fanatic Bruce Lee, 32, drops dead.</p> <p>1971—William F. Buckley's <i>National Review</i> publishes what it claims are secret documents about the Vietnam War. They're fake, and he knows it.</p> <p>1969—Neil Armstrong goes for a walk—on the moon.</p> <p>1956—A scheduled election intended to reunify Vietnam is blocked by the South, with Ike's concurrence.</p> <p>1948—Harry Truman kicks off the U.S.'s first peacetime draft.</p> <p>1944—German generals try but fail to kill Hitler with a bomb.</p> <p>1929—The Mt. Washington Railway's "Old Peppersass" busts an axle. Somehow only one man dies.</p> <p>1923—Pancho Villa's return to politics is thwarted by assassination.</p> <p>1919—A white mob beats Blacks in front of the White House.</p> <p>1877—In Maryland, striking B & O Railroad workers threaten to blow up bridges and run trains into rivers.</p> <p>1874—General George Armstrong Custer leads an expedition of 110 wagons and 1,000 men into the Black Hills, violating an 1868 treaty.</p>	<p>2007—George W.[MD] Bush invokes the 25th Amendment, making Dick "Dick" Cheney President while Bush gets his colon inspected.</p> <p>2000—Long-time Texas voter Dick "Dick" Cheney registers in Wyoming to skirt a Constitutional proviso.</p> <p>2000—The FBI and ATF are exonerated for killing 80 religious fanatics during a 1993 siege in Waco, Texas.</p> <p>1954—As the Geneva Accords free Vietnam from French colonial rule, the U.S. steps in to preserve disorder.</p> <p>1951—A Canadian Pacific DC-4 leaves Vancouver for Anchorage with 37 on board and disappears.</p> <p>1950—Bungling drunkard John C. Woods, the U.S. Army's hangman, electrocutes himself while attempting to repair some electrical equipment.</p> <p>1919—The dirigible <i>Wingfoot Air Express</i>, on fire, crashes through the glass skylight of a Chicago bank, killing 13.</p> <p>1919—With the cops on the sidelines, Blacks in D.C. arm themselves and fight back against white aggression.</p> <p>1918—At Orleans, Mass., <i>U-156</i> conducts Germany's sole attack of the war on the U.S. mainland. Four barges sink, the tug <i>Perth Amboy</i> is damaged, and a few shells hit the beach.</p> <p>1884—<i>Buffalo Telegraph</i>: Gov. Grover Cleveland [D-N.Y.], the Presidential nominee, has a bastard child.</p> <p>1877—Pittsburgh militia men bayonet and shoot railroad strikers; 20 die. Surviving strikers burn 39 buildings and wreck 104 locomotives.</p>	<p>2003—Ratted out by a cousin for a \$30 million reward, Uday and Qusay Hussein are shot dead by the 101st.</p> <p>2001—"I know what I believe," says G.W.[MD] Bush. "I will continue to articulate what I believe and what I believe—I believe what I believe is right."</p> <p>1991—Milwaukee police arrest Jeffrey Dahmer, infamous cannibal.</p> <p>1975—Owen J. Quinn parachutes from the top of the South Tower of New York's World Trade Center.</p> <p>1974—On the steps of the Capitol, 600 young Moonies begin a three-day fast and prayer-fest for Richard Nixon.</p> <p>1946—Irgun bombs the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91.</p> <p>1934—Chicago FBI agents kill John Dillinger by shooting him in the back.</p> <p>1919—The Army, Navy, Marines, and a downpour finally end a four-day race riot in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>1916—A bomb kills 10 and wounds 40 during a Preparedness Day parade in San Francisco. Perjured testimony sends two innocent men to prison.</p> <p>1915—The excursion steamer <i>Eastland</i> nearly tips over at the dock in Chicago. The boat's instability is kept secret to prevent loss of business.</p> <p>1905—Henderson's [annoying] Point vanishes from the Piscataqua, thanks to 60,000 tons of dynamite.</p> <p>1877—Local labor leaders and the Workingmen's Party elect a Director of the St. Louis, Illinois Commune. It issues General Order No. 1, calling for a General Strike.</p>	<p>2014—Arizona authorities experimenting with new poisons find Joseph Wood's execution takes 12 times longer than the expected 10 minutes.</p> <p>2001—Bank robber Gary Sampson calls the FBI to turn himself in, but a clerk disconnects him. Over the next week he murders three people, including a man in New Hampshire.</p> <p>1970—The last clash between the U.S. & NVA ends in futility: the 101st Airborne evacuates Firebase Ripcord. Cost: 75 KIAs & 463 WIAs.</p> <p>1967—Cops raid a blind pig in Detroit, interrupting a welcome home party for two Vietnam veterans. A five day riot ensues, and 43 die.</p> <p>1966—Don Wetzell, 82, Research Director for the N.Y. Central, drives a jet-powered locomotive at 183 mph.</p> <p>1944—The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are created in Bretton Woods, N.H. [where the first tax collector was Daniel Fowle].</p> <p>1933—Fascist "Khaki Shirts" gather in front of their Philadelphia HQ for an address by Commander Art Smith—on a balcony, of course.</p> <p>1892—Anarchist Alexander Berkman shoots and stabs Henry Clay Frick, architect of the Homestead Massacre, but the capitalist survives.</p> <p>1877—Workers seize the railyards and docks in East St. Louis, Ill. Knowing he's out-manned, the mayor deputizes strikers to maintain order. Meanwhile, in Reading, Pa., the State Militia shoots ten civilians dead.</p>	<p>2017—"Who the hell wants to talk about politics...in front of the Boy Scouts?," asks Donald Trump, who then talks politics at the Jamboree.</p> <p>2008—A tornado hits nine towns in N.H., killing a Deerfield woman.</p> <p>2003—Congress says the FBI and the CIA blew off warnings of a possible al-Qaeda attack on the U.S.</p> <p>2003—In Iraq, the U.S. proudly displays photographs of the corpses of Uday and Qusay Hussein.</p> <p>2002—James Traficant (D-Ohio) is booted from the U.S. House of Representatives for taking bribes.</p> <p>1998—To prevent a cannibal holocaust, Rusty Weston murders Rep. Tom DeLay's bodyguard and another Capitol cop. Shot and near death himself, he is revived by Sen. Bill Frist.</p> <p>1974—Nine out of nine justices agree: Nixon's gotta hand over them tapes.</p> <p>1967—From a Montreal balcony, DeGaulle declares, "<i>Vive le Québec libre!</i>"</p> <p>1959—During the "Kitchen Debate" in Moscow, Khrushchev asks Nixon if Americans have machines to push food down their throats.</p> <p>1951—Two officers from Hanscom AFB report a UFO flying over Portsmouth, N.H. at 800 to 1,000 mph.</p> <p>1921—The Aerowagon, a high-speed, propeller-driven railcar, crashes on its way to Moscow, killing six passengers including its inventor.</p> <p>1877—Thousands of strikers parade through East St. Louis, Ill., calling on shops and business to shutter.</p>
<p>6:10 6:40</p> <p>12:16</p>	<p>7:13 7:39</p> <p>1:00 1:14</p>	<p>8:18 8:38</p> <p>2:03 2:13</p>	<p>9:21 9:36</p> <p>3:04 3:12</p>	<p>10:21 10:33</p> <p>4:03 4:10</p>	<p>11:16 11:27</p> <p>5:00 5:05</p>	<p>12:09</p> <p>5:53 5:58</p>
SUNDAY, JULY 25	MONDAY, JULY 26	TUESDAY, JULY 27	WEDNESDAY, JULY 28	THURSDAY, JULY 29	FRIDAY, JULY 30	SATURDAY, JULY 31
<p>2019—President Trump makes a phone call to Ukraine President Vladimir Zelensky. It's "perfect."</p> <p>2000—In a touching display of <i>naïveté</i>, George W.[MD] Bush announces that he has picked Dick "Dick" Cheney as running mate.</p> <p>1990—Ambassador April Glaspie tells Saddam the U.S. won't take sides in an Iraq-Kuwait border dispute.</p> <p>1975—Chester Plummer, Jr., a Black 'Nam vet with a three-foot pipe in his hand, becomes the first person shot dead on the White House lawn.</p> <p>1972—AP: The U.S. used Black men as guinea pigs for 40 years.</p> <p>1969—Sen. Ted Kennedy gets two months (suspended) for leaving the scene of a fatal accident.</p> <p>1965—Bob Dylan outrages the Newport Folk Festival with electricity.</p> <p>1952—Généreux Ruest, a disabled watchmaker who helped bomb an airliner, is wheeled to Quebec's gallows and hanged in a chair. His hangman is inept; he struggles for 21 minutes.</p> <p>1946—The first underwater A-Bomb hits Navy sailors at Bikini Atoll with far more radiation than expected.</p> <p>1853—The freshly-killed head of legendary bandit Joaquín Murrieta is put in a jar of brandy for display—until it's lost in the San Francisco Earthquake.</p> <p>1826—"Nothing succeeds with me," says Decembrist revolutionary Mikhail Bestuzhev-Ryumin after the hangman's first rope breaks. "Even here I meet with disappointment."</p>	<p>1968—The newly elected President of South Vietnam jails the runner-up.</p> <p>1968—Mexico massacres its students.</p> <p>1959—Lt. Col. William Rankin, U.S.M.C., ejects from his F-8 over a thunderstorm. He survives 40 minutes of lightning and hail at -58°.</p> <p>1953—Arizona State Police and National Guard arrest the whole damn town of Short Creek for polygamy.</p> <p>1950—The U.S. 7th Cavalry, backed by air support, kills between 200 and 400 Korean refugees at No Gun Ri.</p> <p>1948—Harry Truman orders that the U.S. military be desegregated.</p> <p>1947—The National Security Act creates the CIA and NSA and turns the War Department into the DoD.</p> <p>1936—With dozens of fellow Comies along for cover, Bill Bailey rips a Nazi flag from the bow of the <i>Bremen</i> and throws it into New York harbor.</p> <p>1924—Bath, Maine hosts a KKK rally, complete with burning cross and a parade led by the City Marshall.</p> <p>1877—In Chicago, Federal troops kill 30 strikers in the Battle of the Viaduct. In East St. Louis, the Mayor sends 700 cops and goes to strike headquarters, ordering "shoot to kill."</p> <p>1758—The French fortress of Louisbourg, taken by New Englanders in 1744 and given back by Britain three years later, is re-taken by the British.</p> <p>1184—Nobles crowd into St. Peter's at Erfurt, in Thuringia, to settle a squabble. The floor lets go and they fall into the latrine; 60 of them drown.</p>	<p>2008—Shotgunning in a Knoxville church, Jim David Adkisson kills two and wounds seven. He cites Fox News' Bernard Goldberg as one inspiration.</p> <p>1996—Pro-life Eric Robert Rudolph bombs the Atlanta Olympics.</p> <p>1974—Eleven Republicans out of 17 on the Judiciary Committee vote not to impeach Nixon for obstruction.</p> <p>1957—Jimmy Wilson, who's Black, is sentenced to death in Alabama for stealing \$1.95 from a white woman.</p> <p>1954—Mercenaries overthrow the government of Guatemala at the behest of the CIA. Genocide follows.</p> <p>1946—<i>Hollywood Reporter</i> owner Billy Wilkerson, uncertain whether to name ten suspected Communists, consults Father Cornelius J. McCoy. He replies, "Get those bastards, Billy."</p> <p>1919—After a Black man is killed at a segregated Chicago beach, a white cop arrests a Black man. Nearby Blacks who object are attacked by whites.</p> <p>1893—William Taylor survives a jolt in New York's electric chair, but its dynamo doesn't. Morphine and ether keep him under until a jury-rigged cable can tap the power to kill him.</p> <p>1877—In East St. Louis, 8,000 Federal troops, militia, and railroad hirelings start a two-day battle to crush the Commune and end the Strike.</p> <p>1816—Andy Jackson orders that the powder magazine of an old fort on the Appalachicola be blown up. The blast kills hundreds of Blacks and Choctaws: both sexes, all ages, free and not.</p>	<p>2012—Three elderly troublemakers infiltrate Oak Ridge, Tenn. and spill blood on its nuclear weapons plant.</p> <p>2006—A wild storm topples the partially-renovated steeple of North Church and its attendant scaffolding onto Pleasant Street in Portsmouth.</p> <p>2003—Tom DeLay (R-Texas), who once said Americans smoke Cuban cigars "at the cost of our national honor," is photographed in Jerusalem lighting up a \$25 Hoyo de Monterrey.</p> <p>1957—An Air Force C-124 with engine trouble jettisons two core-less nukes 100 miles off Atlantic City.</p> <p>1945—A B-25 hits the Empire State Building; six floors burn, 13 die, 26 are injured. Among them: elevator operator Betty Oliver. The cable of the elevator evacuating her snaps; it plummets 80 stories. She survives that, too.</p> <p>1945—A kamikaze biplane sinks the <i>U.S.S. Callaghan</i> off Okinawa.</p> <p>1942—<i>U.S.S. YP-422</i> is commissioned in Neponset, Mass., commander: Lieut. L. Ron Hubbard.</p> <p>1932—GIs under Gen. MacArthur, including six tanks under Maj. George S. Patton, drive the "Bonus Expeditionary Force"—20,000 hungry World War I vets—out of Washington D.C., killing two in the process.</p> <p>1919—Chicago is engulfed by a race riot in which the Hamburg Athletic Club plays a leading role. Its president: future Mayor Richard J. Daley.</p> <p>1914—Austria-Hungary attacks Serbia, getting WW I underway.</p>	<p>1994—Pro-life Rev. Paul Jennings Hill shotguns Dr. John Britton and his bodyguard James Barrett dead; Barrett's wife June is wounded.</p> <p>1986—Ex-Chaplain Charlie Liteky renounces the Medal of Honor he was awarded for heroism in Vietnam, protesting U.S. policies in Latin America.</p> <p>1981—Congress passes Ronald Reagan's tax cut for the rich.</p> <p>1974—Ten Republicans out of 17 on the Judiciary Committee vote not to impeach Nixon for abuse of power and violating his oath of office.</p> <p>1970—Thanks to a five-year grape boycott, the United Farm Workers win their first contract.</p> <p>1967—Bum equipment and bad procedures create a stray electrical current that sends a Zuni rocket from an F-4 jet on the flight deck of the <i>Forrestal</i> into John McCain's A-4. Eight half-ton bombs explode, killing 134 sailors and nearly sinking the ship.</p> <p>1966—Bob Dylan wrecks his Triumph then disappears for a while.</p> <p>1921—Disgruntled former corporal Adolf Hitler becomes President of the German Nazi Party.</p> <p>1910—Responding to a bogus claim about a pending race war against whites, hundreds of armed white Texans begin a race war in the predominantly Black town of Slocum.</p> <p>1848—Leaders of Young Ireland try to peacefully resolve a standoff with British constables in Tipperary. They get shot at for their troubles.</p>	<p>1975—Jimmy Hoffa is last glimpsed by anyone who's talking.</p> <p>1974—Two of 17 Republicans on the Judiciary Committee vote to impeach Nixon for contempt of Congress.</p> <p>1969—"History will record that this may have been one of America's finest hours," says Richard Nixon in Saigon.</p> <p>1956—Congress adopts "In God We Trust" as the national motto.</p> <p>1945—The <i>U.S.S. Indianapolis</i>, having delivered the Hiroshima A-bomb to Tinian, is torpedoed and sunk on its return trip. Its sinking goes unnoticed due to security precautions. Drowning, exposure, and sharks claim 879 of the 1,100 aboard.</p> <p>1938—Adolph Hitler pins the Grand Cross of the Supreme Order of the German Eagle on his pal Henry Ford.</p> <p>1917—A statement read in Parliament from Lt. Siegfried Sassoon says "the war is being deliberately prolonged by those who [could] end it."</p> <p>1916—German saboteurs destroy a thousand tons of munitions stored on a barge at Black Tom Island in New York Harbor. Three men and a baby are killed; the Statue of Liberty's up-raised arm is hit by shrapnel.</p> <p>1866—Blacks march for civil rights in New Orleans; rioting whites kill 44.</p> <p>1864—Union forces detonate a huge mine to breach Confederate defenses at Petersburg. A drawn straw puts Brig. Gen. James Ledlie in command. Drunk, he sends Union soldiers into the crater; 4,000 are slaughtered.</p>	<p>2001—Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld sends a memo to Under Secretary for Policy Douglas Feith: "We ought to have on our radar screen oil—Venezuela, the Caucasus, Indonesia—anywhere we think it may exist and how it fits into our strategies."</p> <p>1999—Eugene Shoemaker becomes the first Earthling to have his cremated remains interred on the moon.</p> <p>1996—Gerald Ford and George H.[H.] Walker Bush uphold the dignity of their former office by speaking for pay before followers of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p>1974—Richard Nixon's former advisor John Ehrlichman gets a free five-year stay at a felons' country club.</p> <p>1972—Tom Eagleton withdraws his candidacy; the public is shocked.</p> <p>1971—The "Justice" Department OK's ITT's ownership of Hartford Fire Insurance; ITT's recent \$400,000 "contribution" to the GOP convention is a mere coincidence.</p> <p>1961—Bruce Britt Sr. outruns cops at 120 mph, runs aboard a DC-3 in Chico, Calif., and shoots two men; but the first U.S. skyjacking fails.</p> <p>1950—Chicago OK's a plan to tattoo citizens with their blood type.</p> <p>1938—New York Yankee Jake Powell is suspended for saying on Chicago radio that he'd "hit every colored person in Chicago over the head with a club."</p> <p>1921—Pennsylvania censors a Will Rogers movie because it portrays ho-boes in too favorable a light.</p>
<p>12:19 12:59</p> <p>6:43 6:50</p>	<p>1:09 1:48</p> <p>7:31 7:40</p>	<p>1:58 2:35</p> <p>8:17 8:30</p>	<p>2:47 3:22</p> <p>9:03 9:21</p>	<p>3:37 4:10</p> <p>9:49 10:13</p>	<p>4:29 5:00</p> <p>10:36 11:08</p>	<p>5:24 5:53</p>

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