

## The Fortnightly Rant

### The Cure For What Ails Us?

Readers, are you tired of the bitter bickering, constant conflict, and demeaning dialogue that pass for public discourse these days?

Of course you are. Who wouldn't be? The only thing on which Americans can agree is that other Americans are far too disagreeable.\*

Well, good news, everyone, we've got the perfect solution! Here's how it works.

Let's say the neighborhood arsonist strolls up your driveway with a gas can in his hand. He's eying your garage in a manner that seems suspicious. Ordinarily, you might be tempted to come down off your porch with a pipe wrench in your hand, telling him in no uncertain terms to get the hell off your property. As any reasonable, unbiased person could see, that would not be a very neighborly welcome.

Sadly, situations like this are all too common these days. That's why we developed our new app, Bipartisanship™. Just download it onto your mobile device, and attach a few unobtrusive wires. In a matter of minutes, you'll be good to go anywhere—without getting into an argument that might escalate into... well, you know.

By monitoring your blood pressure and cortisol levels, Bipartisanship™ can predict—and ward off—any rude, uncivil words and threatening gestures. How? By administering an authoritative but

non-lethal electrical signal to a sensitive part of your anatomy.

Assuming that you promptly de-escalate matters—by negotiating a compromise, for example, such as substituting Fido's doghouse for your garage—Bipartisanship™ will dial down the amperes. In a couple of weeks—'round the clock, to ensure domestic tranquility—Bipartisanship™ will persuade you that compromise is much more civilized than always insisting on getting your own way.

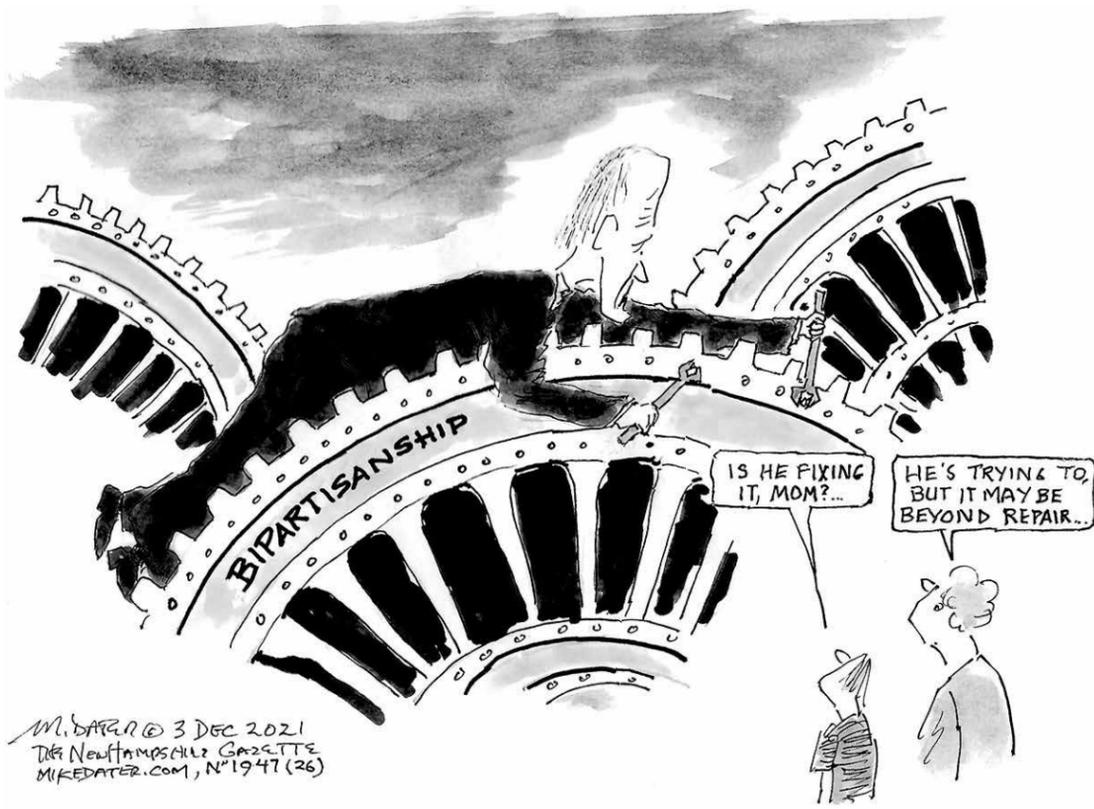
True, your bank account will have been drained, your car repossessed, and your mortgage foreclosed; your tarp may leak, friends and family may refuse to visit your new home, a campsite under a bridge. Look on the bright side, though—you will have done your part for civility, just by invoking the magical powers of Bipartisanship™!

Unfortunately, our new app Bipartisanship™ is, as yet, just vaporware—another pipe dream wafting up through the ductwork from our Cybersecurity Department.

Alas, the same is true for its eponymous real world counterpart.

Bipartisanship is, by definition, cooperation between the two political parties ordained by God† to manage our affairs. Since the rise of the reptilian Speaker Newt a quarter century ago, the two parties have cooperated only to put the screws to the working class. As a result, money

† In this context, "God" means how we decide who has won an election. As things now stand, whoever gets the most votes wins. For reasons too tedious to go into here, this method strangles all potential third parties in their cribs. Wide adoption of ranked choice voting would give third parties a chance—and perhaps even force our existing parties to get useful or die. While we await electoral utopia, though, climate change and viral mutations accelerate.



is sovereign. It may go wherever it likes; borders being no obstacle.

The inevitable result, for an alarming percentage of the population, is that the planet has reverted to a Hobbsian hellhole. Every working person on the planet, man, woman, and child, is pitted against all the rest in a race to the bottom. Even the winners lose; the house always wins.

America's decades-long experiment in deregulation, tax cuts, and social safety net shredding resulted in a succession of financial f\_\_\_ups, following which Wall Street gets bailed out, and no one of any consequence ever goes to jail. Meanwhile workers who once thought themselves exempt are being ground up by this worldwide *mêlée*.

Republicans are restricting access to ballot boxes left and right; Democrats can't or won't protect them, but you can't say that Americans don't have democracy. They have it exactly as H.L. Mencken defined it: "Democracy is the theory that the com-

mon people know what they want, and deserve to get it good and hard."

God forbid, though, that the press—and lesser news media—report fully and honestly on these developments. Doing so would require that they tell the whole truth. The bosses can't allow that. Shareholders would get upset, and they'd get fired.

As a result, most of the media that matter are engaged in an Olympian competition consisting of a single test: which among them can execute the most appalling example of performative idiocy?

A November 27th headline from NBC News provides a prime example: "Laser-focused on 2020, Trump seeks a Michigan Legislature that could help him in 2024."

Uh, help him do *what*, exactly? According to the Peacock Network, "It's unusual for a former president to endorse in races so deep down the ballot." Yes, especially one who should have been buried to the

eyeballs in indictments long ago.

Nevertheless, Dolt #45 has found time to back "seven candidates for state House or Senate seats in Michigan...[all having] one thing in common: They've made election administration and investigating last year's vote central to their platforms."

Dan Froomkin, at *PressWatchers.org*, is an expert at correcting journalistic malpractice. Here's his rewrite: "Donald Trump and the Republican Party are laying the groundwork to steal future elections."

Since NPR has cornered the market on upbeat endings to horror stories, we'll close on a downbeat note. Cleta Mitchell—a voter-fraud crank who was on the phone helping when Dolt #45 tried to get Georgia officials to throw the election, has been secretly appointed to the Advisory Board of the Election Assistance Commission [EAC]. *Votebeat* calls the EAC "the only federal agency with authority over elections."

## The Alleged News®

### Waiting For the Next Variant to Drop

Tuesday, November 30: "So today we learn: 1) Omicron was circulating in The Netherlands at least a week before the travel bans; 2) Omicron was found in Germany in someone with no travel history and no contact with travelers. Travel bans are pointless; the variant is already in community transmission."—Geoffrey York, Africa correspondent for *The Globe and Mail* (Canada).

The Delta variant was bad enough. After banging around Britain for a while, it inevitably showed up here in New Hampshire, where, were it not for Michigan, we'd have the highest 7-day rolling average of new cases in the nation. Thank you, business-friendly Governor Chris "No Mandate" Sununu.

Any day now the new, improved Omicron—with extra added mutations—will be here.

Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel gave the bad news to the *Financial Times* Tuesday morning. [We have this from Pam Martens' *Wall Street On Parade*. The original is behind a paywall.]

"There is no world, I think, where [the effectiveness of the current vaccines] is the same level...we had with [the] Delta [variant]...I think it's going to be a material drop. I just don't know how much because we need to wait for the data. But all the scientists I've talked to...are like, "This is not going to be good."

Mission accomplished, all you knuckleheads.

To be clear, we do not mean to imply that the personality cult which has crustalized\* around the former main attraction of a televised

\* We had intended to write "crystalized," but the typo version seems more fitting.

freak show *intentionally* created the conditions which fostered a "highly mutated" coronavirus variant that's spreading faster than ever. That would be giving it too much credit.

If its ringleaders were honest—a stretch, we know—they'd put on Joker makeup and quote the line: "Do I really look like a guy with a plan? You know what I am? I'm a dog chasing cars. I wouldn't know what to do with one if I caught it! You know, I just...do things."

Culpability for unleashing an escalating viral catastrophe is not mitigated by the absence of a plan. As a prior Figure of Veneration of this cult, fond of assuming an air of Solomonic wisdom and virtue, once intoned, "actions have consequences." In a functioning legal system—if we had such a thing—most national and state leaders of the party in

question would be facing charges under the RICO statute. They have been conspiring in plain sight to jeopardize public health for political gain, at the cost of hundreds of thousands of lives. The book that should be thrown at them would be too big to lift.

We regret that we are unable to cover this likely pending catastrophe in our traditionally light-hearted manner. In the immortal words of the late R.B. Fowle, "It all depends on whose ox is gored." This time it may be our ox—again.

During the first go-round we went 32 fortnights without being able to properly put out a paper. We're not saying we plan to suspend printing and distribution again, but we must acknowledge that that could happen. Hence our urgency to issue this indictment.

### "It Was Entirely Avoidable" Rich Countries Blamed as Omicron Sparks Global Alarm

by Jake Johnson, *Common Dreams*

The detection of a new, heavily mutated, and potentially vaccine-resistant coronavirus variant in Botswana and other nations is sending shockwaves worldwide as public health officials rush to understand the strain and its possible impact on the global pandemic response.

For vaccine equity campaigners and epidemiologists, the emergence of another highly contagious coronavirus mutation is far from surprising given the massive inoculation gap between rich and poor countries, which has left billions of people across the globe without ac-

**The Alleged News®**

from page one

cess to lifesaving shots—and kept the door open to variants.

Botswana, where the new strain was first identified earlier this month, has fully vaccinated just 20 percent of its population.

Tim Bierley of the U.K.-based advocacy group Global Justice Now said in a statement that the B.1.1.529 mutation is an “entirely avoidable” consequence of deliberate policy decisions by rich countries, which have hoarded vaccine doses and refused to force pharmaceutical giants to share technology with developing nations.

“The U.K. has actively prevented low and middle-income countries from having equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines. We have created the conditions for this variant to emerge,” Bierley said, referring to the British government’s opposition to a proposed patent waiver for coronavirus vaccines.

“For more than a year, South Africa, Botswana, and most countries have been calling for world leaders to waive intellectual property on coronavirus vaccines, tests, and treat-

ments so they can produce their own jabs,” Bierley noted. “It’s a vital measure that will be discussed at next week’s World Trade Organization conference. But, so far, the U.K. and E.U. have recklessly blocked it from making progress.”

“There have been countless warnings that super-variants could emerge if we do not remove artificial barriers to global vaccination,” he continued. “If and when this new variant starts to tear through the world, remember that the British government has led opposition to the plan that could have stopped it.”

Srinivas Murthy, an infectious disease expert, echoed that sentiment.

“Allowing new variants to emerge and spread, 13 months into the vaccine era, is a policy choice by the rich world,” he argued.

In marked contrast to their slow-walking of the proposed patent waiver, European countries sprang into action in response to the new variant, moving to impose fresh travel restrictions on visitors from southern Africa as global markets tumbled.

Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, said



We generally try to avoid nostalgia. With a past as long as ours, it would be easy to get lost. A glimpse of this old postcard though, had us pining for pre-war days. Pre-Great War, that is. Here we see Pa at the wheel, Uncle Eli sporting a snappy boater, and Eliza, Marge, and Cousin Vivie in the back, all wearing flowery bonnets. They're gallivanting around, probably in Newburyport, touting Vineland Grape Juice: “The best is none too good, and costs no more.”

Friday that the body will “propose, in close coordination with member states, to activate the emergency brake to stop air travel from the southern African region due to the variant of concern B.1.1.529.”

“Rich nations are very quick to ban travel but very slow to share vaccines and know-how,” said Madhu Pai, Canada Research Chair in Epidemiology and Global Health at McGill University.

Dr. Ayoade Alakija, co-chair of the Africa Vaccine Delivery Alliance, tweeted that the renewed push to cut off travel “was our greatest fear, and [we] were almost prophetic in predicting that the world would eventually shut Africa out having denied us access to vaccines.”

At a press conference on Thursday, South African Health Minister Dr. Joe Phaahla said the B.1.1.529 variant—which has thus far been detected in Botswana, South Africa, and Hong Kong—may have been behind recent coronavirus outbreaks in the small South African province

of Gauteng. (Update: The first case of the B.1.1.529 variant in Europe was identified in Belgium on Friday.)

“Rest assured that as people move in the next coming weeks, this [variant] will be all over,” he warned.

Professor Tulio de Oliveira, a renowned bioinformatician, told the media that in the B.1.1.529 variant, “what we see is this very unusual constellation of mutations.”

“This is concerning,” he said, “for predicted immune evasion and transmissibility.”

As Nature reported, “The variant stood out because it contains more than 30 changes to the spike protein—the SARS-CoV-2 protein that recognizes host cells and is the main target of the body’s immune responses.”

“Many of the changes have been found in variants such as Delta and Alpha and are linked to heightened infectivity and the ability to evade infection-blocking antibodies,” the outlet noted.

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**RIP Bob Lawton**

New Hampshire lost a state treasure last month. Bob Lawton parlayed a \$750 loan and his own relentless industry into Laconia’s famous Funspot—recognized by Guinness in 2008 as the world’s largest arcade. He may have been born in Ohio, but you can’t get any more New Hampshire than that.

Lawton died November 11th at the age of 90. Remembrances have appeared on New Hampshire Public Radio, in most of the state’s remaining, functional dailies, and the *Boston Globe*. In all of them, Lawton comes across as an amiable, wicked hard-working, yet fun-loving kind of a guy.

Several stories give Lawson credit, during his freshman term as a state legislator in 1969, for replacing “Scenic” on our license plates with the more pugnacious motto, “Live Free

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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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or Die.” Controversial at first, the motto has since become just another part of the scenery. In interviews, he had spoken of the license plate not so much as a political call to arms, but more as a successful marketing scheme for the state.

Lawton’s weekly paper, *The Weirs Times*, gets fewer mentions in these encomiums. A look inside may explain why. By all appearances, Lawton the man was an endearing old gent. The newspaper he started in 1992...well, that’s different.

At first glance it seems like an ordinary shopper—a 40-page short tabloid, in full-color, plenty of local advertising, some comics, a fishing column, puff pieces on local events, house ads for Funspot...all the sorts of things you would expect.

Reading the content, though, is like Thanksgiving in Hell: a chorus of cranky old uncles lecturing about how the world really works. Apparently Bob Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, was a modern day Nostradamus: liberals are all Communists, and the country is in imminent danger of becoming a tyrannical dictatorship.

At the *Weirs Times*, Michelle

Malkin, Ben Shapiro, and John Stossel—considered far right in most other contexts—represent the squishy middle. For some real red meat, read Hal Shurtleff. In his November 18th piece, “The Communist Manifesto and the U.S. Constitution,” he writes that in the Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx “wrote ten planks which is [sic] a total contradiction of our nation’s founding principles.” After enumerating them, he draws this conclusion: “If these ten planks look familiar, it is because most of them have been implemented to some extent in the United States.” Uh, right....

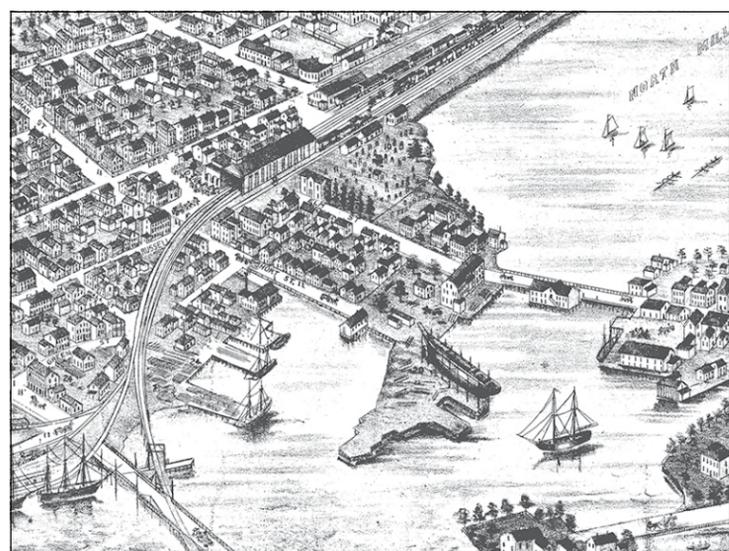
If we’re going to rank the contributors to Lawton’s paper, though, there can be no question as to who gets top billing: God.

Yes, the Creator Himself has a column in the *Weirs Times*. It’s called “Letters from God.” After all, why gild the lily with anything fancier?

At the risk of offending the Almighty, we’ll quote His latest lede:

“Question: Is History Repeating Itself?

“It is astounding that you continue to follow the foolish path of those who have gone before you and



Oh, dear. We were afraid this might happen. Just went for a little spin in the Fowle’s News staff car, and that was all it took. Now here we are, back in 1877, eyeballing Raynes’ shipyard from General Fitz John Porter’s old hot air balloon, which we picked up cheap as Army surplus. Hard to believe that this whole neighborhood will someday end up covered in indistinguishable hotels. No wonder we like it here...er, now.

failed miserably as a result. From the time that I created the first man and woman, the desire to rebel against me [sic, passim] and to attempt to experience life without me and in opposition to me, has never succeeded.”

It seems God has a control problem. Who’d a thunk it? The good news is, he’s also got a sense of humor. A little sadistic, perhaps....

“I reminded [those who challenged His leadership] that their feeble attempts to overthrow me, their God and Creator, was laughable. Not that I took pleasure in the suffering that would follow, but it is comical that pride would so blind people, that they would think they can overthrow me and my will.”

Although the piece ends with the signature, “God,” it’s followed by a disclaimer: “These letters are written by a New Hampshire pastor.” Thanksgiving at his house must be

a lot of fun.

The contrast between Lawton’s unquestioned genality and his paper’s fire-breathing politics is more than a little perplexing. We don’t know what to make of it, but, as Paul Harvey—another avuncular old paleoconservative—used to say, “Now you know [dramatic pause] the rest of the story.”

We will say this: it proves that when it comes to getting value for your money, you can’t beat a free newspaper.

**NEC Achieves New Distinction**

New England College in Henniker—“The Only Henniker on Earth”—was founded in 1946 to educate veterans just back from World War Two—or to soak up some of that GI Bill money. A matter of perspective, we suppose. During the Vietnam War years its role was reversed. Mediocre students from

well-off families attended not for an education, but to avoid becoming a veteran. NEC, it’s been said by locals, stands for “Not Exactly College,” or “Never Ending Circus,” or even “Never Enough Cocaine.”

Now a new distinction has allegedly been achieved. NEC may have helped educate (details remain murky) one of the most successful fugitives in U.S. history.

An obituary posted in May noted that Thomas Randle of Lynnfield, Mass. had attended New England College. The U.S. Marshals Service says that that detail helped them establish “Randle’s” real identity: Theodore “Ted” Conrad.

In 1969, Conrad, a teller in a Cleveland bank, walked out with \$215,000 in a paper bag and never went back. Apparently he went on to live a fairly normal, rewarding life—and he never got caught this side of the grave.

**Murph’s Fortnightly Quote**  
*“Fact, this buffoon looks down when she sees me at the Capitol, this whole story is made up.”*  
 — Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) responding to attacks from Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO)

*“Lies written in ink cannot disguise facts written in blood.”*  
 — Lu Xun (1881-1936) Chinese author and critic  
 john@wordpraxis.com

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**3. Beware the one-party state. Defend the rules of democratic elections.**  
 — Chapter heading from *On Tyranny*, by Tim Snyder  
 — *Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber*

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**Sununu's Lethal Legacy**

Dear Editor:

Last August 22nd, after Governor Sununu warned that there would be a fall surge of Covid-19 worse than anything we had witnessed so far, I sent the Governor a 12 point emergency action plan that, if implemented, could prevent or lessen the impact if the expected surge. My 12-point plan was published in the *Portsmouth Herald* on August 23rd. I never received either an acknowledgement or response to my email from the Governor or anyone on his staff. None of my recommendations have been implemented by the Governor or the DHHS.

Unfortunately, the surge that the Governor predicted has taken place. Not only has it taken place, but it is actually much worse than expected. In fact, New Hampshire is now number one in the country for per capita Covid-19 hospitalizations. We are seeing record numbers of cases, hospitalizations and deaths. Many of our hospitals are overwhelmed, and patients are being turned away or sent out of state for care. In response the Governor issued an Executive Order for DHHS to expand hospital capacity. This action is way too little and much too late.

Considering staff shortages, expanding hospital capacity, if even possible, will do nothing to prevent new cases and reduce the need for more hospital beds. When issuing his hospital expansion order the Governor made a point to say that it was not an emergency declaration or a mask mandate—two things he could have done that would have actually prevented new cases and reduced the stress on hospitals.

The Governor continues to ignore prevention strategies, but instead issuing orders that take effect only after people become ill seriously enough to require hospitalization. This is not only contrary to basic public health practice, but is not cost effective and will do nothing to help our education, business and economic security. How many Covid cases, hospitalizations and deaths could have been prevented if the Governor had implemented

even a few of my recommendations? This is a legacy that Mr. Sununu will leave for history to consider.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

*Viewed in isolation, it's shocking that the Governor would ignore sound advice from a person like yourself, a professional with a lifetime of experience in public health. In context, though—for instance, seen alongside his appointment of a libertarian to the new Department of Energy so "the market" can decide how to handle climate change—it makes sense. He doesn't give a damn about people, their health, or the future. Like the man said, "It's strictly business."*

The Editor

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**A Mystery Story**

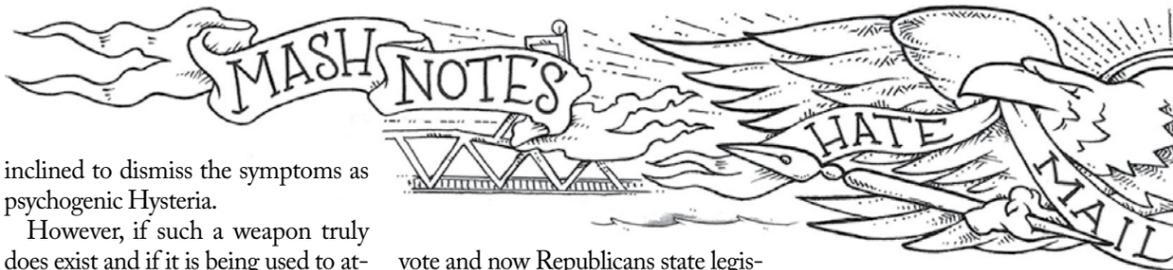
To the Editor:

Havana Syndrome—is it real or is it Memorex?

If you ask Barrington resident and State Department security specialist Mark Lenzi, I'm certain he'll tell you Havana Syndrome is plenty real. Exposed in 2017 at the American Embassy in Guangzhou, China, Mark and his family have been struggling ever since to overcome the aftereffects, only to be chastised by his own agency for whistleblowing and "going public" over a lack of medical support. In fact, to date over 200 government employees have reported similar exposure.

By all accounts, getting "hit" is a debilitating neurological event that causes intense vertigo, severe pain, and often results in permanent brain damage. Most technical experts speculate the weapon responsible for Havana Syndrome is an electronic transmitting device that emits sharply focused microwave pulses capable of penetrating the cranium and inflicting concussive brain injury from a distance.

Also, many believe the weapon is of Russian origin. However, no one from "our side" has seen one or been able to replicate its effects in a lab. So, after five years of reported attacks occurring in a variety of highly surveilled areas around the globe, there's still no smoking gun. And, with no smoking gun, many government officials are



inclined to dismiss the symptoms as psychogenic Hysteria.

However, if such a weapon truly does exist and if it is being used to attack U.S. diplomats, it would constitute a brazen provocation worthy of harsh retaliation. And, even without compelling proof, the U.S. might still use the attacks to justify an offensive action. Recall the Bush administration's bogus claim of WMDs in Iraq. In fact, our government has a long history of jousting at windmills to provoke international conflict. So, at a time of rising tensions between the U.S. and Russia, we should all remain highly vigilant to that possibility. Meanwhile, stay tuned. As we enter a new age of unconventional warfare, we still have much to learn about Havana Syndrome.

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

*It's a perplexing issue, alright. And, as you point out, that makes it an ideal casus belli for the warmongers among us.*

The Editor

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**Help Suppress Voter Suppression**

To the Editor:

Do Republicans seek to suppress votes? It seems so. They constantly repeat false claims about voter fraud, waving this red herring to distract. Their real goal is to limit opposition votes so the ever-shrinking number of Republican voters can elect their candidates. They want minority rule.

To insure their minority can act like a majority, Republicans state legislators have rammed through over 389 bills. They designed these bills to advantage Republicans in the polls. They have another 61 bills running through various legislatures with 31 that have passed through one chamber as of May, 2021. This constitutes an organized and frontal assault on the vote.

Recall, colonial Americans drove out Britain in order to get the vote. Our ancestors fought and died for the

vote and now Republicans state legislators are systematically stealing votes from our own citizens. Republicans are the new colonizers seeking to suppress access to the voting booth.

Today's voting is virtually free of voter fraud. Eight states have mail-in voting with a fine record of voting security. Thirty-four states allow early voting, again with high levels of security. In contrast and against our sense of fairness eight states, so far, allow their legislatures to overturn legally binding elections. State legislators can now legally overturn elections!

State legislators have no right whatsoever to politically gag us. This is madness. What happened to one person, one vote? Raise your voice, resist their lies, and strengthen the vote. Keep the democratic experiment alive and well. Be a modern patriot and fight voter suppression.

J. Michael Atherton  
Dover N.H.

Michael:

*You reinforce our conviction that we need confiscatory taxation on the ultra-wealthy. They're the ones funding the propaganda mills which pervert our public dialogue so that their legislative stooges can keep ordinary citizens from voting.*

The Editor

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**N.H. Democrats Commit Grievous Error**

To the Editor:

I think the New Hampshire State Democratic Party has committed a grievous error. Why? Because the top echelon of the State Democratic Party has seemingly pressured the N.H. House Progressive Caucus to expel one of its members for allegedly tweeting an antisemitic comment.

Rep. Maria Perez (D-Milford) was forced off the Progressive Caucus for saying, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." A New Hampshire

media person, who some have identified as an Islamophobe, discovered the tweet and apparently notified the Anti-Defamation League and the Jewish Federation of N.H. They condemned Rep. Perez for her "antisemitic" tweet, which critics have said emanated from Hamas, identified by the U.S. State Department as a "terrorist group." The problem with blaming Hamas for creating that slogan is that it pre-dates the formation of that political party, which won a free and democratic election in Gaza in 2006.

Perez, in a second tweet, stated that Israel was an apartheid state. She again drew disapproval, while her critics ignored that same designation by Human Rights Watch and the Israeli human rights organization, B'Tselem. Archbishop Tutu of South Africa once visited the occupied Palestinian West Bank and testified that Israel's apartheid system was worse than what the minority white government of South Africa had imposed on Black people in his country.

Since when is it forbidden to criticize the policies of any country, including Israel, which over 10 years will receive over \$38 billion dollars from American taxpayers?

Will Thomas, member, N.H. Palestine Education Network  
Auburn, N.H.

Will:

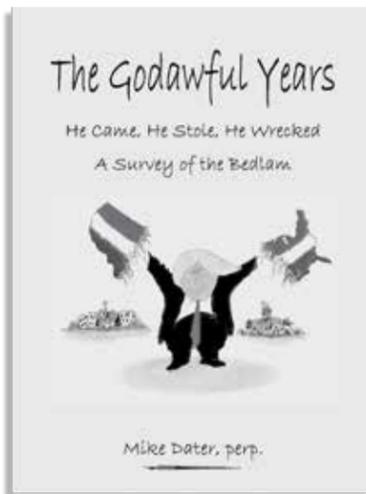
*Well, this is bound to stir up trouble—good trouble, though.*

*It's terribly unfortunate that this issue has been frozen into the frame of a zero-sum game. The prevailing narrative seems to be that supporting the human rights of Palestinians is inherently anti-Semitic. That, it seems to us, is an insupportable argument.*

*If there is a way out of this dilemma it can only be discovered by a free discussion of the problem. Shutting down the*

**You Suffered Through Them...**

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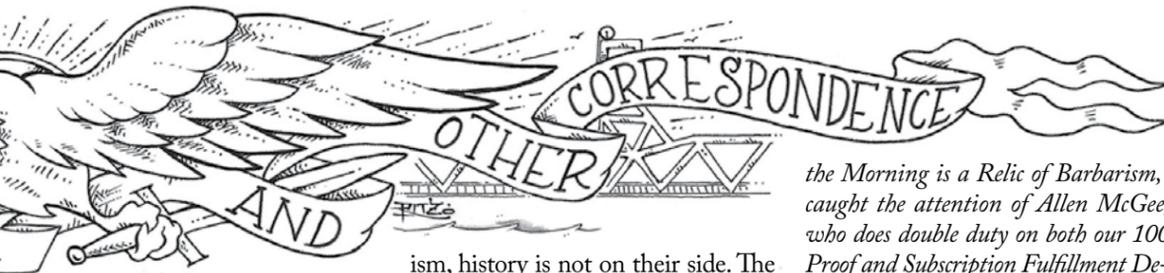
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discussion with the knee-jerk accusation of anti-Semitism doesn't help.

The Editor

**Do Words Really Matter?**

To the Editor:

Charlemagne is credited with saying, "He who has two languages has two souls." Words to ponder as angry whites continue to immerse themselves in hate speech, adopting it as their second language.

Learning to speak "Conversational Hate" is easy. Fire up any TV, radio, or computer and choose from a wide selection of courseware, most of it delivered by highly paid professionals. Then, kick back and absorb every hyperbolic accusation, meme, talking point, insult, and lie they have to offer. In no time you'll be recalling enough new vocabulary to converse fluently with your fellow students, parroting all you've learned. A new language, new friends, a new belief system, and a new soul.

The tragedy is that once we acquire new language it tends to stick to us like napalm. It's a bell we can't un-ring. Case in point, I was a teenager back in the late '50s and still know all the lyrics to the Patience and Prudence song, "Tonight You Belong to Me." It was drilled into my brain by repetition on AM radio and God, what I'd give to erase it!

So, if we find communicating with Trump's supporters difficult, it's likely because they've adopted new language and no longer speak ours. Sadly, their children are learning it, too. If you're a teacher with playground duty, you know what I mean.

The clowns funding and driving America's culture war probably still believe they can control what they've created, but when it comes to the spread of fascism and toxic national-

ism, history is not on their side. The language of hate infests its hosts like herpes and repairing the damage is going to take a very long time.

Rick Littlefield  
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

A very perceptive way of looking at the question, "How did the U.S. get itself into such a %\$#@ condition?"

When you figure out a way to reverse the process, please let us know.

The Editor

**Ingersoll, "The Great Agnostic"**

Dear Mr. Fowle and Mr. Dater,

I do not know where this book came from, but somehow it made it into one of several piles of books in our household. It is probably of no interest for the current *Gazette*, but perhaps some of the illustrations could be clipped and used. Or recycle it or throw it in the wood stove.

Appreciative *Gazette* reader,  
Heidi Wells  
Jefferson, N.H.

Dear Appreciative,

Thank you for your generous gift of Wit, Wisdom, and Eloquence of Col. R.G. Ingersoll (*J.B. McClure, Chicago, 1894*). It means more to us than you might have imagined. If we believed in it—which, despite many temptations, foremost among them the highly improbable circumstances which put this venerable newspaper in our charge, we do not—we'd suspect that fate might have played a role in this volume's mysterious appearance in your household. The editor—a great-X9 grandson of Richard Ingersoll, by way of his daughter Bathsheba (1632–1702)—has long thought it likely that he is a distant cousin of the man formerly famous as "The Great Agnostic." Be that as it may, this volume is a welcome addition to our rather eclectic research library.

The brief essay, "Getting Up Early in

the Morning is a Relic of Barbarism," caught the attention of Allen McGee, who does double duty on both our 100 Proof and Subscription Fulfillment Departments. Perhaps we're working him too hard. Naturally we had to read it ourselves, for supervisory reasons. Though Ingersoll's advice was directed at farmers, we believe it applies equally well to editorial workers. Not only did it reinforce our core belief in the merits of a leisurely morning routine, it also confirmed our faith in the theory of confirmation bias.

Noodling around on the internet we discovered a direct connection between Ingersoll and another even more estimable figure on whom an ungrateful nation had turned its back. Thomas Paine had largely been scorned in the nation he did so much to create after he wrote *The Rights of Man*. Ingersoll, by defending Paine in his popular lectures, rectified a century of injustice. We reprint that lecture below.

The Editor

=====

**R.G. Ingersoll on Thomas Paine**

by Col. R.G. Ingersoll

Thomas Paine was born in Thetford, England. He came from the common people. At the age of thirty-seven he left England for America. He was the first to perceive the destiny of the New World. He wrote the pamphlet "Common Sense," and in a few months the Continental Congress declared the colonies free and independent States—a new nation was born. Paine having aroused the spirit of independence, gave every energy of his soul to keep the spirit alive. He was with the army. He shared its defeats and its glory. When the situation became desperate, he gave them *The Crisis*. It was a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, leading the way to freedom, honor, and to victory.

The writings of Paine are gemmed with compact statements that carry conviction to the dullest. Day and night he labored for America, until there was a government of the people

and for the people. At the close of the Revolution, no one stood higher than Thomas Paine. Had he been willing to live a hypocrite, he would have been respectable, he at least could have died surrounded by other hypocrites, and at his death there would have been an imposing funeral, with miles of carriages, filled with hypocrites, and above his hypocritical dust there would have been a hypocritical monument covered with lies.

Having done so much for man in America, he went to France. The seeds sown by the great infidels were bearing fruit in Europe. The eighteenth century was crowning its gray hairs with the wreath of progress. Upon his arrival in France he was elected a member of the French Convention—in fact, he was selected about the same time by the people of no less than four Departments. He was one of the committee to draft a constitution for France. In the Assembly, where nearly all were demanding the execution of the king, he had the courage to vote against death. To vote against the death of the king was to vote against his own life. This was the sublimity of devotion to principle. For this he was arrested, imprisoned, and doomed to death. While under sentence of death, while in the gloomy cell of his prison, Thomas Paine wrote to Washington, asking him to say one word to Robespierre in favor of the author of *Common Sense*. Washington did not reply. He wrote again. Washington, the President, paid no attention to Thomas Paine, the prisoner. The letter was thrown into the wastebasket of forgetfulness, and Thomas Paine remained condemned to death. Afterward he gave his opinion of Washington at length, and I must say, that I have never found it in my heart to greatly blame him.

Thomas Paine, having done so much for political liberty, turned his attention to the superstitions of his age. He published *The Age of Reason*; and from that day to this, his character has been maligned by almost every priest in Christendom. He has been held up as the terrible example. Every man who has expressed an honest thought, has been warningly referred

to Thomas Paine. All his services were forgotten. No kind word fell from any pulpit. His devotion to principle, his zeal for human rights, were no longer remembered. Paine simply took the ground that it is a contradiction to call a thing a revelation that comes to us second-hand. There can be no revelation beyond the first communication. All after that is hearsay. He also showed that the prophecies of the Old Testament had no relation whatever to Jesus Christ, and contended that Jesus Christ was simply a man. In other words, Paine was an enlightened Unitarian. Paine thought the Old Testament too barbarous to have been the work of an infinitely benevolent God. He attacked the doctrine that salvation depends upon belief. He insisted that every man has the right to think.

After the publication of these views every falsehood that malignity could coin and malice pass was given to the world. On his return to America, after the election to the presidency of another infidel, Thomas Jefferson, it was not safe for him to appear in the public streets. He was in danger of being mobbed. Under the very flag he had helped to put in heaven his rights were not respected. Under the Constitution that he had suggested, his life was insecure. He had helped to give liberty to more than three millions of his fellow-citizens, and they were willing to deny it unto him. He was deserted, ostracized, shunned, maligned, and cursed. He enjoyed the seclusion of a leper; but he maintained through it all his integrity. He stood by the convictions of his mind. Never for one moment did he hesitate or waver.

He died almost alone. The moment he died Christians commenced manufacturing horrors for his death-bed. They had his chamber filled with devils rattling chains, and these ancient lies are annually certified to by the respectable Christians of the present day. The truth is, he died as he had lived. Some ministers were impolite enough to visit him against his will. Several of them he ordered from his room. A

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

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# Kurt Vonnegut's Way Of Dealing With The Trauma

by Jean Stimmell

I was psyched to see “Unstuck in Time,” a new film about Kurt Vonnegut by Robert Weide and Don Argott. I had devoured Kurt’s most famous book, *Slaughterhouse-Five*, when it came out in 1969, soon after I got back from serving in Vietnam. As someone who viewed my war as unnecessary, illegal, and immoral, I could identify with his anti-war stance and how he questioned authority. Later, I became intrigued with him for being a wounded warrior, as were my patients, after working in the VA treating veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

In *Slaughterhouse-Five*, the narrator and Billy Pilgrim, Vonnegut’s alter ego, both exhibit classic signs of PTSD: inability to sleep, lack of focus, nightmares, and flashbacks. In addition, Vonnegut suffers from moral guilt, a new diagnostic category validated by historical records, detailing such suffering in soldiers going back to the ancient Greeks. Moral Guilt happens when an individual’s values are betrayed, when their sense of right and wrong is vi-

olated.

Moral guilt, over time, can eat a soldier up, as it did for Vonnegut in real life. How could it be otherwise: as a Prisoner of War in Germany, he was an eyewitness to tens of thousands of civilians being incinerated as America and its allies fire-bombed Dresden, a city renowned for its culture and art.\* Then, in a nightmarish sequel, Vonnegut and his fellow POWs were forced, on pain of death, to pull out the charred, reeking remains of countless bodies from the smoking wreckage.

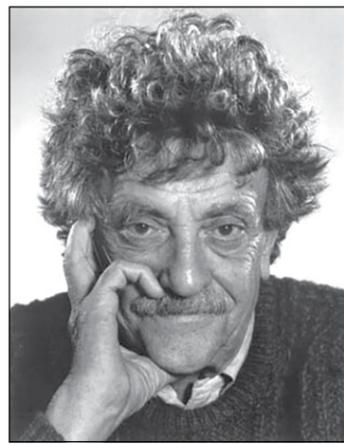
Vonnegut’s bedrock assumptions about the world being a safe place where good things happen to good people were shattered. Also typical for trauma survivors, his memories of these distressing events were fragmentary. He labored for more than 20 years, attempting to piece them together, trying to find a language to express what had happened to him but, still, the missing pieces remained too radioactive. His solution came from entering the world of science fiction where Billy Pilgrim could be his surrogate, acting out the big picture Vonnegut couldn’t.

Billy Pilgrim, Vonnegut’s alto ago,

brings to mind another gangly, awkward kid, ill-suited for the military, who had been one of my patients. Like Vonnegut, who moves back and forth in time, I am going to digress and tell this story.

As too often happens, soldiers least suited for combat, like my patient, are the ones who are thrust into the front lines. One day, out of the blue, his base camp came under an intense mortar attack. Everyone dove for cover, except my patient, who attempted to avoid the rounds exploding all around him by frantically running in circles.

Finally exhausted, he collapsed to his knees, resigned to imminent death. Strangely, at that exact moment, the deafening barrage stopped. That’s when he became unstuck in time and morphed into God—at least, that’s what he thought happened. He was diagnosed with a psychotic disorder and discharged. After that, he was okay most of the time, except when triggered by a sound or scent reminiscent of the mortar attack. Each time that happened, he fell down on his knees and became God again; after which, his civilian doctors remand-



Kurt Vonnegut. Photo by Rashawerakh; license CC BY-NC 2.0.

ed him back to the psych ward. So it goes...

Sorry for the digression. Now back to the documentary, which shows how Vonnegut learned to cope after enduring so much. Learning how to cope in extreme situations is no longer confined to wars. All of us must master this skill in the uncertain world we find ourselves in today, inundated by multiple scenarios of pending doom: terrorism, insurrection, and climate change—while, at the same time, confronting the negative aspects of our history we thought we had swept under the

rug, like slavery, white supremacy, and the genocide of Native Americans.

The horrific trauma Vonnegut suffered during WW II stripped him of any semblance of his former ideals. Yet he didn’t surrender to bitter resentment, but transformed himself into a humanist—albeit one with a dark sense of humor—by following a philosophy similar in many respects to Zen Buddhism.

Here, in a nutshell, is his philosophy, spliced together from comments he made in the documentary, highlighting the importance of living in the present: “I mean, this day is as real as any we are going to live... When are we going to be able to pause for a moment and say out loud, ‘if this isn’t nice, what is?’... Yet we miss it, looking ahead, hoping for ‘even better days’... forgetting this is all there is.”

So it goes. Kurt Vonnegut, we miss you.

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\* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombing\\_of\\_Dresden\\_in\\_World\\_War\\_II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombing_of_Dresden_in_World_War_II)

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from page five

couple of Catholic priests, in all the meekness of hypocrisy, called that they might enjoy the agonies of a dying friend of man. Thomas Paine, rising in his bed, the few embers of expiring life blown into flame by the breath of indignation, had the goodness to curse them both. His physician, who seems to have been a meddling fool, just as the cold hand of death was touching the patriot’s heart, whispered in the dull ear of the dying man: “Do you believe, or do you wish to believe, that Jesus Christ is the son of God?” And the reply was: “I have no wish to believe on that subject.”

These were the last remembered words of Thomas Paine. He died



as serenely as ever Christian passed away. He died in the full possession of his mind, and on the very brink and edge of death proclaimed the doctrines of his life.

Every Christian, every philanthropist, every believer in human liberty, should feel under obligation to Thomas Paine for the splendid service rendered by him in the darkest days of the American Revolution. In the midnight of Valley Forge, *The Crisis* was the first star that glittered in the wide horizon of despair. Every good man should remember with gratitude the brave words spoken by Thomas Paine in the French Con-

vention against the death of Louis. He said: “We will kill the king, but not the man. We will destroy monarchy, not the monarch.”

Thomas Paine was a champion, in both hemispheres, of human liberty; one of the founders and fathers of this Republic; one of the foremost men of his age. He never wrote a word in favor of injustice. He was a despiser of slavery. He abhorred tyranny in every form. He was, in the widest and best sense, a friend of all his race. His head was as clear as his heart was good, and he had the courage to speak his honest thought.

He was the first man to write these words: “The United States of America” He proposed the present Federal Constitution. He furnished every thought that now glitters in the Declaration of Independence.

He believed in one God and no more. He was a believer even in special providence, and he hoped for immortality.

How can the world abhor the man who said:

“I believe in the equality of man, and that religious duties consist in doing justice, in loving mercy, and endeavoring to make our fellow-creatures happy.”

“It is necessary to the happiness of man that he be mentally faithful to himself.”

“The word of God is the creation which we behold.”

“Belief in a cruel God makes a cruel man.”

“My opinion is, that those whose lives have been spent in doing good and endeavoring to make their fellow-mortals happy, will be happy hereafter.”

“One good schoolmaster is of more use than a hundred priests.”

“I believe in one God, and no more, and I hope for happiness beyond this life.”

“Man has no property in man,” and,

“The key of heaven is not in the keeping of any sect!”

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# Do You Believe in Unicorns?

by W.D. Ehrhart

Steve Bannon, the Trump-paradoned *Breitbart* founder, former Trump strategist, and current Trump ally, said in a podcast on January 5th, 2021, “Strap on. All hell’s going to break loose,” and just last week declared, “We are taking over school boards, we’re taking over the Republican Party with the precinct committee strategy. Suck on this!”

Number 45 himself defended supporters who chanted “Hang Mike Pence” during the insurrection, saying it was just “common sense” given Pence’s refusal to deny certification of the 2020 election.

A teenaged white kid carrying an illegally obtained high-powered assault rifle across state lines to defend the property of people he didn’t know and never met was acquitted by a nearly all-white jury of all charges related to his shooting of three men, killing two of them.

Meanwhile, the Wyoming Republican Party voted to no longer recognize Representative Liz Cheney as a member of their party. Elsewhere in the House, the GOP stripped all thirteen Republicans who voted for President Joe Biden’s infrastructure bill of their committee assignments, those same thirteen receiving multiple death threats and accusations of treason.

Speaking of the House, Representative Paul Gosar posted an anime video of him killing Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and attacking President Biden, in response to which the House GOP leadership said nothing.

On the other side of the Capitol, Senator Josh Hawley said that because liberals won’t let young men be men, they are retreating into idleness and porn and video games, he himself apparently believing boys should be taught that women are objects, homosexuality is a sin, and violence is a solution to everything.

Speaking of violence, a public library in Texas has cancelled “Rainbow StoryTime” for children, where books chosen to be read advocate tolerance and acceptance of difference without mentioning gender or sexuality, after receiving a deluge of complaints and threats. Across the nation, hundreds of school board members, public health, and election officials have quit in the face of death threats to them and their families.

Turning to practical matters, who’s going to pay for the recently—finally—passed infrastructure bill? Well, it won’t be Jeff Bezos, who paid less than one percent (1%) tax on \$4,200,000,000 of income. In recent years, the richest 400 American families paid an average tax rate of

8.2 percent. (What was your tax rate last year?) The badly underfunded IRS audits those with incomes of about \$20,000 at the same rate as those with incomes of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

Meanwhile, when Uncle Joe signed that infrastructure bill, he proudly announced “that despite the cynics, Democrats and Republicans can come together” in bipartisanship.

The cynics?! Is Biden kidding? Is he stupid? Is he blind? Everything you’ve just read up to this point took place in one single week. **One week.** This is just one week’s worth of news. And it’s been going on in one form or another since Barack Obama became president, and with ever increasing fury and vengeance and violence and madness since 2016. Bipartisanship is broken. It is no more. It is beyond repair, certainly in my lifetime and perhaps forever.

The radical right has no interest in bipartisanship. The men and women who stormed the Capitol last January, and the men and women who encouraged them and egged them on, are bound and determined to restore white male supremacy, return women barefoot to the kitchen, put people of color back in their place, make homosexuality a crime again, sanction vigilante violence, and restore unlimited and unquestioned



A Virgin with a Unicorn (c. 1602–5), by Domenico Zampieri. The alleged virgin depicted is Giulia Farnese, mistress of Pope Alexander VI.

power to police.

Through it all, the Democratic Party—with a few exceptions like AOC and the redoubtable Bernie Sanders—continues to act as if this undemocratic, uncompromising, vicious, hateful, violent radical right is still playing by the rules of civil society and two-party political tradition.

It is time, and long past time, for Democrats to get their heads out of their asses and recognize that American democracy is on its last legs, that unless Democrats at all levels from the national down to the most

local of the local, those of us who are appalled by what’s been going on before our very eyes can kiss the future good-bye.

And as for moderate Republicans and so-called Independents, if you think Steve Bannon and Donald Trump have any use for you, you might as well believe in unicorns.

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*W. D. Ehrhart is an ex-Marine sergeant who holds a PhD in American Studies from the University of Wales at Swansea, and taught for many years at the Haverford School for Boys.*

# Making Work Work for Workers

by Jim Hightower

As a writer, I get stuck every so often straining for the right words to tell my story. Over the years, though, I’ve learned when to quit tying myself into mental knots over sentence construction, instead stepping back and rethinking where my story is going.

This process is essentially what millions of American working families are going through this year as re-

cord numbers of them are shocking bosses, politicians, and economists by stepping back and declaring: “We quit!” Most of the quits are tied to very real abuses that have become ingrained in our workplaces over the past couple of decades — poverty paychecks, no health care, unpredictable schedules, no child care, understaffing, forced overtime, unsafe jobs, sexist and racist managers, tolerance of aggressively-rude customers, and so awful much more.

Specific grievances abound, but at the core of each is a deep, inherently-destructive executive-suite malignancy: Disrespect. The corporate system has cheapened employees from valuable human assets worthy of being nurtured and advanced to a bookkeeping expense that must be steadily eliminated. It’s not just about paychecks, it’s about feeling valued, feeling that the hierarchy gives a damn about the people doing the work.

Yet, corporate America is going out of its way to show that it doesn’t care — and, of course, workers notice. So, unionization is booming, millions who were laid off by the pandemic are refusing to rush back to the same old grind, and now millions who have jobs are quitting. This is much more than an unusual unemployment stat — it’s a sea change in people’s attitude about work itself... and life.

People are rethinking where their

story is going and how they can take it in a better direction. Yes, nearly everyone will eventually return to work, but workers themselves have begun redefining the job and rebalancing it with life.

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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

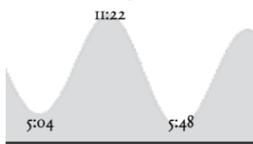
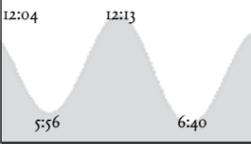
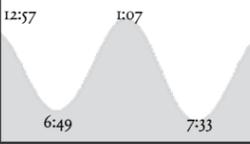
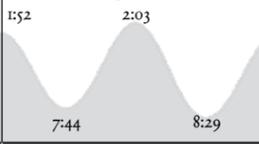
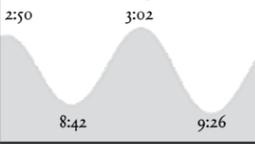
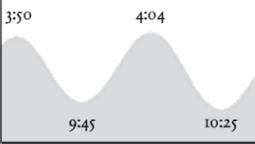
whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

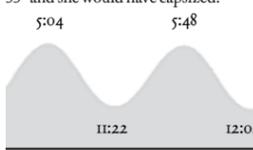
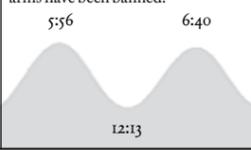
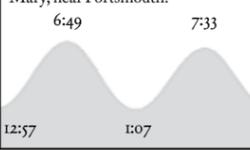
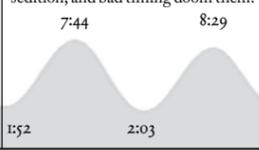
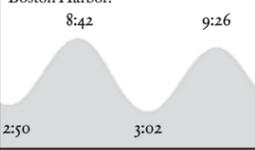
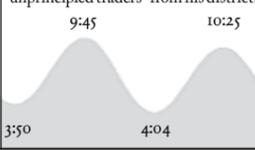
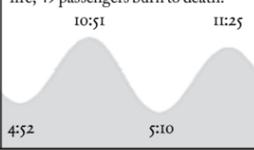
moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

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, DECEMBER 5	MONDAY, DECEMBER 6	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11
<p><b>2013</b>—Scott Brown, in N.H., says he's been helping Republicans "raise awareness as to the issues...here in Massachusetts."</p> <p><b>2002</b>—At a party on Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday, GOP Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott expresses regret over desegregation.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—A B-52, sent the wrong co-ordinates, bombs U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan, killing three.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Federal Reserve Chair Greenspan warns: "irrational exuberance" may have inflated stock prices.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—The GOP rams Speaker Gingrich down the House's throat.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—A Grand Jury in N.C. indicts "holy" man Jim Bakker on charges of fraud and conspiracy.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—An A-4 Skyhawk accidentally rolls off the U.S.S. <i>Ticonderoga</i> near Japan. Plane, pilot, and one-megaton B43 are still missing.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—The Supreme Court rules that restaurants in interstate bus stations can't be segregated anymore.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—The CIO, red-baited into irrelevance anyway, merges with the AFL.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—"Uppity Negroes" in Montgomery, Ala., boycott the municipal mass transit system.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Navy Flight 19, five Avengers and 14 men, vanishes off Ft. Lauderdale. During the search for them, 13 more aviators disappear.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—Alabama repeals its child labor laws in a bid to entice a Massachusetts textile corporation. It works.</p>	<p><b>1967</b>—Chaplain Angelo "Charlie" Liteky carries 23 wounded men to safety in Vietnam despite intense hostile fire. For his bravery he is given the Medal of Honor, which he returns in 1986 to protest U.S. foreign policy.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Speaking to journalists at the Deadline Club in New York City, Pentagon spokesman Arthur Sylvester says "It's [the] government's right, if necessary, to lie to save itself when it's going up into a nuclear war."</p> <p><b>1951</b>—The National Association of Broadcasters adopts a Code of [Cowardly and Obedient] Conduct.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—The Supreme Court rules poll taxes Constitutional—why should Blacks and poor whites get to vote?</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Federal judge John M. Woolsey rules that Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> is not obscene and therefore may be imported.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—In Cienega, Colombia, soldiers with machine guns open fire on workers striking against United Fruit Co. At least 47, and possibly several thousand, workers die.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—The U.S. War Department ceases shackling conscientious objectors to the walls of solitary cells.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—The largest pre-A-Bomb explosion occurs in Halifax when a munitions ship explodes: 1,600 die; and windows break 40 miles away.</p> <p><b>1865</b>—Georgia ratifies the Thirteenth Amendment, thus making slavery illegal—leaving a loophole for exploitable prisoners, though.</p> <p><b>342</b>—RIP Saint Nick.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—The "Justice" Department fires eight prosecutors for failing to prosecute enough Democrats.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Six skydivers leap from a plane over the South Pole. Three of them die when their chutes fail to open.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—France is virtually paralyzed when 1.75 million workers protest global exploitation.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—The Department of Energy admits it conducted more than 200 secret weapons tests.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—A disgruntled ex-employee shoots a Southwest Airlines pilot and co-pilot. The plane breaks up while diving at Mach 1.2, killing all aboard.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—Their warnings overruled by Ronald Reagan—selling arms to Iran and giving the profits to assassins is illegal—Cap Weinberger and George Schultz joke about jail visiting hours.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—R.I.P. legendary cartoonist Rube Goldberg, from whose work the <i>Gazette</i> cribbed its business plan.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Japan bestows the Order of the Rising Sun on Gen. Curtis LeMay, whose fire-bombing of that nation during WWII probably killed half a million Japanese.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—At Peterson Field, Colo., MPs hold civilians at gunpoint as CIA-trained Tibetan commandos are smuggled aboard a C-124.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—Japan attacks Pearl Harbor.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—Angered by a Black sheriff's election, whites in Vicksburg, Miss. begin a month-long slaughter of 150-300 Black men, women, and children.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—Congress votes to destroy the U.S. Postal Service by making it pre-fundations for 50 years.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Sec. of Defenselessness Donald Rumsfeld tells disgruntled soldiers to quit bitching and go to war with the unarmored vehicles he gave them.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—Bill Clinton signs NAFTA, shipping umpteen jobs elsewhere.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—To jumpstart a national dialogue on banning nuclear weapons, Norman D. Mayer, 66, threatens to blow up the Washington Monument with a dynamite-laden van. After ten hours, police shoot him dead.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—A prop on the set of "The Six Million Dollar Man" is found to be the mummified remains of Elmer McCurdy, born in Maine in 1880, hanged in Oklahoma in 1911.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—United Flight 553 crashes in Chicago killing 45 people including E. Howard Hunt's wife Dorothy, who was carrying \$10,000 in \$100 bills.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Good ol' Ike announces Atoms for Peace, leading to an Iranian nuclear program four years later.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Pope Pius IX denounces liberalism, socialism, &amp; rationalism.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—Pope Pius IX proclaims <i>Ineffabilis Deus</i>, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.</p> <p><b>1793</b>—Madame du Barry is guillotined for aiding emigrés. Her enslaved servant Zamor blew the whistle.</p> <p><b>1596</b>—Nine suspected crypto-Jews are tortured and burned at the stake by the Mexican Inquisition.</p>	<p><b>2019</b>—Leaked documents reveal that officials lied about the war in Afghanistan. Some professed to be shocked.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—The Governor of Illinois, Democrat Rod Blagojevich, is arrested for attempting to sell a Senate seat.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese says people go to soup kitchens because it's "easier than paying."</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Because he's talking to General Al Haig, Henry Kissinger keeps it simple: "Kill anything that moves."</p> <p><b>1966</b>—"We are in a much stronger position than two years ago. [Com-mies] will not be able to succeed [in Vietnam]," says Sec. of State Rusk.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Its pilot asleep, a B-52 rolls into a dive over N.Y. state. Fearing a crash, the navigator ejects. That awakens the pilot, who orders "Bail out!" The crewless, nukelose plane flies 100 miles before crashing near Barre, Vt.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—Robert Welch Jr. founds the John Birch Society, which goes on to label Dwight Eisenhower a Commie.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—General D. "Dugout Doug" MacArthur proposes detonating 26 A-bombs to create an impenetrable barrier across the Korean peninsula.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—Ex-HUAC honcho J. Parnell Thomas [R-N.J.] gets six to 18 months in the slammer—alongside two of the Hollywood Ten—for padding Congressional payrolls and pocketing the extra cash.</p> <p><b>1935</b>—Investigative reporter Walter Lippett is Tommy-gunned in front of his family in Minneapolis.</p>	<p><b>2011</b>—The gundalow <i>Piscataqua</i> is launched on the eponymous river.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Gary Webb, who exposed the CIA-Contra drug connection, dies from two gunshots in the face. The coroner calls it suicide.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—House Judiciary Committee debates impeaching Pres. Clinton for lying about his lewd behavior.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Sen. Bob Packwood (Lecher-Ore.) apologizes for being a serial groper but refuses to resign.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—In a memo to President-elect Carter, pollster Pat Caddell makes the case for a "permanent campaign."</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The Senate, buying Wm. Rehnquist's lie disavowing a letter supporting racial segregation, con-firms him for the Supreme Court.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Trying to lower the cost of natural gas, the U.S. government explodes an A-bomb in N.M.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—U.S. jets bomb Marines in Vietnam; 17 Marines and Navy medics are euphemized as "friendly fire."</p> <p><b>1943</b>—A year after learning the facts, the Polish government-in-exile reveals to the world that Nazis are "exterminating" Jews. The world shrugs.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—G.P. Thompson gets the Nobel for Physics for proving electrons are waves. His dad won it in 1906 for demonstrating that they're particles.</p> <p><b>1789</b>—Moses Brown hires Samuel Slater, a Briton, to build the first U.S. textile mill, in Pawtucket. By poaching British technology and exploiting children, Brown becomes filthy rich.</p>	<p><b>2006</b>—President George W.[MD] Bush, on national TV, denies having ever been "a knee-walking drunk."</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The Supreme Court hears <i>Bush v. Gore</i>.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—President Clinton begs forgiveness for his sins. Instead he gets three Articles of Impeachment.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—Veep George H.[H.]W. Bush, at a Manchester, N.H., dinner honoring the late William Loeb, reads aloud Loeb's most scurrilous attacks against him.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Soldiers of the U.S.-backed Salvadoran government murder 900 villagers at El Mozote.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—As Ernesto "Che" Guevara speaks at the United Nations, a 3.5 inch rocket launched from Queens falls harmlessly into the East River.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Seeing at the last minute that JFK has his wife and kids with him, Belmont, N.H. resident Richard Pavlick prefers his plan to crash into the President-elect's car with his dynamite-laden Buick.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—A few days after slipshod coal dust removal techniques are approved by state inspectors, the New Orient mine in West Frankfort, Ill., blows up, killing 119 miners.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Guilty of fighting back when Houston cops rioted in August, 13 Black soldiers are hanged in unison.</p> <p><b>1838</b>—The U.S. House of Representatives passes Rep. Charles Atherton's (D-N.H.) "gag rule" prohibiting discussion of slavery.</p>
 <p>11:22 5:04 5:48</p>	 <p>12:04 12:13 5:56 6:40</p>	 <p>12:57 1:07 6:49 7:33</p>	 <p>1:52 2:03 7:44 8:29</p>	 <p>2:50 3:02 8:42 9:26</p>	 <p>3:50 4:04 9:45 10:25</p>	 <p>4:52 5:10 10:51 11:25</p>

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12	MONDAY, DECEMBER 13	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18
<p><b>2006</b>—The <i>Portsmouth Herald</i> mis-quotes Sen. Barack Obama [D-III.], who, the day before, in Portsmouth, did <i>not</i> say, "The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice."</p> <p><b>2005</b>—"I think we are welcomed [in Iraq]," says George W.[MD] Bush, "but it was not a peaceful welcome."</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The Supreme Court selects George W.[MD] Bush to be #43.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—A Flag Protection Amendment fails by three votes in the Senate.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—Freshmen Reps. of the new GOP majority fête Rush Limbaugh and make him an honorary Member at a raucous Heritage Foundation shindig.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—Arrow Air Flight 1285 crashes at Gander, killing 248 U.S. paratroopers and eight crew. Islamic Jihad claims credit, which a sketchy U.S. investigation attempts to deny.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Eight minutes after the end of his first execution, Alpha Otis Stephens keeps breathing and moving. So, Georgia electrocutes him again.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—"New Trends in Missiles," a Boston trade show, draws an anarchists entry; 1,000 cockroaches symbolize the only winners of nuclear war.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Nancy Reagan sits on Mr. T's lap and kisses him on the scalp.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-Bushmills) gives columnist Drew Pearson a kick in the groin.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—The <i>Queen Mary</i>, carrying 11,339 GIs and crew, rolls 52° when hit by a rogue wave up to 90 feet high; 55° and she would have capsized.</p>	<p><b>2009</b>—Sen. Joe Lieberman [I-Conn.] nixes a Medicare public option.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—U.S. troops drag Saddam Hussein out of a hole in the ground, so final victory in Iraq must be imminent. U.S. death toll so far: 547.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Al Gore decides he'd rather be righteous than be president.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—In Texas, Ray Landry's death is delayed 14 minutes when a tube falls from his arm and lethal chemicals spray across the room.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—An eager public finally gets its first Susan B. Anthony dollars.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Defecting oceanographer Slava Kurilov leaps from a Soviet cruise ship, swims for three days, and reaches the Philippines safely.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—20th Century-Fox pays Governor Reagan \$2 million for 290 acres in Malibu worth about \$200K.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Because he sold a house in a white Louisville neighborhood to a Black man, journalist Carl Braden is convicted of sedition.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—J. Edgar Hoover spooks Harry S Truman into purging "disloyal" government workers.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—In the U.S. House, sporting goods store clerk Martin Kemmerer brandishes a .38 and demands the floor. Rep. Melvin Maas (R-Minn.) talks him into dropping the gun.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Paraguay declares war on Brazil; its population is soon halved.</p> <p><b>1774</b>—Paul Revere rides to Portsmouth to say imports of powder and arms have been banned.</p>	<p><b>2020</b>—AG Bill Barr quits, the first Covid vaccines are administered, the Electoral College elects Biden President, and Dolt #45 claims he won.</p> <p><b>2012</b>—N.H.-born Adam Lanza shoots his gun-enthusiast mother, six other adults, and 20 kids at a Newtown, Conn. school.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—"This is a farewell kiss from the Iraqi people, you dog," yells Muntadhar al-Zaidi, as he flings his shoe at George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—George W.[MD] Bush blames his Iraq War on "faultry intelligence." He doesn't say whose.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Chrysler admits it sold thousands of used cars as new ones.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager begin a nine-day, non-stop, around-the-world flight.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Defending his taxpayer-funded cocktail parties at the Lee Mansion, Interior Sec. James Watts says "Mr. Reagan has the White House. I have Arlington [National Cemetery]."</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The President of the U.S.—"Tricky Dick"—personally thanks the leader of the U.S. branch of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's cult for his support.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—The last men on the moon leave.</p> <p><b>1907</b>—<i>Thomas W. Lawson</i>, a seven-masted schooner runs aground off Cornwall; it's the first major oil spill.</p> <p><b>1906</b>—The <i>U1</i>, Germany's first submarine, goes into service.</p> <p><b>1774</b>—Local militiamen seize powder and arms from Fort William and Mary, near Portsmouth.</p>	<p><b>2000</b>—Sen. Phil Gramm gives Enron the energy futures deregulation it wants, hidden in an appropriations bill. One year later Enron is bankrupt.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—Paula Jones' lawyers maneuver Bill Clinton into signing a legal document claiming he'd not had sex with government workers.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Bill Casey, CIA director, suffers a handy seizure, preventing him from testifying about Iran/Contra.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Ed Meese denies Ebenezer Scrooge exploited Bob Cratchit.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The Mormon Church reaffirms its "no Black priests" policy.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—A 2.5 mm-deep defect in a part collapses the 39-year-old Silver Bridge over the Ohio River, killing 46.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Police in Palm Beach arrest N.H. resident Richard Pavlick before he can kill John F. Kennedy with his Buick full of dynamite.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Harvard's President defends its policy of banning Black students from dining rooms and residences.</p> <p><b>1890</b>—Sitting Bull's home at Standing Rock is raided by 39 Indian Agency police. Sitting Bull and seven allies are killed, as are eight cops.</p> <p><b>1873</b>—Eric County, N.Y. Sheriff [and future U.S. President] Stephen Grover Cleveland rapes and impregnates Maria Halpin, whom he'd been dating. He has mother and child put into asylums: lunatic and orphan, respectively.</p> <p><b>1814</b>—The Federalists begin their Hartford Convention; their secrecy, sedition, and bad timing doom them.</p>	<p><b>2005</b>—The <i>New York Times</i> reports that the NSA has been tapping U.S. telephones without a warrant.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—U.S. troops at Tora Bora ask for help catching Osama bin Laden.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Bush #41 nominates notoriously boozy womanizer Sen. John Tower [R-Texas] to run the Department of Defense. His confirmation hearings do not go well.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Perennial Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche—Rochester, N.H.'s most famous native—is convicted of tax and mail fraud.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Protestors celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party by hanging Richard Nixon in effigy.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Big Milk offers Nixon a \$2 million "campaign contribution" if he'll cut milk imports. A fortnight later Nixon imposes milk import quotas.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Gen. Westmoreland, already commanding 200,000 men in Vietnam, asks for another 243,000.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Two airliners collide over Manhattan killing a total of 134.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Spooked by Commies, Harry S Truman proclaims a national emergency. It stays in effect until 1976.</p> <p><b>1835</b>—A two-day fire destroys 674 buildings in New York, bankrupting insurance companies and kicking off the Depression of 1837.</p> <p><b>1773</b>—"Sons of Liberty" disguised as Mohawks dump 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor.</p>	<p><b>2010</b>—Street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi sets himself afire, thereby igniting the Tunisian Revolution and the subsequent Arab Spring.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Bill Kristol predicts on "Fox News Sunday," "Barack Obama is not going to beat Hillary Clinton in a single Democratic primary."</p> <p><b>1998</b>—Impeachment pending, Bill Clinton wags the dog: half the Pentagon's cruise missiles explode in Iraq.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—"I know this beach like the back of my hand," says Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt, before disappearing in heavy surf.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—A U.S.A.F. C-131 hits a Munich steeple, then falls onto a trolley. All 20 on the plane die, along with 18 in the trolley and 11 on the street.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Black Americans petition UN officials in Paris and New York for relief from genocidal U.S. domestic policies. They're ignored.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—The National Security Council, just 90 days old, gives the CIA \$1 million to mess with Italian elections.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Adm. "Bull" Halsey sails the 3rd Fleet into a typhoon. Three destroyers sink; nine other ships are damaged, 100 aircraft are lost, and 790 sailors die, mostly by drowning.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—The U.S. sub <i>S-4</i> is rammed and sunk off Provincetown by Coast Guard destroyer <i>Paulding</i>, which is hunting run runners; 40 are lost.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—Gen. Grant issues General Order No. 11, barring "Jews and other unprincipled traders" from his district.</p>	<p><b>2019</b>—Donald Trump is impeached.</p> <p><b>2005</b>—"Not only can we win the war in Iraq," says George W.[MD] Bush 962 days after Mission Accomplished, "we're winning the war in Iraq."</p> <p><b>2004</b>—"America's Most Wanted's" John Walsh says he most wants Jahbir and Alfonso Fowle caught.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—"If this were a dictatorship," says George W.[MD] Bush on CNN, "it'd be a heck of a lot easier, just so long as I'm the dictator."</p> <p><b>1996</b>—Kenyan students protest the killing of a student the previous day. Police kill two more students.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—G-Man Earl Pitts is arrested for moonlighting for the KGB.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Richard Nixon begins Operation Linebacker: 12 days of B-52 strikes against North Vietnam. On the first night, surface-to-air missiles shoot down three Stratofortresses.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Neon signs and car lots get their first jolt of nuke-generated juice.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Eddie Rickenbacker flies a DC-3 over Broadway so Damon Runyon Jr. can scatter his father's ashes.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—Outnumbered 10 to one, U.S. forces lose Guam to the Japanese.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Prohibition, also known as the Organized Crime Job Creation Act, goes to the states for ratification.</p> <p><b>1907</b>—An explosion kills 361 coal miners in Monongah, W. Va.</p> <p><b>1867</b>—Differing track widths cause a train to derail in Angola, N.Y. One wooden car drops 40 feet and catches fire; 49 passengers burn to death.</p>
 <p>11:22 12:04 5:04 5:48</p>	 <p>12:13 5:56 6:40</p>	 <p>12:57 1:07 6:49 7:33</p>	 <p>1:52 2:03 7:44 8:29</p>	 <p>2:50 3:02 8:42 9:26</p>	 <p>3:50 4:04 9:45 10:25</p>	 <p>4:52 5:10 10:51 11:25</p>



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