

The Fortnightly Rant

Is Our Time Up?

Time is the essence—the very foundation—of the news racket. Just think: were it not for time, when would things happen? And if nothing ever happened, what would journalists write about?

We suppose that such thoughts must occur from time to time to those who toil in other news organizations. Perhaps, though, with their frenzied schedules—weeklies, for example, or, in extreme cases, dailies—they simply don't have time.

Thanks to our fortnightly schedule, our national seniority, and the recent commencement of our 267th volume, we have the time, the license, and, we believe, the responsibility to always keep such considerations in our thoughts. Having thus defended the admittedly broad parameters of our discussion, let us focus our attention on this particular moment.

In less than three weeks, every member of the House of Representatives, one-third of the Senate, and a host of statewide election officials will be up for election.

This governing structure is dictated for us by the Constitution of the United States of America. In effect since 1789, it is generally considered to be the oldest national constitution currently in force.

Some say that's a good thing. We're not so sure. Thanks to a quirk in U.S. voting practices,* though—which is not even mentioned in the Constitution—we're stuck with the damn thing as it is, for the foreseeable future, whether we like it or not. Because why would Republicans ever allow alterations to a system that gives them such an unfair advantage?

* "In political science, Duverger's law holds that single-ballot majoritarian elections with single-member districts (such as first past the post) tend to favor a two-party system. The discovery of this tendency is attributed to Maurice Duverger, a French sociologist who observed the effect and recorded it in several papers published in the 1950s and 1960s. In the course of further research, other political scientists began calling the effect a 'law' or principle." — Wikipedia

Despite its blatant and egregious gerrymandering—duly approved by a panel of superannuated religious fanatics—the House of Representatives might be said, on occasion, to actually represent the people. The Senate, on the other hand, represent dirt—or, if you prefer, land. Land stolen, for the most part, from its original occupants.

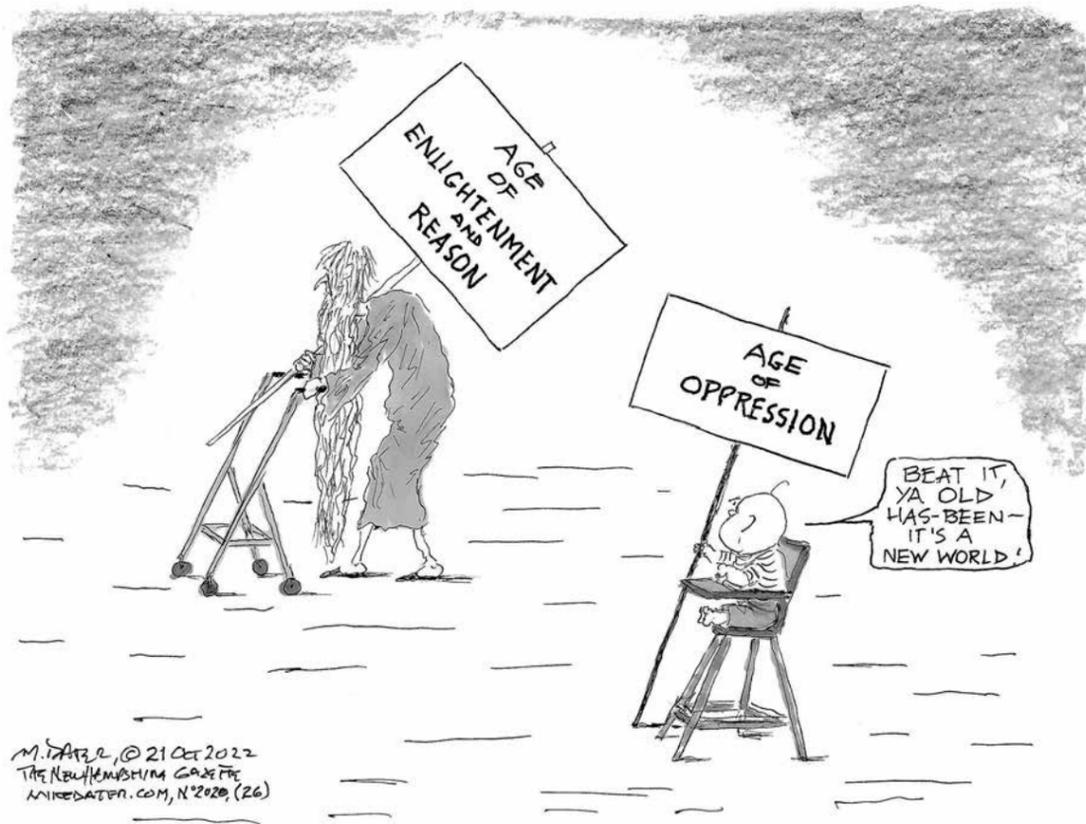
Setting this pedantic nit-picking aside, let's ask a simple question: if this is such a great democracy, why can't the people have what they want?

Poll after poll has shown that Americans want universal background checks for firearm purchases, stronger environmental protections, lower drug prices, and on and on—none of which they're going to get, the way that things have been going. The smart money would bet they'll get the opposite.

Researchers at Princeton did an analysis some years ago comparing Congressional legislation with popular wishes. They learned that "an idea that nobody supports—literally nobody—has about a 30 percent chance of becoming federal law." At the same time, an idea that is incredibly popular—among the bottom 90 percent of Americans in terms of income—also has about a 30 percent chance of becoming law.

In other words, "the preferences of the average American appeared to have only a minuscule—near zero, statistically nonsignificant—impact upon public policy."

What legislation does get passed? Legislation that's supported by the top ten percent—those who can afford to hire lobbyists.



This is unfortunate for a number of reasons. Not only is the "the general Welfare"—which was prominently featured in our Declaration of Independence—being ignored—our very survival is increasingly at risk.

The climate emergency alone demands prompt, dramatic action.

Regardless of anything humanity does now, bad trouble is already coming our way. Every year, storms, droughts, fires, floods, and heat waves bring further proof: if we keep pumping carbon into the atmosphere the way we have been, the result will be chaos.

And that's just the atmosphere. The biosphere's in trouble, too. The World Wildlife fund says "69 percent of the world's wildlife populations—bird, mammal, fish, reptile and amphibian—have dropped since 1970." Scientists are assessing the likelihood of a sixth mass extinction.

If humanity acts now, we can at least hope to reduce the damage and suffering. As the world's most powerful nation—and biggest polluter—the U.S. has a moral obligation to provide essential leadership.

Congress is leading, of that there can be no doubt; it leads simply by existing. The problem is, as noted above, it's listening to the wrong people—people who are trying to kill us.

No, wait. That is overwrought. Let us re-phrase that.

These people—who are filthy rich already or they wouldn't have been able to buy Congress in the first place—want to get even filthier rich than they already are. And, as we have seen, thanks to the way our electoral system "works" these days, a compliant Congress is eager to help them get what they want, regardless of the consequences. Even though that will eventually kill us.

Well, that does this all mean?

Will we never learn how *Rings of Power* ends?

As we said at the beginning, we're always thinking about time. So, when NHPR recently re-broadcast a 2016 episode of Radiolab, we were all agog.

We'll summarize: life on Earth began about four billion years ago, in the form of simple bacterium. For two billion years, nothing changed, until a single bacterium merged with an archaeon, and out of that union, mitochondria developed. Mitochondria are tiny, but for their size they carry a powerful electrical charge. Suddenly life could get bigger and more complex.

Two billion years later, one species became so complex and smart that it was able to figure all this out.

And yet, a person who is unable to construct a simple sentence could, if he gets into the Senate, end up paralyzing the U.S. government and spelling our collective doom.

The Alleged News®

Corporate Media Mostly Ignoring GOP Ploy to Cut Social Security and Medicare

by Brett Wilkins

Corporate media outlets are mostly ignoring a Republican ploy to use the debt ceiling fight to gut Social Security and Medicare if the GOP regains control of Congress—a plot that one leading watchdog called "perhaps the single most consequential story" of the midterm elections.

"Social Security and Medicare are on the ballot next month," said Media Matters for America senior fellow Matt Gertz. "If the American public doesn't know that, it's in part because the press isn't telling them."

Common Dreams reported last week that Social Security and Medicare defenders are warning that the popular programs—which each serve tens of millions of older Americans—face "grave danger" in the event Republicans retake control

of Congress in January.

The warning came after four House Republicans hoping to chair the lower chamber's budget committee told Bloomberg Government that "Social Security and Medicare eligibility changes, spending caps, and safety-net work requirements are among the top priorities" if the GOP is back in charge.

The Republican lawmakers indicated in the article that "next year's deadline to raise or suspend the debt ceiling is a point of leverage" to force Democrats to allow policies including raising the retirement age and slashing Social Security and veterans' benefits, in keeping with the GOP's recently adopted policy agenda.

Despite congressional Democrats sounding the alarm on what Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va.) said would be

an "economically catastrophic" policy, "there's been virtually no coverage from major TV news shows, newspapers, and other mainstream outlets," Gertz noted.

"There has been shockingly little coverage of this development given its significance," Gertz continued. "It earned a scattering of mentions in publications including *New York* magazine. And Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and MSNBC's Chris Hayes detailed the stakes on his show Wednesday night."

"But the story hasn't been referenced elsewhere this week on MSNBC, or on CNN, or on Fox News," he added. "The nationally broadcast morning and evening news shows on ABC, CBS, and NBC haven't discussed it. It hasn't been mentioned in the pages of major newspapers, including *The New*

York Times, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *USA Today*."

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DeJoy Faces Outrage Over New Postal Service Price Hikes

by Jake Johnson

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy is facing backlash over his newly announced plan to hike postcard and stamp prices as part of his proposed 10-year overhaul of mail operations, a strategy that critics warn will further damage the Postal Service.

Late last week, the USPS notified the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) of its planned price increases, which are set to take effect in January. Under the new pricing proposal, which must be approved by the

PRC, the cost of a stamp would rise 4.2 percent to 63 cents while the cost of a postcard would jump 9 percent to 48 cents.

The Postal Service cited the need to "offset the rise in inflation" in justifying the price hikes, but Government Executive's Eric Katz pointed out Tuesday that "DeJoy has previously suggested the increases would continue to allow the Postal Service to reach a financial break-even point."

Why a federal agency would need to reach "break-even" is a question that observers have asked for months as DeJoy—a former logistics executive and Trump megadonor—has rushed ahead with pricing changes, job cuts, and

The Alleged News®

from page one

postal facility closures in a purported attempt to make the public USPS "profitable."

DeJoy has told consumers and the mailing industry to expect USPS prices to continue rising "at an uncomfortable rate" for the foreseeable future as the postmaster general vows to remain in his position despite sustained calls for his removal. The Postal Service Board of Governors, which has the authority to oust DeJoy, approved the new price increase.

Kevin Yoder, a former GOP congressman and executive director of Keep US Posted—an alliance of consumer and business groups—warned in a statement Tuesday that "if DeJoy's frequent postage hikes are allowed to take place, Americans could soon be paying well over \$1 to

mail a single letter."

"The January 2023 rate increases will impact every American, as well as industries that depend on the mail to serve the public," said Yoder. "In fact, with July's increase this year, newspapers faced a 9 percent postage increase, and nonprofits' mail costs increased more than 6 percent. We can't let the Postal Service sabotage itself by driving industries out of business and driving consumers away from using the mail."

"It's a relief to see Congress step in with H.R. 8781 to ensure that mail service remains accessible to all," Yoder added.

H.R. 8781 is Rep. Gerry Connolly's (D-Va.) recently introduced Ensuring Accurate Postal Rates Act, a bill that would require a reassessment of the authority DeJoy has used to hike prices significantly during his scandal-plagued tenure as postmaster general.



It may seem curious that a structure as exuberant as the one pictured above could ever manage to get a building permit in a town like Portsmouth. Here, land use boards tend to take historical precedent as gospel. On the other hand one might argue that in this case, precedent has been taken quite seriously—almost literally. With its wave-like forms, sea-shaded copper accents, and massive wooden beams, its developers clearly aimed to echo the town's ship-building past—even, perhaps, one ship in particular, though the ship in question was not built locally. From the late 18th century until the 1960s—when it was obliterated in a misguided frenzy of "improvement"—a three-story wood-framed building stood here. It had been quite substantial and housed a great many people. Due to those qualities—and because its builder, a man named Parker, had the first name Noah—it came to be called "The Ark."



"We must ensure that rate hikes do not return the Postal Service to a service of the privileged," Connolly said during a hearing last month.

DeJoy's latest pricing announcement came a day after a federal judge ruled that the postmaster general's cost-cutting measures—including limits to overtime pay and a ban on late delivery trips—were to blame for alarming mail slowdowns ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

"There were already enough reasons to fire Postmaster General DeJoy, but this court ruling that DeJoy's actions in 2020 affected mail service is yet another reason," Noah Bookbinder, president of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, wrote in response to the decision.

"DeJoy's conflicts of interest and attacks on a basic government function mean he has to go," Bookbinder added.

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Progressives Say New Midterm Poll Must Be 'Wake Up Call' to Democrats

Julia Conley
With new polling showing that Republicans have gained a significant advantage in the upcoming midterm elections, progressives on Monday said Democrats must spend the next three weeks laser-focused on the U.S. economy and their plans to end price-gouging and rein in corporate power to help working people.

The *New York Times*/Siena College poll showed that 49 percent of likely voters now plan to support Republican candidates, while 45 percent favor Democrats. In September, the same poll showed Democrats with a one-point lead.

"This poll should be a wake-up call for our party," said Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.).

Independent voters particularly have swung toward Republican candidates, with 51 percent now saying they would support a Republican. In September, Democrats had a three-

point lead with independents.

Despite widespread outrage over the right-wing majority of the U.S. Supreme Court's June ruling which overturned *Roe v. Wade* and paved the way for at least 13 states to outlaw abortion care, women who identify as independent voters showed the largest shift toward Republicans in the past month. They favored Democrats by 14 points in September, and now they support Republicans by a margin of 18 points.

The newest poll data was gathered between October 9th and 12th, with 792 likely voters responding.

While President Joe Biden has recently unveiled policies that have the support of a majority of Americans, including his decisions to pardon people with federal marijuana possession offenses and to cancel some student debt for certain borrowers, voters reported that they plan to make their decisions in November based on the rising cost of living and inflation.

In July, 36 percent of likely voters

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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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MIKE DATERS' CARTOON ORIGINALS
AND OTHER DRAWINGS BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE'S VERY OWN
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said economic concerns were primarily guiding them to support or oppose candidates, compared with 44 percent now. Respondents who were focused on the economy were more than twice as likely to support Republicans than Democrats.

As Democratic leaders, candidates, and strategists review the data, Khanna said, they must consider progressive lawmakers' recent push "for a sharper and stronger economic message."

Earlier this month, Khanna introduced his New Economic Patriotism Plan, which would push the federal government to support American-made products and materials and which could help address the current supply chain crisis.

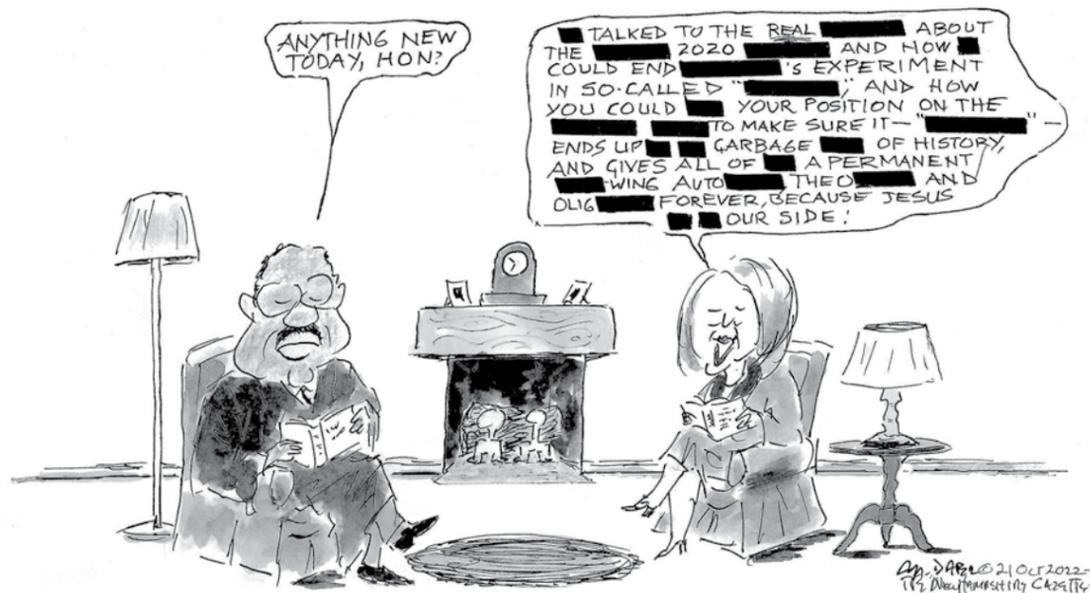
Khanna and other progressives have also spoken out about price

gouging by powerful oil companies that have raked in over \$100 billion in profits so far this year—lavishing the money on shareholders and executives while working people struggle to afford fuel on top of groceries, housing, and other essentials.

"Giant corporations are using inflation as a cover story to jack up prices and pad profits," said Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) earlier this year as she introduced legislation to empower federal regulators to stop companies from price-gouging.

Those proposals are among the subjects Democrats should be focusing on as early voting gets underway across the country, said progressives on Monday.

"Democrats should close the election with a clear argument



GINNI SELF-REDACTS AT HOME SAVING CLARENCE FROM THE PESKY RECUSAL OPTION



For many years our Wandering Photographer has been trying and failing to get a good shot of this VW Bug as it has gone cruising through the square. He hasn't really managed yet, but until he does, we'll settle for this one, taken late last Sunday afternoon. At the risk of gilding the lily, we'll note a few details. Its red paint appears original, with a nicely-faded patina. The bumpers are two-tone: chrome and rust. The fenders go one better, sporting a tri-tone finish: faded red, darker rust, and Bondo™ grey. The rear wheels have a pronounced negative camber, which, though it is said to be hard on the suspension components, nevertheless conveys a certain je ne sais quoi. Rounding out the automotive part of this presentation, the exhaust system appears to include a spark plug, useful for creating a flame-thrower effect. Fittingly for the season, the roof rack carries a jaunty skeleton—sitting in a miniature VW Bug, also red, and with canted rear wheels. A huge tarantula sits alongside, atop a rusty oil barrel. The entire ensemble is surrounded by small skulls and bones, and a generous length of logging chain. A small sticker in the back window says, "Nobody Likes Us/We Don't Care."

about who is prepared to fight for the working class," said Mike Casca, director of communications for Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).

While Democrats have unveiled proposals to stand up to wealthy corporations in recent months, Republicans have pushed plans to raise taxes on low income households and weaken government programs relied on by millions of senior citizens including Medicare and Social Security.

On Monday, *The Washington Post* reported that one of the top priorities for Republicans if they retake control of Congress would be to make permanent portions of the Trump tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefited the rich and corporations.

Warren Gunnels, an adviser to Sanders, pointed to a recent report by the pro-worker media organization More Perfect Union which showed that a promise to provide direct cash benefits similar to the expanded child tax credit—which Republicans flatly opposed continuing this year despite the fact that it cut childhood poverty by 30 percent and helped millions of families to afford necessities—was found to be "the most popular campaign message" a

candidate could have.

Sanders has pushed Democrats in recent days to communicate clearly with voters about the danger Republicans pose to working Americans' finances and how the Democratic Party has worked to help the middle and lower class.

"I think they should contrast their views with the Republican positions," Sanders told NBC News on Sunday, repeating his argument from an earlier opinion piece in *The Guardian*. "I believe, and most Democrats believe, that at a time when half our people are living paycheck to paycheck, we should raise the minimum wage to a living wage. No Republicans support that. I think we should make it easier for workers to join unions. Republicans don't support that."

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber III, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, agreed Monday.

"You can't cede the economic argument to folks who say the answer is to give corporations and the wealthy more money," he said. *This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). Feel free to republish and share widely.*

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Do Not Let Our Website Deceive You — Subscriptions Can Be Had —

Our Business (Such as it Is) Manager pointed out to the alleged editor recently that our website was in error. A notice, placed in a fairly prominent location, dating from the period when we had suspended mailing operations due to the prevailing plague, had still not been removed.

In other words, we were warning people that mailed subscriptions were not available. Not exactly a winning strategy.

That problem was quickly resolved: the notice has been removed. We're just following up here to let our readers know that—barring future catastrophes, which can never be ruled out in our increasingly dysfunctional society—mailed subscriptions are indeed available.

In fact (knock wood) all systems are go here. We were recently able to add a volunteer to our Subscription Fulfillment Department, aka the Origami Crew, by the simple expedient of placing a small ad right here in the pages of our own paper.

As our Fortnightly Rant intimates, the future is always uncertain. Until we are prevented, though, it's our intention to continue.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"If you really have integrity, there are very few people who can insult you, or honor you."
 — Bill Russell (1934-2022)

"The women's rights movement is the most vicious, conniving, deceiving movement this country has ever seen next to communism."
 — Texas State Representative Larry Vick, 1974
 john@wordpraxis.com

"To be wealthy and demand more is an abomination to a god."
 — Sumerian proverb from Urim, 3rd millennium BCE
 — Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Republicans Wreck the Economy

To the Editor:

The first President Bush left office with an unemployment rate of 7.5 percent. President Bill Clinton raised taxes, cut the rate to 4 percent and managed to balance the budget. The second President Bush cut taxes and left with the unemployment rate at 7.8 percent. President Obama raised taxes and left with the unemployment rate at 4.7 percent.

President Trump cut taxes and left the unemployment rate at 6.7 percent. Trump's first three years produced fewer new jobs than Obama's last three years. Clearly raising taxes by Democrats does not cost jobs and cutting taxes by Republicans does not create them.

In less than two years President Biden has reduced the unemployment rate to 3.5 percent or nearly half the rate it was when Trump left office. Child poverty was reduced by 30 percent.

People who claim Biden, or Democrats in general, are bad for the economy are not looking at reality. The reality is Democrats make life better for the lower and middle classes. When Republicans are in office that giant sucking sound you hear is the top 1 percent siphoning the wealth from those below them.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

It is a source of eternal amazement: the apparent refusal of so many voters to see what's right in front of their faces.

If they are not intentionally looting the Treasury by slashing taxes on their wealthy donors, Republicans are wrecking the general economy—not to mention the climate—by protecting industries that are killing us.

We suspect Democrats might be able to turn things around if they'd just ditch the DLC/GOP Lite policies of the last thirty years or so and embrace a platform of making life liveable for ordinary working people. We'll never know what might have happened if the Democrats had not sandbagged Bernie Sanders, but in retrospect, one has to wonder.

The Editor

Remembering the 1956 Hungarian Revolution

To the Editor:

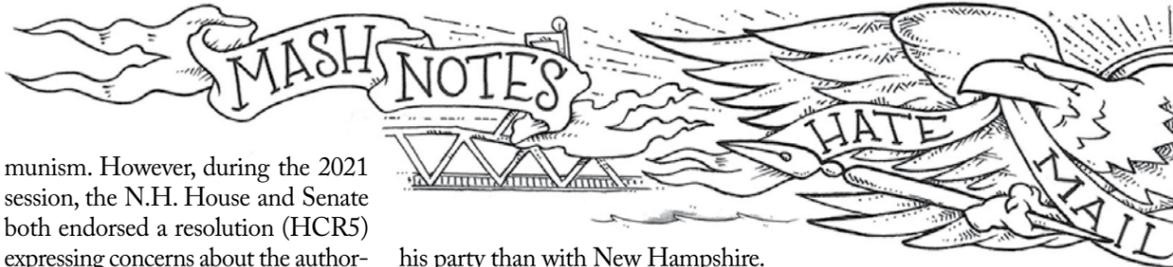
The public is invited to a remembrance of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution on October 26, 2022 at 3:00 p.m., hosted by the New Hampshire Friends of Hungary and Rep. Peter Somssich.

A brief event will take place in the lobby of the State House in Concord, at a wall plaque connected to 1956. Governor Lane Dwinell authorized the installation of the plaque on Oct. 23, 1957, proclaiming that day as Hungarian Freedom Day in New Hampshire. The plaque was created by Ja'nos Kover, a Hungarian artist who fled Hungary and then resided in Milford, N.H.

Following comments in the lobby, there will be a reception and social gathering in the cafeteria where pastries and coffee will be served. Attendees are encouraged to share their personal stories regarding their connection to Hungary and the revolution. Rep. Somssich was one of the 47,000 Hungarian refugees that came to the U.S.A. after the revolution.

This year marks the 66th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, but also the 33rd anniversary of the year 1989, that ended with the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of many communist governments including Hungary's. The 1956 revolution against an oppressive government in Hungary demanded the withdrawal of Soviet troops and self-determination for Hungarians. The Soviet Union responded with massive military intervention that was resisted by the Hungarian Freedom Fighters for a few days, before the revolt was subdued. Thousands of Hungarians were tried, tortured and executed and over 200,000 Hungarians—two percent of the population—fled the country. The year 1989 saw a reform-minded Hungarian government leading the way to opening the Iron Curtain separating Europeans.

Many observers credit Hungary, working together with Germany, Austria and the Soviet leadership, with triggering the collapse of com-



munism. However, during the 2021 session, the N.H. House and Senate both endorsed a resolution (HCR5) expressing concerns about the authoritarian direction of both the current Hungarian and Polish governments. This year Governor Chris Sununu proclaimed October 23rd as Hungarian Democracy and Freedom Day in N.H. For more info contact: Rep. Peter Somssich, email: staterep27nb@gmail.com.

Peter Somssich
Portsmouth, N.H.

Peter:

Like most Americans—even those of use who were alive and vaguely sentient at the time—we have only a general notion of this date and its importance. Thank you for providing this concise bit of perspective.

Speaking of perspective, we're reminded of State Senator Burt Cohen's effort to get a plaque installed in the State House to honor New Hampshire citizens who fought Franco's fascists in the Spanish Civil War. If we remember correctly, that plaque was installed, but then removed, and now gathers dust in a closet. Anyone who would care to share a more accurate and detailed account is invited to write us and elaborate.

The Editor

Former Sununu Voter Repents

To the Editor:

November 8th is coming up fast. We are heading to the polls again.

I am writing to reach others like myself who voted all Democrat but went Republican for Governor and voted Sununu. Chris Sununu came across as a "purple" governor making decisions based on needs of the state rather than the party. Results of the last election reflect this thinking, making him a favorite with both parties.

Now, on current issues of environment, women's choice, and loan forgiveness, Sununu is no longer "purple." Chris Sununu's decisions and statements now align him more with

his party than with New Hampshire. Sununu refused to call a special legislative session to address the issue of codifying Roe and protecting the right of women to choose. He vetoed stricter requirements on the proximity of landfills to water bodies, despite bipartisan support in the House and Senate. In effect, declining to protect New Hampshire's Merrimack River, Lake Winnepesaukee and Atlantic Ocean from pollutants that can leach from landfills. And, in our state with one of the highest loan dept averages in the country, he opposes student loan forgiveness.

Sununu's presence on social media portrays an enthusiastic leader traveling around New Hampshire shaking hands with Granite Sstaters and supporting local businesses. I like this image. What I have come to realize, however, is that his comments and actions are not aligned.

Vote Blue Down The Ballot.

On November 8th, there is so much at stake. *Vote Every Oval, Every Office, Every Election. Vote to Live Free.*

Jennifer Tichy
Rye, N.H.

Jennifer:

Glad to hear of your change of heart.

The Editor

Election Deniers As Top Cops?

Dear Editor:

Just nominated in our primary election, Belknap County Sheriff [Bill] Wright is proclaimed in a Karoline Leavitt TV ad, as endorsing her. Part of her ad claims incumbent Democrat Rep. Chris Pappas voted to defund the police. In fact, in September Chris Pappas supported five or so House bills that secure new, additional funding for our nation's police. His voting record also supports budgetary help for mental illness, which often causes police use, and budgetary help for

crime victims and their families.

Aligning himself with Leavitt, Sheriff Wright is in the movement pushing mistrust of our elections? He, with Leavitt, believes Trump won the 2020 election? She also, young woman though she is, would complete a national-level abortion ban, no exceptions made. What is our law enforcement chief, county level, doing mixing in with her politics of lies sowing distrust? And I voted for him on my primary ballot!

Rockingham County Sheriff Chuck Massahos, the same. President of New Hampshire Police Association's Michael Geha, the same. What are they doing, piling on with a candidate who, unashamedly supporting ex-Pres. Trump's misdeeds, wants to go to our seat of government to hurt it? She may not have been there for the January 6, 2020, assault on our democracy, but Karoline Leavitt is okay with it. That's sick. Law enforcement there was attacked and badly hurt. People died. People are going to prison for the January 6th assault. Leavitt's law-enforcement endorsers should hardly be able to look in their mirrors. They should renege.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:

Elsewhere in these pages, our friend David Snell writes about the danger posed by MAGA-fied Secretaries of State.

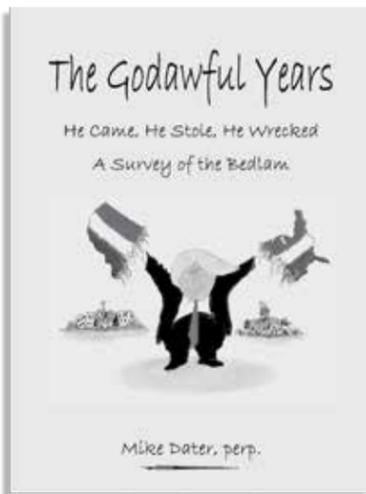
Thank you for pointing out the similar dangers posed by high-ranking law enforcement officials who seem to have lost their grip on reality. No election denier has any business being a County Sheriff. Or any kind of cop.

If it were up to us, election denial would disqualify anyone from any office. As it stands, though, it's up to the voters—Flying Spaghetti Monster help us.

The Editor

You Suffered Through Them...

Now Enjoy Them!



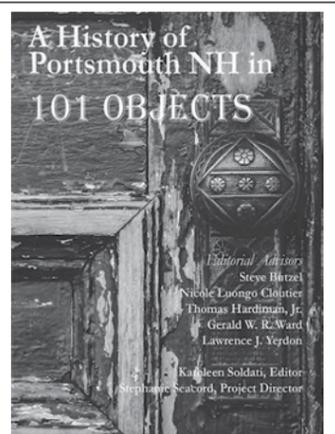
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Sununu Is Not Who He Says He Is

Dear Editor:
Governor Chris Sununu (R-N.H.) claims that he is not a pro-life, right-wing, election-denying, pro-Trump, anti-public education, tax-increasing guy, but he does a great job acting like one at work. Almost every of the above claims by Sununu have been proven false by his own actions, words and agenda.

Mr. Sununu signed the most restrictive abortion ban in New Hampshire history. In a podcast interview in May, he stated that "I've done more on the pro-life issue than anyone." Unlike other states with a 24-week abortion restriction, the New Hampshire ban he signed does not make exceptions for rape or incest, and it carries criminal and civil penalties for physicians who violate it. Mr. Sununu continues to indorse right-wing politicians such as Karoline Leavit, Don Bolduc, and Paul LePage from Maine—the self-proclaimed "original Trump"—who are staunch abortion opponents and election deniers.

Mr. Sununu has recently endorsed Karoline Leavitt for the New Hampshire 1st Congressional District election. Ms. Leavitt still believes that the 2020 election was stolen and continues to support disproved conspiracy theories. At one of her initial campaign kickoffs she showed the movie "2000 Mules." The movie, produced by Dinesh D'Souza attempts to show how Democrats stole the 2020 election. The film has been totally discredited, even by Mr. Trump's own advisors. Mr. D'Souza pled guilty to felony election fraud in 2014, spent months in jail, and was pardoned by Mr. Trump in 2018. In endorsing Ms. Leavitt, Mr. Sununu endorses all of the positions of Ms. Leavitt and he cannot be separated from her ideolo-

gy including her 2020 election denial.

Mr. Sununu has done the most of any New Hampshire Governor to severely damage public education and increase the tax burden on local taxpayers. Mr. Sununu signed the Education Freedom Account program into law, which allows students to spend the equivalent of the per-pupil share of state school funding on private, parochial and home school expenses. As a result millions of dollars of state funds will be taken away from local public schools, decreasing quality local public education and increasing local property taxes. In addition, Mr. Sununu nominated and the Republican controlled Executive Council appointed Mr. Frank Edelblut as Commissioner of Education. Mr. Edelblut has no professional experience in education, and has ties to the Free State Movement, which does not believe in government.

Mr. Sununu can claim to be anything he wishes, but his record clearly demonstrates that he is not pro-choice, not a supporter of a women's reproductive freedoms, does not support a strong public education system, is increasing local property taxes, and has endorsed conspiracy theory election denying candidates for public office. Show me your friends and I will tell you what you are.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

We remember only too well when John H., the Original Sununu, was in the corner office (1983-1989). As fate and the banks would have it, just as our 75th Governor was ramming the Seabrook nuclear power plant down our throats, the U.S. Department of Energy announced that it might pick New Hampshire as a likely spot to dump highly radioactive spent fuel rods from facilities just like Seabrook. Then the Chernobyl

nuclear power plant blew up. It was a hell of a challenge, but John H. professed to be opposed to the nuke dump, even as he stumped to bring Seabrook online.

We bring up this ancient history to point out John H.'s innately two-faced nature. Not to visit the sins of the father upon the son, but Sununu 2.0 shares that characteristic. The difference is this: Junior smiles whichever face he talks out of, whereas both John H.'s faces tend to snarl.

Chris Sununu is unlikely to ever damage the world as much as his father did by steering George H.[H.]W. Bush away from acting to protect the climate. Given the opportunity, though, he might try.

The Editor

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Different Data, Same Result

To the Editor:

It looks as if the quote I used from the University of Nebraska's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources in my September 23rd letter ("Ten Million Bottles of Water In the Dump") had a typo and the data was a little dated. Unfortunately for the environment, while the sentence should have read 100,000 bottles per *week*, rather than per *day*, the plastic bottle count had reached almost ten million plastic bottles by March of 2020 according to the City of Flint's website.

My apologies,
Peter C. Dolan
Gloucester, Mass.

Peter:

An entirely understandable error. Thanks for diligently following up.

The Editor

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It's All About Autocracy

Dear Editor,

MAGA-Republicans who deny the 2020 election results—despite no evidence of massive fraud ever being presented in 60 separate court cases—are seeking your vote in November. If they win, they will be in position to change voting procedures to legally manipulate the votes in future elections to their favor.

While MAGA supporters may feel good about "winning," because they will "own the Libs," soon they will learn what MAGA really means. The super-rich will get more tax cuts, starving government funding for our schools, roads, disaster recovery, health care, even Social Security. Industries that pollute our air and water will be deregulated. Government intrusion into our private lives will dominate.

And when we try to vote the MAGA-Rs out of office, we will discover that elections have been truly, and "legally," rigged. Our votes no longer will matter. They will have Made America Great for Autocracy.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

Astonishing, isn't it? Trumpazoid Republicans profess to believe all sorts of pretty far-out stuff. Yet they can't see what's obvious to many of us—they are sleep-walking to the polls to elect cynical crooks who are well on the way to making our planet uninhabitable.

The Editor

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What Does the GOP Have Against N.H.?

To the Editor:

New Hampshire annually sends \$6 billion out of state for energy derived from fossil fuels. Renewables are now less expensive than fossil fuels. Our five New England neighbors have plans to get 80 percent or more of their energy from cheaper renewable sources. "New Hampshire is the only New England state without a statutory mandate for greenhouse gas reductions, and has the lowest renewable energy requirements in the region," according to NHPR (June 9, 2022). Year after year, legislation to put more New Hampshire-made renewable energy sources into our energy mix has been defeated by Republican legislators and vetoed by Governor Sununu.

If New Hampshire produced more of our own energy from wind or sun, we might be paying a scant 12.05 cents/kWh for electricity, like Connecticut's Eversource customers.*

Sununu, his appointees, and the Republican-led Executive Council have slow-walked attempts to develop off-

shore wind and EV charging stations, even as our New England neighbors are procuring equipment for both. They continue to stall efforts at community power and net metering. This year they decimated NHSaves, which saved New Hampshire residents and businesses \$578 million in 2018-2020 alone. Why is every attempt to reduce energy costs in New Hampshire blocked by Sununu and his Republican legislators?

Sununu claims concern for our cost of living, but he halts every action that would lower energy costs. For lower energy prices, vote for Democratic leadership—Governor Tom Sherman, a Democratic Executive Council and legislators—who will advance renewable fuels and lower energy bills.

* <https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2022-09-08/why-electricity-prices-are-rising-unevenly-across-new-england>

Susan Richman
Durham, N.H.

Susan:

Why? Our best guess is a combination of self-interest—looking out for campaign donors—and ideology.

Guess what's behind the ideology: self-interest, i.e. looking out for campaign donors.

The Editor

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Obscure Office May Be a Threat

To the Editor:

The Office of Secretary of State, not usually considered a high-profile post, this year may well represent the most critical vote cast in all 50 states in November. Secretaries of State perform the tedious role of election administration: training poll workers, managing each state's voter-registration database, authenticating the accuracy of voting machines, and, perhaps most important, certifying election results.

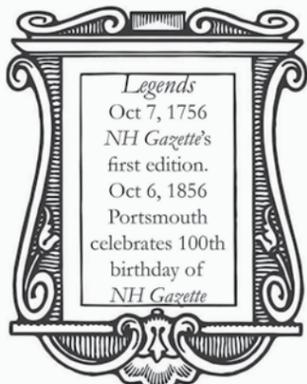
It cannot be overstated that this position requires a person in whom we have the utmost confidence and trust. As expressed by Lawrence Norden, senior director of the Elections and Government Program at the Brennan

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?



To learn more about memorials and what else we choose to remember go to PortsmouthGenome.org Join the conversation. A Portsmouth Peace Treaty Forum project.

HUD-VASH HELPS VETERANS GET AND STAY HOUSED. YOU CAN HELP, TOO.

HUD-VASH is a partnership between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the VA's Supportive Housing unit. It helps homeless Veterans with housing, employment, recovery (both mental health and substance abuse) and independent living.

HUD-VASH is no longer accepting donations of used furniture, &c. The Homeland Heroes Foundation in Salem, N.H. does: homelandheroesfoundation.org.

HUD-VASH does have a dedicated fund for purchasing new items veterans may need. Donations to that fund may be sent to The VA Medical Center, 718 Smyth Rd., Manchester, N.H. 03104-7007. HUD-VASH should be included on the subject line. Every penny will go into home goods for veterans.

For more information, contact:

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from page five



Center for Justice, “if you can’t have trusted, neutral people running our elections, then you don’t really have free and fair elections, then we’re not a functioning democracy anymore.”

Across America, election deniers, ardent promoters of Donald Trump’s baseless claim the 2020 election was stolen through rampant voter fraud, are on the ballot for Secretary of State, other key positions, and state legislatures.

If any of these candidates win they will possess a plethora of powers to subvert future elections simply because they don’t like the result. These rogue election officials could attempt to prematurely stop the counting of ballots, turn the outcome over to a partisan state legislature, or simply refuse to certify the result (exactly what former president Trump hoped former Vice President Mike Pence would do).

In his speech September 1st in front of Philadelphia’s Independence Hall, President Biden stated, “equality and democracy are under assault” (referencing those who “refuse to accept the results of a free election,” adding, “in state after state, they’re working to give power to decide elections to partisans, empowering election deniers to undermine democracy itself.”

I truly believe the threat to democracy is the single most important issue facing America today. Even though state and federal investigations found no evidence of widespread voter fraud and even though Trump’s own Department of Homeland Security, Justice Department and FBI vouched for the election’s integrity, people believed the lie so strongly they stormed the United States Capitol on January 6th, 2021, in a desperate attempt to stop the elections’s certification, breaking a nearly 250-year tradition of peacefully transferring power.

When Benjamin Franklin left Independence Hall after the 2nd drafting of the Constitution, he was confronted by a woman who asked him, “Mr. Franklin, what manner of

government have you bequeathed us?” To which Franklin answered, “a Republic, Madam, if you can keep it.”

Rest assured, democracy and our future are on the ballot this November. A recent Quinnipiac Poll found that: Americans (67-29 percent) think the nation’s democracy “is in danger of collapse.” We have cause to be concerned that a large number of Americans support Donald Trump, men and women who have put loyalty to one man above honor and above duty to truth, country, and the Constitution.

Realistically, what can any conscientious voter with a sense of right and wrong do in a political environment seemingly leveraged against them by bought-and-paid-for politicians who very often act in a desultory manner, giving rise to the commonly held perception they are elected to be served rather than to serve? First, voting a strict party line is probably counter-productive. It allows politicians to campaign on sound bites and worn out platitudes rather than being pinned down to what they actually believe and forced to declare their intentions. Voters have a right to know for whom they’re voting and, conversely, voters have a responsibility to do the leg-work, to ask questions, to research, to satisfy themselves that a candidate merits their support and their vote.

Many voters don’t take their responsibility seriously enough. That’s how we ran into trouble in 2016. Joe Biden called Trump’s political philosophy, “semi-fascism.” I believe Biden to be correct. Trump has been, is, and will continue to be, a grave threat to democracy and our nation.

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.

David:

Republicans profess to love our Constitution—a deeply-flawed document—yet they show nothing but disdain for the laudable principles behind it. As you say, across the coun-

try, Republicans are finagling to get into positions from which they can wreak havoc. Scarier still, the Supreme Court—speaking of flaws—is lining itself up to aid and abet.

[Note: In an earlier issue we mistakenly referred to David as a former Navy officer. He has since corrected us. He served for twenty years as an enlisted man in the U.S. Navy, retiring with 13 years seniority as a Communications Technician First Class (Technical Branch) in the Naval Security Group.]

We regret the error, though it does give us an excuse to repeat the best class-war gag we heard while in uniform.

Private to Sergeant: “Yes, Sir!”

Sergeant to Private: “Don’t call me Sir. My parents were married!”

The Editor

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GOP Policies Failing N.H.’s Energy Future

To the Editor:

For the past four years Governor Sununu and Science Technology & Energy (STE) committee Republicans have blocked many urgently needed energy efficiency and renewable energy planning bills and initiatives. It is clear that because this group does not acknowledge the existence of Climate Change nor the need to plan for the future, they are more than content to provide protection for fossil fuel interests. Even energy efficiency efforts have been targeted for cuts, because these politicians claim they do not work. This despite NHSaves requiring a cost-benefit analysis for every such project that they support, often with a 4:1 payoff.

In the run-up to the election the Republicans seemingly have seen the light, and are proclaiming that 2023 will be the Year of Biomass. This despite their efforts to shut down New Hampshire’s biomass plants during the past two years. This was an effort to cripple biomass energy production in New Hampshire, despite the roughly 1,000 jobs it supports, the millions in local tax revenue it produces, and the in-state renewable energy it generates. They argued that it was too expensive. However, now they are changing course because in the current world-

wide energy crisis, that energy is competitive and is also local. Because Republicans did not plan for a future without cheap natural gas, they now realize that they must take some action because New Hampshire residents are suffering from the high energy costs of out-of-state fuel sources. While Democrats were busy producing viable energy plans for New Hampshire’s future (a White Paper in 2018 documenting our state’s energy resources, and another White Paper in 2020 laid out a green plan of action for New Hampshire), as well as submitting dozens of bills in support of the clean energy transition, Governor Sununu was busy vetoing these efforts, while STE Republicans spent their time blocking many reasonable initiatives.

Voters deserve a New Hampshire energy policy that is planned and should prioritize energy efficiency along with in-state renewable energy such as solar, hydro, biomass, and wind energy. These energy sources have zero or almost zero energy costs and provide price stability, while fossil fuels will continue to be volatile and dependent on world markets. This November New Hampshire voters should determine our state’s energy future.

Representatives Lee Oxenham (Plainfield) & Rep. Peter Somssich (Portsmouth)

Members of the House Science Technology & Energy Committee
Lee and Peter:

Time is a flat circle, as we all know. The Republican mission is to maintain it as such, so that we serfs are condemned to spend our days plodding from one task to the next, merely to avoid nakedness and starvation. If we had enough time to think, to share notes, and to band together...well, things might change.

Thanks for pointing out that another world is possible.

The Editor

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Democracy is Something that You Do

To the Editor:

According to the polls a clear majority of American citizens believe in democracy as the best form of gov-

ernment, one that, on the one hand, celebrates equal freedoms for all and, on the other, provides a “safety net” for all. Democracy requires that each citizen vote for membership in that government based on their convictions about best policies for their own and their country’s well being. In order to produce fair elections, Democracy requires a level of elemental trust in our community’s decision-making power.

Unfortunately, one of our two major political parties, the Republican Party—at local, state, and federal levels of government—is actively attempting to destroy that trust and therefore democracy itself, and in some states is having success. Beginning with the gun- and spear-toting insurrectionists at the Capital on January 6, 2021, the Republican Party has been working relentlessly to negate the votes of its opposition. The Republican Party is supporting systematic voter suppression, outrageous gerrymandering, and projected intimidation of election officials and voters. The Republican Party is at this moment encouraging the belief that the electoral process in the U.S. is fundamentally untrustworthy (although there is no evidence for this) and doing everything to destabilize the mechanisms for fair elections. The Republican Party is following the time-honored strategy of would-be autocratic regimes: destroy trust in the democratic process from within and then menacingly, violently, take over a society in disarray.

What happens when Republicans take over state governments? Novelist and essayist William Gass once wrote about midwesterners that they tended to “vote against their own best interests.” This can now be said of today’s Republicans. States where Republicans dominate in government and legislatures—in contrast to those led by Democrats—tend to have poorer health-care facilities, more maternal deaths from abortion health-care restrictions, more deaths by gun violence, worse-off economies, and more suppression of educational materials. Recently, it has been reported that in Republican-governed states there is more depression and more suicides among its citizens.

In a recent organized walk

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Now and Then, Here and There

by Paul B. Nichols

It's difficult to find much encouraging news from across the planet these days. Worldwide disasters brought on by climate change, Covid variations hanging on and threatening to worsen by seasonal change, senseless U.S. gun-related attacks at schools, churches, supermarkets and other places formerly deemed secure, and the right-wing assault on our democratic values. Plus, right here in New Hampshire the deeply harmful influences of the Free Staters fester.

Two other headline grabbers involve the harsh violence inflicted on thousands of Iranian and Russian citizens who are protesting against vile impositions of their countries hard-line authoritarian regimes. Historic and virtuous protests in both countries have promoted worthy causes, but in ways are a double-edged sword in that many of

the dissenters have been maimed or killed by the dictatorial powers ruling both countries.

Massive protests have been ongoing in Iran since mid-September when 22-year-old Mahsa Amini was murdered by Iran's "morality police" because she wasn't wearing her hijab in conformance with her country's strict laws. She was detained and beaten to death while in custody. Since that day, courageous women and girls have publicly cut their hair and set fire to their headscarves during huge protest marches with rally chants in defiance of the rigid rules that have long been in place. Male students, soccer stars and striking workers have joined the protests, as have citizens of other countries.

Vladimir Putin's attempts to draft 300,000 young men into diminishing Russian military forces in his criminal war with Ukraine has met significant resistance in recent

weeks. Potential draftees have been frantically fleeing across borders into Finland and other neighboring countries to avoid conscription into a devastating unpopular war. News reports state that two Russians even sailed hundreds of miles across the Bering Strait seeking refuge in Alaska to avoid Putin's draft.

Despite the resistance, tens of thousands of Russian men have been drafted and hauled into mobilization training camps. Germany is offering refugee protection to draft resisters and military deserters seeking asylum. I'm hoping that widespread desertions will occur despite harsh treatment if resisters are apprehended!

At age 77, I am brought back to October 1965 when Concord Draft Board #7 notified me that my draft classification had gone from 2-S student deferment to 1-A (Available). The U.S. war in Vietnam was hungry, and more youngsters were

needed to feed the meat grinder. Though I had no desire to join the military, I immediately enlisted in the Marine Corps rather than to be inducted into the Army. Within a year I was in Vietnam's Quang Tri Province, later to be seriously wounded.

Throughout the decade, huge antiwar protests objecting to that Southeast Asian war took place across America as well as in many other countries. Thousands of U.S. draft resisters and deserters escaped to Canada, Sweden and other countries. I gave no thought to these alternatives due to honorable World War II service by my immediate family members, the time frame of the Vietnam war's earliest years, and my patriotic naivety.

Peaceful expressions of opposition have been a vital hallmark of democratic ideals. Since the American revolution, hundreds of protests, rallies, demonstrations—call

them what you will—have taken place across our country. Most have been peaceful. In recent years, they have been for antiwar, humanitarian, environmental causes, and for other important concerns. Current demonstrations supporting women's reproductive rights come to mind.

Our system of governance, though not ideal, is far better than that of Russia and Iran. Democracy has been under serious threat, increasingly during the Trump presidency and with the aggressive atmosphere in the years since. The need for heightened voter turnout in local and national elections next month cannot be overstated.

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Following his honorable discharge from the Marines, Paul Nichols served for decades as a county-level USDA officer administering natural resource conservation programs in N.H. He has also been a faithful subscriber to this newspaper for more than thirty years.

The Selfish Depravity of Hedge Fund "Journalism"

by Jim Hightower

Throughout the country, newspaper subscribers are asking questions like: Hey, who took my Saturday paper? What happened to those political cartoons and columns that I liked? Why does it take two days to get election results and sports scores? How did my local paper get filled with filler? Oh...and who doubled the price of the damn thing?

The cause of all of the above is a Wall Street concept called "financialization"—a euphemism for corporate plundering. Multibillion-dollar hedge funds like Soft-

Bank Group, Alden Global Capital, and Chatham Asset have bought up thousands of our dailies and weeklies. They extract enormous profits, not by making a better journalistic product for customers and the community, but by eliminating reporters, selling off each paper's real estate and assets, shriveling and standardizing content...and jacking up the paper's price. Like avaricious airlines, the profit strategy of these Wall Street newspapers is to monopolize the market, then charge more for less.

But won't readers stop subscribing? Of course—they're leaving in droves, but hedge fund profiteers don't care, for their plan is to strip-

mine the business of every dime it has, take the profits, and leave town. For example, SoftBank, the Japanese owner of the Gannett chain, has pillaged hundreds of our local papers, and it's now making another round of deep cuts in its newsrooms, including dumping some 800 more journalists. The financializer are also requiring other employees to take unpaid leave and are suspending payments to their pensions. SoftBank bosses simply said, "we need to ensure our balance sheet remains strong."

Sure, take care of Number One! But what about ensuring that local journalism remains strong, provid-

ing the information and connections that communities must have for strong democracies? But don't be silly—that's not part of the hedge fund business model.

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The AWLD's Saudi Connection

The newspaper that we mockingly call the "Award-Winning Local Daily" has long been owned by wealthy strangers. It was last locally-owned around the time of the Kennedy/Nixon debates. It was then bought by Kenneth Thomson—the world's 9th richest man, aka the 2nd Baron of Fleet. After many years creating profit for the Bancroft family, of Dow Jones fame, it belonged

for a time to Rupert Murdoch. Now it's a part of the Gannett chain.

As Jim Hightower writes, it is bad enough that Gannett "owns" the AWLD. Worse still, the real owner is a hedge fund known as SoftBank.

Who, pray tell, owns SoftBank? Among many others, a certain Mohammed bin Salman, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia—the guy who ordered his henchmen to murder the writer Jamal Kashoggi.

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

through New Hampshire in support of voting rights, someone carried a sign, "Democracy is something that you do." This November, unlike elections in the past where both parties joined in good faith efforts to build a better nation for all, it is crucial for us to vote Democratic, up and down the ballot, to save American democracy and our well-being.

Jeffrey Robinson
South Hampton, N.H.
Jeffrey:

It's good to see this fundamental

truth laid out so clearly.

It's been decades since the Grotesque Old Party last acted in good faith, and a good long while since they even pretended.

Bigwigs in the Democratic Party seem to have a hard time grappling with this truth—not to mention our more-profitable competitors in the profit-driven sector of the news racket.

The Editor

====

More Spewings From Ewing

To the Editor:

[Note: Mr. Ewing is what literary critics call "an unreliable narrator." Usually they're confined to fiction. For

some reason we've become accustomed to giving him some space here. Comic relief, we suppose. We've caught Don citing all sorts of dubious sources, so caveat lector.]

President Biden "worries" about the "Soul of America." He should; with Democrats in control people wonder if America still has a soul.

[Don: The next time you accuse Democrats of incivility, you may expect us to throw that line right back in your face.]

How is murder of a full-term, healthy baby as it is being born consistent with having a soul?

[Don: What in hell are you talking

about? Got any evidence that this ever happens? Why don't you quit telling this lie, which only serves to let the government get in between a woman and her doctor.]

How is abandoning hundreds of Americans, thousands of allies, millions of innocent people, and staggering amounts of military equipment to the merciless, violent, despotic Taliban in Afghanistan consistent with having a soul?

[Don: A Democrat finally ends a pointless war that was begun by a Republican and based on lies, and what do you do? Blame the Democrats.]

Biden's pitiful response to Russia's

buildup on Ukraine's border and his statement that a "minor incursion" would be ignored essentially invited the Russian invasion that is killing hundreds of thousands of innocent people, driving millions from their homes, and creating WWII-like devastation in Ukraine. Is that consistent with having a soul?

[Don: OK, now you're saying Joe Biden—probably the most truly Christian president we've had since Jimmy Carter—has no soul. When do we get to "Biden is the Anti-Christ!"? Sorry we didn't have room for your remaining 164 words.]

The Editor

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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

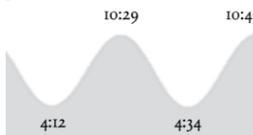
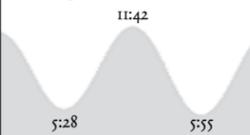
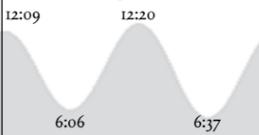
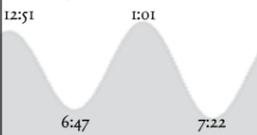
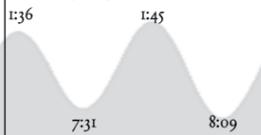
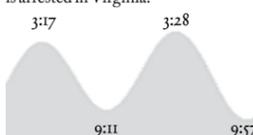
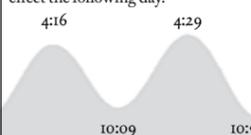
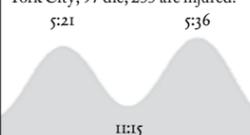
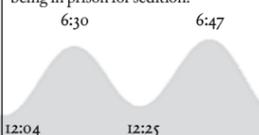
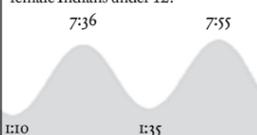
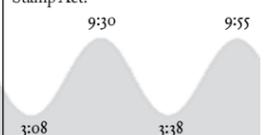
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, OCTOBER 23	MONDAY, OCTOBER 24	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29
<p>2015—James Comey says criticism of the police is responsible for the rise of violent crime in cities. He offers no evidence for this assertion.</p> <p>2015—Senator Ted Cruz [R-Texas] warns "one more liberal justice and they begin sandblasting and bulldozing veterans memorials."</p> <p>2013—Chancellor Angela Merkel calls the White House to complain about the NSA tapping her phone.</p> <p>2001—Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisc.) introduces the senseless PATRIOT Act, & Justice official James Yoo writes a memo saying the President need not obey the law.</p> <p>1998—Life being sacred, anti-abortion fanatic James C. Kopp murders Dr. Barnett Slepian in Amherst, N.Y.</p> <p>1987—Robert Bork gets Borked.</p> <p>1983—Suicide bombers kill 241 U.S. Marines and sailors in Lebanon, on President Ronald Reagan's watch.</p> <p>1962—With SAC at DEFCON 2, JFK and aides debate whether to bomb Cuban SAM sites if any U.S. planes are shot down.</p> <p>1955—In a South Vietnamese referendum with 108% participation, Ngo Dinh Diem wins with 98.9%.</p> <p>1954—By-passing the French, Pres. Eisenhower authorizes direct U.S. aid to South Vietnam. It doesn't help.</p> <p>1775—The Continental Congress bars Blacks from the Army.</p> <p>425—Valentinian III, six, becomes Emperor of the Western Roman Empire, which takes 30 years to fall.</p>	<p>2012—George W.[MD] Bush is paid a \$100K fee for speaking to troops wounded while following his orders.</p> <p>2001—The U.S. House passes the PATRIOT Act without reading it.</p> <p>1983—U.S. military aircraft, using old maps, bomb Richmond Hill Insane Asylum in Grenada, killing 16.</p> <p>1962—Soviet ships reach the U.S. quarantine line off Cuba. They don't cross it, so we don't nuke the USSR. A Soviet satellite explodes the same day. NORAD suspects an ICBM attack; but, again, nobody pushes The Button.</p> <p>1960—One wrongly-set switch at the Baikonur Cosmodrome prematurely ignites the second stage of a Soviet R-16 ICBM; 100 die.</p> <p>1945—The UN is created to "maintain international peace and security," as well as "friendly relations" among nations. Glad that's settled.</p> <p>1930—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports on the ten-year career of George "The Man in the Green Hat" Cassidy, who bootlegged out of House and Senate office buildings.</p> <p>1929—The irrational exuberance of the 1920's stock market undergoes a correction on "Black Thursday."</p> <p>1901—General "Hell-Roaring" Jake Smith tells Marines at Samar, "burn and kill; the more you burn and kill, the better it will please me."</p> <p>1871—A 500-man mob massacres 17 Chinese immigrants in Los Angeles. Eight are convicted of manslaughter, but freed on technicalities.</p>	<p>2001—Sen. Russ Feingold votes "nay" on the "PATRIOT" Act.</p> <p>1983—U.S. troops protect us (and distract from the loss of 241 Marines in Beirut) by invading Grenada.</p> <p>1978—In response to GOP malfeasance, FISA is enacted—thereby enabling future GOP malfeasance.</p> <p>1973—Henry Kissinger, Alexander Haig, and other unelected officials raise America's military readiness level to DEF CON 3 as Nixon sleeps.</p> <p>1962—Nuclear-armed jets scramble from Duluth AFB because a guard, thinking it's an infiltrator, has shot a bear climbing a fence.</p> <p>1960—Martin Luther King, Jr. gets four months at hard labor in Decatur, Ga. on old traffic charges.</p> <p>1944—A Japanese armada surprises "Taffy 3"—a far smaller U.S. Navy task force—off Samar Island in Leyte Gulf. Taffy 3's ferocious counterattack tips the strategic balance in the Pacific.</p> <p>1944—U.S.S. <i>Tang</i>, captained by Dover, N.H.'s Richard H. O'Kane, is sunk by its own malfunctioning torpedo; 74 crewmen perish; 9 survive the sinking and a Japanese prison camp.</p> <p>1920—Greece's King Alexander of Greece dies, bitten by his pet monkey.</p> <p>1917—Bolsheviks take over the Winter Palace and Petrograd in general.</p> <p>1854—A handful of inept, confused British aristocrats send 664 cavalrymen charging into Russian cannon fire at Balaclava. Half of them end up killed, captured, or wounded.</p>	<p>2016—<i>Bloomberg</i> reports that Frederick Trump, Donald's grandpa, once ran a brothel in British Columbia.</p> <p>2010—Arizona kills Jeffrey Landrigan, using drugs imported illegally.</p> <p>2003—Iraqi resistance fighters nearly get Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz with a rocket in Baghdad.</p> <p>1972—Four years after helping to scuttle peace talks and get Richard Nixon elected, Henry Kissinger announces that "Peace is at hand."</p> <p>1971—Governor Reagan, calling the White House, refers to "those monkeys from those African countries... damn them, they're still uncomfortable wearing shoes," which President Nixon finds hilarious.</p> <p>1966—Aboard the carrier U.S.S. <i>Oriskany</i> off Vietnam, a sailor throws an accidentally-ignited flare into a locker full of warheads. Explosions ensue, 44 die and 156 are injured.</p> <p>1962—As air strikes loom, Kennedy gets a telegram from Khrushchev offering to swap Soviet missiles in Cuba for U.S. missiles in Turkey.</p> <p>1924—Standard Oil's brand new ledged gas plant in New Jersey claims the first of five fatalities in one week.</p> <p>1917—Allies gain a few hundred yards of mud at Passchendaele at the cost of 12,000 casualties.</p> <p>1881—The Clanton brothers shoot it out with the alleged law at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona.</p> <p>1825—Having killed 1,000 workers, the Erie Canal opens for business.</p>	<p>2004—The Red Sox take their first Series since 1918 from the Cards.</p> <p>1972—Richard Nixon pocket vetoes a bill to raise the veterans' health care budget by \$85 million.</p> <p>1969—To convince the Soviets he's dangerously unstable, Richard Nixon secretly orders eighteen B-52s armed with H-bombs to spend the next three days flying around the North Pole.</p> <p>1967—Rev. Philip Berrigan and three friends pour duck blood on draft records in Baltimore, Md.</p> <p>1965—In a letter to the <i>N.Y. Times</i>, Richard Nixon writes, "We must never forget that if the war in Vietnam is lost... the right of free speech will be extinguished throughout the world."</p> <p>1962—ICBMs go on alert in Montana as Cubans shoot down one U-2 and another strays over the USSR. Meanwhile, aboard Soviet sub <i>B-59</i> near Cuba, Vice Admiral Vasili Arkhipov single-handedly prevents the launch of a nuclear torpedo. Fortunately Bobby Kennedy cuts a deal with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin before the wrong button gets pushed.</p> <p>1951—"There is no question," says Army Chief of Staff J.L. Collins, "that the Communist menace in French Indo-China has been stopped."</p> <p>1942—Already excommunicated by the local Mormon Church after his arrest for writing and distributing pamphlets calling Hitler supporters "spineless puppets," Helmut Hubner, 17, is guillotined in Berlin.</p>	<p>2016—Disregarding advice from Justice Dept. lawyers, Director James Comey announces that the FBI has re-opened its investigation of the Democratic Presidential candidate 10 days before the election.</p> <p>2015—A \$2.7 billion Spy Blimp® drifts from Maryland into Pennsylvania, dragging a mile-long tether which knocks out power for 20,000.</p> <p>2003—Iraq is "a little tougher than I thought it was going to be," says Sen. Trent Lott [R-Miss.], but "if we have to, we just mow the whole place down [and] see what happens."</p> <p>1989—Congress passes a new, improved Flag Protection Act; 227 days later it's struck down by the Court.</p> <p>1980—With help from a stolen briefing book given to him by an ex-CIA boss, Reagan "out-debates" Carter.</p> <p>1962—JFK and Khrushchev agree: Soviet nuclear missiles out of Cuba, U.S. nuclear missiles out of Turkey. Two years later, they're gone, too.</p> <p>1922—"Sent by divine providence," according to Pope Pius XI, Benito Mussolini takes over in Rome.</p> <p>1918—Influenza-mask refusenik James Wisser is shot by San Francisco health officer H.D. Miller.</p> <p>1906—Ivy Lee issues the world's first press release. It deflects blame from the Pennsylvania Railroad for the deaths of 50 passengers.</p> <p>1793—Whitney patents the cotton gin. It revives southern chattel slavery and brings wage slavery to the North.</p>	<p>2004—Osama bin Laden explains: 9/11 was retaliation for the U.S. backing Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.</p> <p>1984—New York City policemen kill African American Eleanor Bumpurs, 66, with two rounds from a 12 gauge. She was behind in her rent.</p> <p>1981—A British Parliamentarian asks Maggie Thatcher whether European governments were "free to veto [a] push on the final button by that incoherent cretin President Reagan?"</p> <p>1979—On Wall Street, 1,000 people are arrested for disrupting business on the 50th Anniversary of the Crash.</p> <p>1970—Ronald Reagan's education advisor Roger A. Freeman warns "We are in danger of producing an educated proletariat. ... That's dynamite!"</p> <p>1969—Chicago 8 defendant Bobby Seale is gagged and bound to a chair.</p> <p>1969—ARPANET goes live—two computers communicate for the first time—10,166 days later, SKYNET becomes self-aware.</p> <p>1958—A radioactive cloud drifts over Los Angeles after the explosion of an A-bomb in Nevada.</p> <p>1940—First U.S. peacetime draft.</p> <p>1929—"Black Tuesday"—16 million shares sell on Wall Street, at ever declining prices; \$26 billion evaporates.</p> <p>1827—Congressional Representative Henry W. Conway [D-Ark.] is mortally wounded in a duel with Acting Governor Robert Crittenden, co-founder of the Rose Law Firm, future employer of Hillary Rodham.</p>
 <p>10:29 10:49 4:12 4:34</p>	 <p>11:05 11:29 4:50 5:14</p>	 <p>11:42 5:28 5:55</p>	 <p>12:09 12:20 6:06 6:37</p>	 <p>12:51 1:01 6:47 7:22</p>	 <p>1:36 1:45 7:31 8:09</p>	 <p>2:24 2:34 8:18 9:01</p>
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30	MONDAY, OCTOBER 31	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5
<p>2017—President Trump's ex-campaign manager Paul Manafort and his associate Rick Gates are arrested on a slew of charges by the FBI.</p> <p>2012—For the first time since the Ice Age, public access to the sea at Sanders Point in Rye is cut off by would-be Senator Bill Binnie.</p> <p>2005—Pastor Kyle Lake, 33, standing in water to perform a baptism before 800 people at a Waco, Texas Baptist church, reaches for a microphone and is electrocuted.</p> <p>1995—Quebec nearly votes to secede.</p> <p>1990—For the first time since the Ice Age, England and Europe are connected; this time by chunnel.</p> <p>1970—California Governor Ronald Reagan's education advisor says, "We are in danger of producing an educated proletariat. That's dynamite! We have to be selective about who we allow to go through higher education."</p> <p>1967—Martin Luther King, Jr. is arrested in Birmingham, Ala.</p> <p>1961—The Soviet Union air-drops a 58-megaton H-bomb: the largest explosion in human history.</p> <p>1950—Puerto Rican Nationalists begin a rebellion against U.S. rule.</p> <p>1948—Smog deaths in Donora, Pa. reach 20, and 6,000 are sick.</p> <p>1938—CBS Radio broadcasts "War of the Worlds." Irresponsible newspapers spin a few isolated overreactions into a mythical national panic.</p> <p>1831—Rebel slave leader Nat Turner is arrested in Virginia.</p>	<p>2016—Chris Sununu claims Democrats bus voters in from Mass. He's lying, but D. Trump adopts the line.</p> <p>1977—New CIA boss Stansfield Turner fires 200 spooks, all of whom meekly accept their fate and refrain from covert retaliation against Dems.</p> <p>1973—Ex-Veep Spiro Agnew pays a \$10,000 fine for not paying taxes on the bribes he took in office.</p> <p>1963—"I can safely say," says Gen. Paul D. Harkin, U.S. commander in South Vietnam, "that the end of the war is in sight"...but he's in Tokyo.</p> <p>1939—FDR moves the date of Thanksgiving ahead by one week to boost Christmas retail sales.</p> <p>1938—Convicted murderer John Deering's heart rate is monitored by an EKG as he's executed by a Utah firing squad: 180 beats per minute.</p> <p>1918—In a single week, Spanish Flu kills 21,000 Americans.</p> <p>1893—The World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago closes; Daniel Fowle's printing press, which had been on display, is seen no more.</p> <p>1891—Coal miners in Tennessee burn a stockade, freeing hundreds of prisoners brought in to take their jobs.</p> <p>1885—A new Capitol guard in Statuary Hall fires his revolver at ghostly moans. He misses a prank-playing colleague, but leaves scars on the walls.</p> <p>1765—The <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i> is printed "in mourning" for lost liberty, in protest of the Stamp Act, to take effect the following day.</p>	<p>2001—George W.[MD] Bush signs an Executive Order conveniently hiding his father's misdeeds as Veep.</p> <p>1981—"[T]elevision is just another appliance—it's a toaster with pictures," says FCC Chair Mark Fowler.</p> <p>1972—The Piscataqua Bridge opens.</p> <p>1968—At My Tho, two limpet mines kill 26 aboard the U.S.S. <i>Westchester County</i>—the Navy's deadliest single incident of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1966—Lyndon Johnson, lying, tells U.S. troops in Korea that his great-granddaddy died at the Alamo.</p> <p>1963—Generals in Saigon lay siege to the Presidential Palace—with U.S. government approval, of course.</p> <p>1955—Angry with his mother, who left him in an orphanage, Jack Graham kills her and 43 other people. He's only charged for her murder since it's not yet illegal to blow up airliners.</p> <p>1951—Six thousand soldiers are exposed to an A-bomb explosion in Nevada "for training purposes."</p> <p>1950—Two Puerto Rican Nationalists attack Blair House, trying to assassinate Harry S. Truman; two Secret Service agents die, two are wounded.</p> <p>1949—On live TV, Sen. Edwin Johnson [D-Colo.] blurts out "...here's the thing that is top secret. Our scientists... have been trying to make what is known as a superbomb." The leak forces Truman to OK an H-bomb.</p> <p>1918—A scab motorman causes the Malbone Tunnel disaster in New York City; 97 die, 255 are injured.</p>	<p>2005—The <i>Washington Post</i> reveals that the CIA is protecting democracy by running a secret gulag.</p> <p>2004—Warren Co., Ohio officials say a "terrorist threat" is why they're counting votes behind locked doors.</p> <p>2002—"We know he [Saddam Hussein] has chemical weapons," says George W.[MD] Bush. (He doesn't.)</p> <p>2001—"A month into the war on Afghanistan, the hand-wringing has already begun over how long this might last," writes the <i>N.Y. Times</i>'s Thomas L. Friedman. "Give war a chance."</p> <p>2000—TV in Maine reveals George W.[MD] Bush's 1976 DUI bust.</p> <p>1972—The Seafarers International Union [SIU] gives \$100K to Nixon's campaign. The Justice Dept. drops an indictment of the SIU for making illegal campaign contributions.</p> <p>1967—Pres. Johnson and his "Wise Men" decide what the Vietnam War needs is more upbeat coverage.</p> <p>1965—Norman Morrison, a Quaker, 31, immolates himself below Robert McNamara's Pentagon window.</p> <p>1963—The U.S.-ordered coup in Vietnam goes awry: a major and a captain assassinate President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu.</p> <p>1929—"The Wall Street crash," says <i>Business Week</i>, "doesn't mean that there will be any general or serious business depression."</p> <p>1920—Socialist Eugene V. Debs gets 913,693 votes for President, despite being in prison for sedition.</p>	<p>1986—A Lebanese newspaper reveals that the U.S. has been selling arms to the Ayatollah's regime in Iran.</p> <p>1979—Communists are fired on by Klansmen and Nazis in Greensboro, N.C. Five die and 11 are wounded, but three trials yield no convictions.</p> <p>1973—After a flight crew's unauthorized experiment, a DC-10's #3 engine explodes over New Mexico. Everyone makes it safely to land except the guy in 17H; he's sucked out the window to his death.</p> <p>1969—In a speech which proves to be fatally effective, Richard Nixon conjures up his "Silent Majority."</p> <p>1964—Lyndon Johnson—the peace candidate—is elected President.</p> <p>1956—Israeli Defence Forces kill 275 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.</p> <p>1948—"Dewey Defeats Truman," according to the <i>Chicago Tribune</i>.</p> <p>1917—Bolsheviks take over in Russia.</p> <p>1903—Backed by Pres. Roosevelt, Panama secedes from Colombia. Coincidentally, the New Panama Canal Company gives \$60K to the GOP.</p> <p>1874—Election Day in Eufala, Ala.: The White League murders seven Black Republicans, wounds 70 more, and says the Democrats won.</p> <p>1848—In Revere, Mass, a train full of Whigs collides with a train full of Democrats; six die and 40 are injured.</p> <p>1755—Mass. sets bounties for Indian scalps, ranging from £50 for male Pe-nobscots over 12 years old, to £20 for female Indians under 12.</p>	<p>2016—"Calm down," reads the headline over a <i>Washington Post</i> column, "We'll be fine no matter who wins."</p> <p>1979—Militant Shi'ite Muslims take 66 Americans hostage in Teheran, dooming the Carter administration.</p> <p>1975—A neon cabal reshuffles the Ford cabinet for him. Rumsfeld, Cheney, and Bush take over.</p> <p>1964—Lenny Bruce is found guilty of obscenity in New York City.</p> <p>1960—In Dallas, a vicious "Mink Coat Mob" angrily confronts Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson. Revulsion at its tactics cost Nixon Texas.</p> <p>1958—A U.S. B-47 bomber carrying nukes crashes near Abilene, Texas. High explosives detonate. Nuclear materials are recovered later.</p> <p>1955—CIA HQ responds to Caracas Station re: report that Adolf Hitler has been seen in Argentina—"we suggest that this matter be dropped."</p> <p>1952—Univac I gives CBS a nearly dead-on prediction: Eisenhower 438, Stevenson 93. The network doesn't air it because it contradicts the polls.</p> <p>1928—Asked who shot him, the dying gangster Arnold Rothstein tells police, "My mudder did it."</p> <p>1924—Wyoming elects Nellie Rayloe Ross, the U.S.'s 1st female Governor.</p> <p>1798—Vermont elects Matthew Lyon, in jail for sedition, to Congress.</p> <p>1791—Native Americans destroy one quarter of the U.S. Army in the Battle of the Wabash—896 of 1,000 soldiers are killed, wounded, or captured.</p>	<p>2004—Report: Bush got 3,893 votes in one Franklin Co., Ohio district, where only 638 ballots were cast.</p> <p>1986—Nam vet Ron McIntosh hijacks a helicopter and uses it to free his girlfriend from the Federal prison he escaped six days earlier.</p> <p>1974—In New Hampshire, Louis C. Wyman gets 355 more votes than John Durkin. It ain't over yet, though; 317 days later, Durkin's a Senator.</p> <p>1968—George Wallace wins five states in the deep South.</p> <p>1964—A loaded KC-97 crashes on takeoff at Pease: five crewmen die.</p> <p>1949—Deranged WW II veteran and daily churchgoer Howard Unruh (1921—2009) shoots 16 people, killing 13, in Camden, N.J.</p> <p>1935—After cheaply buying the rights to an anti-capitalist game, Parker Brothers goes to market with a cut-throat version, Monopoly.</p> <p>1930—Thinking it's a hoax, Nobel winner Sinclair Lewis imitates his Swedish caller's accent.</p> <p>1916—Vigilantes fire on IWW members in Everett, Wash. They kill two of their own and five Wobblies.</p> <p>1872—Susan B. Anthony and 14 less-notorious women vote in Rochester, N.Y. Nine days later, only Anthony is arrested.</p> <p>1855—Birth of Eugene V. Debs.</p> <p>1765—Two Boston gangs forego their usual Guy Fawkes Day ruckus and join up to demonstrate against the Stamp Act.</p>
 <p>3:17 3:28 9:11 9:57</p>	 <p>4:16 4:29 10:09 10:59</p>	 <p>5:21 5:36 11:15</p>	 <p>6:30 6:47 12:04 12:25</p>	 <p>7:36 7:55 1:10 1:35</p>	 <p>8:36 8:58 2:12 2:40</p>	 <p>9:30 9:55 3:08 3:38</p>

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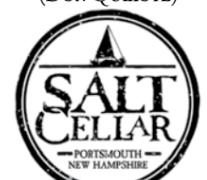
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