

The Fortnightly Rant

The Year After Next

In 1996, German film-maker Roland Emmerich released the movie "Independence Day." To his delight, and the surprise of some, the American public turned out to have a huge appetite for seeing aliens blow up the White House. Despite the passage of time—including 12 years of Republican administration—the White House is still more or less intact.

Eight years later Emmerich released "The Day After Tomorrow." This disaster flick's big gimmick was a new global ice age triggered by the collapse of the formerly obscure Atlantic Meridional Overturning Current [AMOC]. Overnight, temperatures drop past 100° below, and a storm surge drowns New York. Then things get truly ridiculous: a Cheney-esque Vice President, evacuated to Mexico, apologizes on the Weather Channel for his blind obstinacy.

That was nearly twenty years ago. Now, apparently, "Tomorrow" has finally arrived. On Tuesday, the scientific journal Nature Communications published a paper with the rather ominous title, "Warning of a forthcoming collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation."

Its authors write: "We predict with high confidence the tipping to happen as soon as mid-century (2025–2095 is a 95 percent confidence range)." Checking the old office calendar, we see that 2025 is only the year after next. And if we've learned anything from these studies over the past several decades, it's that the smart money bets on the worst-case scenario.

Stefan Rahmstorf, an expert on global ocean currents and their effect on the climate, said at the Berlin premiere of "Tomorrow," in 2004:

"Clearly this is a disaster movie and not a scientific documentary, [and] the film makers have taken a lot of artistic license. But... *the basic background is right*: humans are indeed increasingly changing the climate and *this is quite a dangerous*

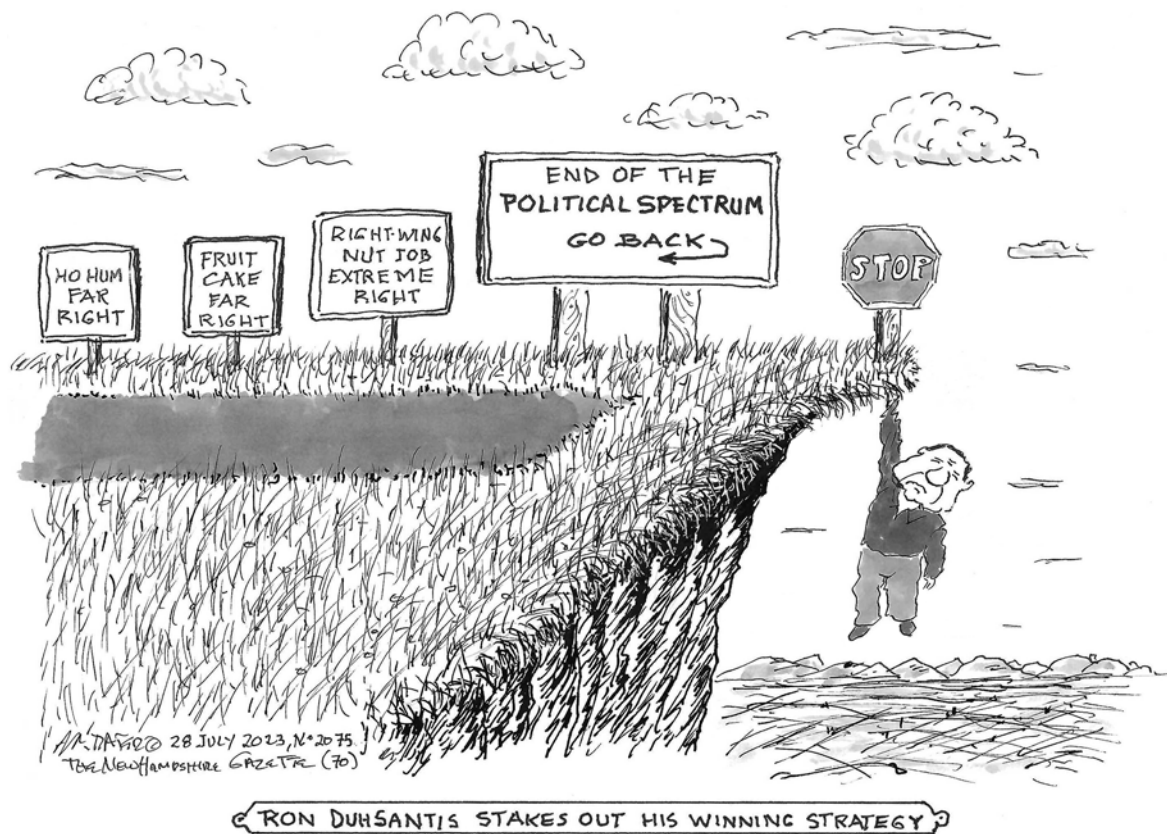
experiment, including some risk of abrupt and unforeseen changes... Luckily it is extremely unlikely that we will see major ocean circulation changes *in the next couple of decades...*; at least most scientists think this will only become a more serious risk towards the end of the century. And the consequences would certainly not be as dramatic as the 'superstorm' depicted in the movie. Nevertheless, *a major change in ocean circulation is a risk with serious and partly unpredictable consequences, which we should avoid.*"

Rahmstorf returned to the subject last September, at a three-day global conference on University of Exeter in the UK. Citing evidence such as the excessive warming of waters along the American coast, *i.e.*, the Gulf of Maine, and a persistent "cold blob" of water south of Greenland's melting ice cap, he said it is well documented that the AMOC is now 15 percent weaker than it was in 1950. Indeed, it is weaker now than at any time in the past 1,500 years—and probably the weakest it's been since the last Ice Age. The big uncertainty, he said, is how far away is tipping point. "Recent studies have, unfortunately, shown that it may be too close for comfort."

That was ten months ago, which is getting to be a long time in climate science. Hell, this summer has been long—which, in New Hampshire, is saying something. We've been stuck in a dank, and depressing weather pattern since May, thanks to a malfunctioning jet stream. If it wasn't too damned hot, the humidity has reduced the comfort range to some elusive middling point which the thermometer never seems to hit.

It's almost enough to make one despair. Fortunately Michael Mann—leader of the team that created the famous "hockey stick" graph of global warming—is still hanging in there. Seemingly imperturbable, he appeared on "CBS This Morning" on Monday.

"There's the urgency," Mann said, "we all see the urgency. It's playing



RON DUSANTIS STAKES OUT HIS WINNING STRATEGY

out in real time now. But there's agency. We can still act in time to avert the worst impacts. And there's a little bit of good news in the science.

"Over the last decade or so we've learned that if we bring our carbon emissions to zero, the planet actually stops warming up very quickly. So there's an immediate and direct impact of our efforts to decarbonize our civilization."

Terrific. Let's act! Let's act now!! Let's assemble a bipartisan coalition and scramble to reduce carbon emissions. Let's shift gears and build an economy that runs on renewable energy.

Sadly, it ain't that simple. Certain factions have other plans. Any progress toward a sustainable future will be made wearing shackles put on us by long-dead slaveholders.

The oil-soaked moneybags behind the GOP will make sure of that. Biden's been in the White House for two and a half years. In their view, his time is up. They'd hand the job over to the Three Stooges, first.

Seriously—just look at the contenders. Their front-runner is derailed, has been indicted, and may

end up running his election campaign from a jail cell. It's a real dilemma.

Unusually for a right wing brain trust, the Heritage Foundation has actually come up with a plan that shows signs of real genius. Evil genius, to be sure, but genius all the same.

Having seen the carnage wrought by Trump the first time around, Heritage crafted an off-the-shelf plan suitable for use by any candidate, no matter their level of psychosis. Think Blue Apron or Hello Fresh, but instead of making dinner, it's for running a presidential administration.

Kevin Roberts, the president of Heritage, told the *New York Times* in April, "In 2016, the conservative movement was not prepared to flood the zone with conservative personnel." If they depose Biden in 2024, though, things are going to be different.

Heritage has built what the *Times* called a \$22 million "right wing LinkedIn." "Our goal," says Project 2025, "is to assemble an army of aligned, vetted, trained, and prepared conservatives to go to work on Day One to deconstruct the administrative state."

Decarbonizing will not be on their agenda.

Correction

A reader has alerted us to an error in last fortnight's paper. In a footnote to the Rant, we wrote that Col. Laurence M. Keitt—who aided and abetted Rep. Preston Brooks' 1856 assault on Sen. Charles Sumner—died while leading a Confederate regiment at Cold Harbor. In fact he was leading a brigade. At the Richmond National Battlefield Park, a marker commemorates "Keitt's Attack." It reads, in part, "Though inexperienced in handling troops in the field, Keitt outranked [Col. John W.] Henagan and assumed command of the brigade. ... 'The whole thing was over in less than five minutes.' The attack failed miserably, with Keitt mortally wounded. The marker goes on to quote Capt. D. Augustus Dickert, of the 3rd South Carolina Infantry: 'Every man in ranks knew that he was being led by one of the most gifted and gallant men in the South, but every old soldier felt and saw at a glance his inexperience and want of self-control.'"

The Alleged News®

Climate Advocates Blast GOP Funding Bill as "A 'How-To' Manual for Destroying the Planet"

by Jake Johnson

Legislation that the Republican-controlled House Appropriations Committee is set to mark up on Wednesday would take an axe to U.S. climate spending, cutting the Environmental Protection Agency's budget by a staggering 39 percent while promoting fossil fuel development as huge swaths of the planet face devastating heatwaves.

Kyle Jones, director of federal affairs with the Center for Policy Advocacy at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), said in a statement Tuesday that the Repub-

lican bill is "historically bad... the worst of its kind we've ever seen."

Jones went on to say that the legislation—one of a dozen appropriations bills currently moving through the House—"reads like a 'how-to' manual for destroying the planet."

"While Americans take refuge from record-setting extreme heat and suffer from wildfire smoke, the House majority proposes slashing environmental funding to the lowest level in 30 years," said Jones. "This is a non-starter, based on galling scientific ignorance and reactionary politics."

Made public last week amid re-

cord-shattering heat and other extreme weather across the U.S., the GOP's Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies funding bill calls for \$4 billion in total cuts to the EPA budget—slashing the agency's clean water funds, emissions-reduction grants, and other programs.

The bill would also cut the Interior Department's budget by \$721 million, remove the Gray Wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife, and prevent the EPA from considering the social cost of carbon in any regulatory action.

Meanwhile, the Republican legislation aims to bolster the industry

fueling climate chaos by requiring the Interior Department to hold at least two offshore oil and gas lease sales in both the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska each year.

"The bill includes an exhaustive list of anti-environment riders that seek to derail any effort to combat climate change and undermine clean water and clean air protections," Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine), the top Democrat on the House Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, said during a hearing on the measure last week.

Republicans "give an open invitation to exploitative oil, gas, and

mineral leasing by blocking environmental regulations and even overriding judicial review," Pingree added. "At the same time, the bill suppresses clean energy production."

The NRDC's Josh Axelrod and Valerie Cleland wrote in a blog post that the legislation marks "the Republican majority's latest in a series of attempts to hand over our public lands and waters to Big Oil."

"To say these provisions would have devastating impacts on both climate and communities would be

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from page one

an understatement," Axelrod and Cleland added. "This effort by the Republican House majority is a slap in the face to the millions of Americans suffering through weeks-long heatwaves and devastating floods and who are looking to Congress for solutions to meet this historic and challenging moment."

As their appropriations bills make clear, House Republicans are looking to enact painful cuts across the federal government, drawing vocal opposition from congressional Democrats and increasing the likelihood of a shutdown.

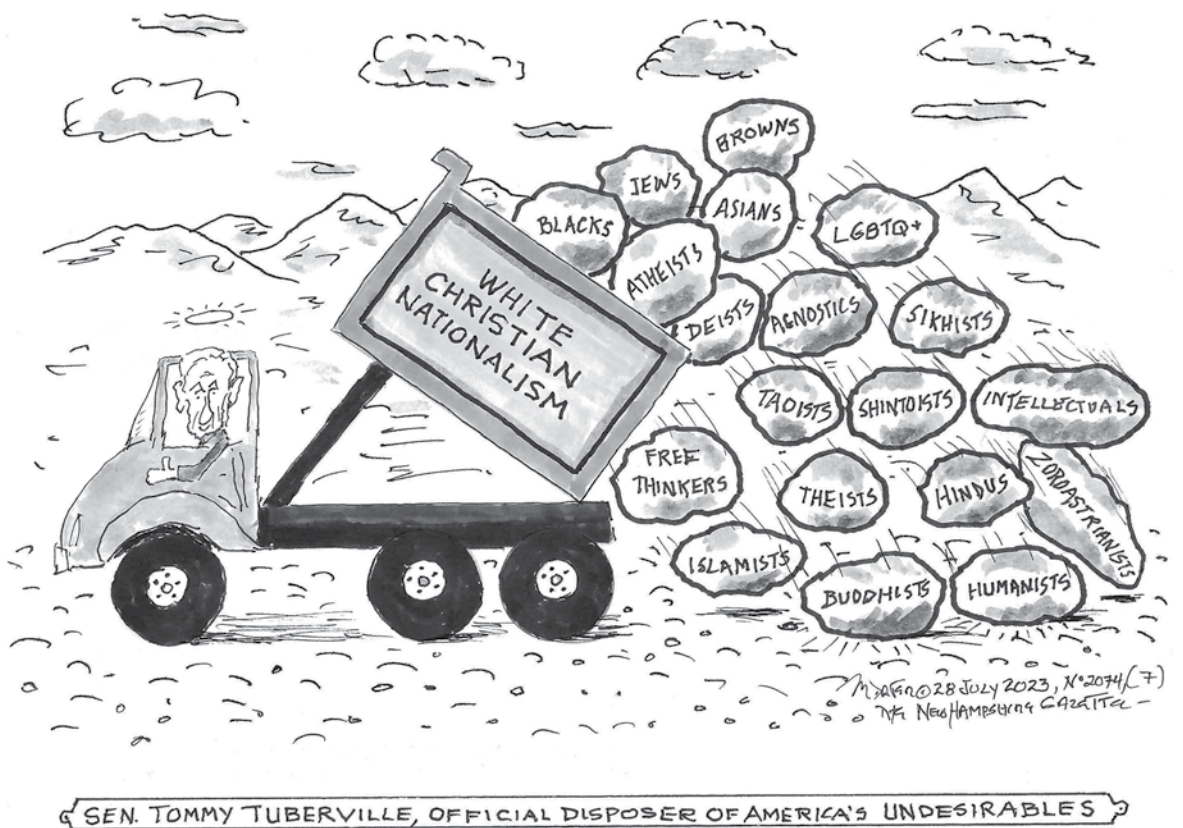
Late last week, as *Common Dreams* reported, a GOP-controlled subcommittee advanced an agency funding bill that would cut the Department of Education's budget to

below the 2006 level and slash programs that help employ hundreds of thousands of teachers nationwide.

Additionally, as *The Washington Post* noted Tuesday, "a series of GOP bills to finance the federal government in 2024 would wipe out billions of dollars meant to repair the nation's aging infrastructure, potentially undercutting a 2021 law that was one of Washington's rare recent bipartisan achievements."

"The proposed cuts could hamstring some of the most urgently needed public-works projects across the country, from improving rail safety to reducing lead contamination at schools," the *Post* added.

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Mike Dater, our Starving Artiste, went by the old Wentworth Gardner place Sunday to investigate a ruckus. He was confronted by armed men who'd apparently slipped through a glitch in the matrix. When he asked them to hold it down, they drove him away with gunfire. He snapped this photo of the time-traveling miscreants before making a prudent retreat.

To Correct a Slight Inaccuracy...

For the record, the charming photograph to the left was, indeed, taken on Sunday by Mike Dater, our Starving Artiste. The individuals depicted in it, however, did not fall through a tear in the space-time continuum.

They are, in fact, historical re-enactors, members of The Piscataqua Company, representing settlers of this region during the period from 1623 to 1640. Their outfit is one of four components of Harmon's Snowshoemen. The other three groups are Benjamin Church's Co, (1675-1707); Harmon's Company of Snowshoemen, (1745-1760); and Jeremiah Eames' Rangers, (1776-1777). This whole historical extravaganza is explained, much better than we can do here, at *Snowshoemen.com*.

The whole shebang got underway in 1994, for the next year's Grand Encampment marking the 250th anniversary of the Siege Louisbourg.

The site is worth a visit just for the many magnificent photos, but the text is highly educational and entertaining, as well.

Analysis Details How Wall Street Underwriting Quietly Funnels Billions Into Fossil Fuels

by Kenny Stancil

A report out Monday sheds light on how big U.S. banks' underwriting of bonds and equities for polluting corporations constitutes a "hidden pipeline" for fossil fuel financing.

It's no secret that financial institutions play a leading role in driving the climate emergency. Since 2016, the year the Paris agreement took effect, the world's 60 largest private banks have provided more than \$5.5 trillion in financing to the fossil fuel industry, flouting their pledges to put themselves and their clients on a path to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as the window to avert the worst consequences of the intensifying climate crisis rapidly closes.

But banks' underwriting activities receive far less attention than their direct lending practices, even though fossil fuel expansion and must be reformed to rein in the industry most responsible for imperiling the planet's livability.

That's the key takeaway from a new analysis of Wall Street's participation in capital markets published by the Sierra Club's Fossil-Free Finance campaign.

"Banks play a vital role in capital markets," the report explains. "Acting as underwriters, they are the gatekeepers of fossil fuel companies: they advise companies issuing bonds and equities, hold the vital information on the issuer, and help market the instruments to investors disclosing only the necessary risk."

Since 2016, the six largest U.S. banks—JPMorgan Chase, Citi, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Morgan Stanley, and Goldman Sachs—have provided more than \$433 billion in lending and underwriting to 30 of the companies doing the most to increase fossil fuel extraction and combustion worldwide, the report notes. More than three-fifths (61%) of that financing comes from underwriting, with those half-dozen banking giants issuing \$266 billion in new bonds and equities for the world's top 30 fossil fuel expansion firms.

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MIKE DATER'S CARTOON ORIGINALS
 AND OTHER DRAWINGS BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE'S VERY OWN
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Climate justice advocates have long criticized the concept of “net-zero” because, they argue, allowing planet-heating pollution to be “canceled out” via dubious carbon offset programs or risky carbon removal technologies is an accounting trick that doesn’t guarantee the significant emissions cuts needed to avoid the climate emergency’s most destructive impacts.

But even if one accepts the premise of net-zero, big U.S. banks’ policies on the topic are misleading.

“Despite the importance of capital markets activities in helping fossil fuel companies secure new funding, banks focus primarily on lending, while downplaying the importance of underwriting, when setting their emissions reduction targets,” the report says. “Banks are performing sleight of hand, distracting investors and regulators with net-zero transition plans that are half-finished, while continuing to funnel money to fossil fuel companies via capital markets with limited scrutiny.”

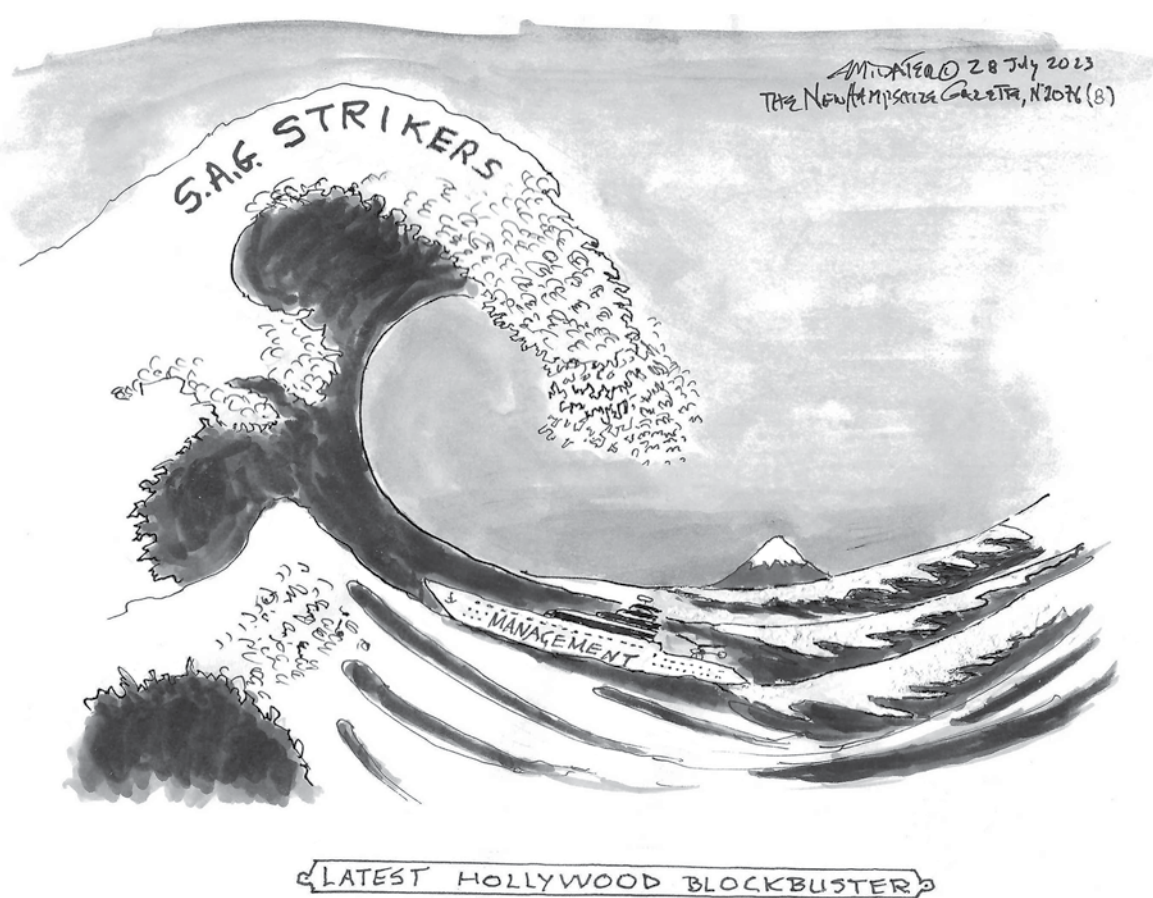
In a statement, Adele Shraiman, senior campaign strategist with the Sierra Club’s Fossil-Free Finance

campaign, said that “without banks, fossil fuel companies cannot raise money through capital markets.”

“By downplaying their role in capital markets and refusing to include facilitated emissions in their climate targets, big U.S. banks are intentionally sidestepping a major source of real-world emissions and making it impossible to meet their own net-zero commitments,” said Shraiman.

According to the report: “Only three of the six major Wall Street banks include bond and equity underwriting in their sectoral emissions reduction targets—JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, and Wells Fargo. The remaining three banks have so far chosen to only apply emissions reduction targets to lending activities.”

However, “even among those who have set emissions reduction targets that include underwriting, insufficient disclosures and lack of standardization make it difficult to understand how robust banks’ facilitated emissions accounting methodologies are, and what progress they are making toward achieving their



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emissions reduction targets,” the report adds.

In a blog post, Shraiman wrote that “banks don’t want us to know all of the ways they help fossil fuel companies raise funds to continue building the pipelines, oil rigs, fracking wells, and coal mines that are destroying the climate and hurting communities.”

“But investors, regulators, and customers around the world see through their duplicity,” she continued. “We are demanding complete, robust, and transparent net-zero plans that cover all types of financing activities and will lead to real-world emissions reductions in line with our global climate goals.”

Monday’s report comes at a key moment in the fight to stop Wall Street from continuing to fund climate chaos.

As the Sierra Club observed, “Banks currently point to a lack of industry standards on underwriting to justify why they do not disclose or set targets for facilitated emis-

sions.” However, the industry-led Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials is expected to release its updated methodology on accounting for and reducing facilitated emissions in the near future.

“Underwriting is a huge missing piece of net-zero transition plans, allowing big U.S. banks to continue to help fossil fuel companies raise billions of dollars with limited scrutiny,” Shraiman said. “By only focusing on emissions reduction targets for their lending activities, banks are conveniently excluding half of their fossil fuel financing from their climate commitments.”

“It’s time,” she added, “for the major Wall Street banks to adopt a robust and consistent methodology for accounting facilitated emissions, and take full responsibility for the climate impacts of their underwriting decisions.”

The International Energy Agency has stated unequivocally that there is “no need for investment in new fossil fuel supply in our net-zero

pathway.”

After the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its latest assessment in March, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said that limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C is possible, “but it will take a quantum leap in climate action,” including a ban on approving and financing new coal, oil, and gas projects as well as a phaseout of existing fossil fuel production.

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“...one of the many fine things one has to admit is the way that the Army has carried the American democratic ideal to its logical conclusion, in the sense that not only do they prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, creed and color, but also on the grounds of ability.”

—Tom Lehrer



The gundalow Piscataqua was going about its business, hauling paying passengers down the eponymous river, when, as it was passing Kittery Foreside, an apparent pirate in a small boat approached about midship on the starboard side. Unfortunately and inexplicably, our Wandering Photographer seems to have lost interest in this incident, and failed to record the outcome. Our best guess, given the asymmetry of the opposing forces, is that the passengers managed to repel the freebooter.

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote
“Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.”
— Albert Einstein

“Hollywood is there to part you from your disposable income, and if they made a realistic war movie, you’d throw up and demand your money back.”
— W.D. Ehrhart
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A New Approach to Campaign Financing
To the Editor:

There are relatively few topics on which today's voters agree, we're divided on so many issues. But one area my friends from practically every part of the political spectrum are agreed upon is this: we need a new approach to campaign financing. Too many elections, especially those on the state and national level, are being influenced by campaign contributions from special interest groups, from large dollar donors and from out-of-area interests. There is a large consensus on the need to reform our current means of campaign finance.

One recent development is a proposal to have campaign contributions come directly from voters themselves. The basic idea is to create a government fund that issues vouchers to registered voters. They can then assign these funds to the candidates of their choice. It's an effort to keep moneyed interests out of elections—and is to be the primary topic of discussion at the annual Peaches and Politics event in New Durham on Saturday, July 22nd. Dan MacMillan, a non-partisan, campaign finance reform advocate will be speaking on "Voter-Owned Elections Can Overcome Big Money and Bring Americans Together."

I look forward to learning about how the concept of "Democracy Dollars" would be funded and allocated. And I hope others who feel this idea has merit sign-up for the Peaches and Politics event, which costs just \$10/person to attend. Tickets can be purchased at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/peaches-2023>.

David Wessel
New Durham, N.H.
David:

We've never heard of this, so we've got no business opposing it. We have to wonder, though, how such a program could ever be implemented, given that the government is currently awash in dark money from billionaires who like the status quo.

We'd have more faith in a "hey diddle diddle, right up the middle" frontal assault on blatant corruption.

The Editor

Sanction the Senator

To the Editor:

The GOP senator from Alabama, Tommy Tuberville, has for five months blocked the promotion of 270 generals and admirals because he does not want the military getting rid of white nationalists in their ranks or women in the military getting access to abortions in republican states. He has called white nationalists patriotic Americans and Trump voters.

When generals and admirals cannot move up neither can the colonels, lieutenant colonels and so on. This is causing serious harm to our military and their families. Today, the Marine Corps does not have a permanent leader. We are lucky Russia, China or North Korea has not taken advantage of the chaos his actions have caused.

Senator Tuberville does not care about the harm he is causing to our military, but he probably does care about money for his state. I suggest putting a hold on the billions of infrastructure funds for Alabama until he lifts his hold on the promotions. I also suggest President Biden go to military bases in Alabama and let those troops and veterans know he is fighting for them and the GOP is not.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

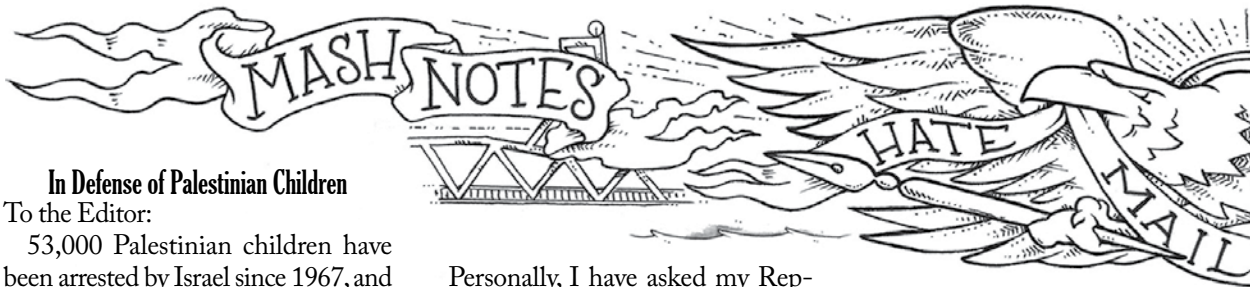
Walter:

The Tommy Tuberville Foundation was established in 2014 to "recognize and support organizations and causes that connect with the beliefs and values of the Tuberville family: assisting our military and veterans; awareness, education and prevention of health issues, particularly among women and children; and, education and community initiatives."

"Through its first five years," says Wikipedia, "the foundation raised \$289,599 but spent just \$51,658 on charitable causes, tax records showed. This rate of 18 percent is less than the 65 percent that the Better Business Bureau says ethical charities should spend on their causes."

Given the state of the State of Alabama, there ain't much hope of a replacement. Cutting off federal funds would only hurt the state's poor. If only we could abolish the Senate. . . .

The Editor



In Defense of Palestinian Children

To the Editor:

53,000 Palestinian children have been arrested by Israel since 1967, and many have been tortured. (Source: *Middle East Monitor*, 2022). Israel is the only country in the world that prosecutes children in military courts. (Source: *defenseforchildren.org*)

Whether intentional or not, Palestinian children are brutalized, traumatized, maimed and killed by both Israeli Occupation Forces and by illegal Jewish "settlers."

Rep. Betty McCollum [D-Minn.] has a bill, H.R. 3103, which is cited as "Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Occupation Act." Israeli authorities currently support, according to Rep. McCollum's bill, "the military detention, interrogation, abuse and ill-treatment of Palestinian children" which may include, "torture or cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment, physical violence, including restraint stress positions, hooding, sensory deprivation, death threats, or other forms of psychological abuse, solitary confinement, administrative detention or imprisonment without charge or trial, and denial of access to parents or legal counsel during interrogations, and confessions obtained by force or coercion."

Who is complicit in this violence? Is it just Israel? No, I posit that it is also President Biden, and most of the U.S. Congress, including N.H.'s two House Representatives, Annie Kuster and Chris Pappas. America's top government officials are apparently more beholden to the state of Israel than to addressing the injustices being perpetrated upon the Palestinian people, including denial of their humanity and their human rights.

If one believes in Human Rights, then please contact, depending on your district, either Rep. Kuster or Rep. Pappas, and ask them to become a cosponsor of H.R. 3103.

Personally, I have asked my Representative, Chris Pappas to sign on to Rep. McCollum's bill as 28 other Democratic Representatives have already done so. Neither Pappas nor Kuster have signed on. Why not? Is it because they fear the power of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) which in reality should have been required years ago to register as a foreign agent for Israel. Do our N.H. Reps. fear they will be targeted by AIPAC if they don't "toe the line?"

AIPAC during the last election cycle, for the first time, created a Super PAC called the "United Democracy Project," which contributes to candidates who are pro-Israel. Those who aren't, such as Nina Turner of Ohio, and former Rep. Cynthia McKinney of Georgia and others, were targeted and defeated in their reelection efforts by the pro-Israel lobby such as Rep. Andy Levin, the most progressive Jewish Representative in Congress who sought to restrict how Israel could use U.S. military assistance. Levin's opponent, Haley Stevens, who beat Levin, received close to \$2 million from AIPAC's United Democracy Project.

Finally, let me say that I wish N.H. Reps. Kuster and Pappas and U.S. Senators, Shaheen and Hassan, would change their positions on unconditional support for an apartheid state and declare that they will be on the side of justice for the occupied and oppressed Palestinians now at 75 years and counting.

There is an old labor song by Pete Seeger called "Which Side Are You On," and I would encourage citizens of N.H. to ask that question to all of our Reps. and Senators regarding H.R. 3103.

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

Will:

Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of our readers.

This is such a vexing problem. Anyone standing up for the rights of Palestinians seems destined to suffer unwarranted abuse. This much we know: the issue won't be resolved by ignoring it. Now, if you'll excuse us, we'll don our old steel pot and await the brickbats.

The Editor

No Labels, No Authenticity

Dear Editor:

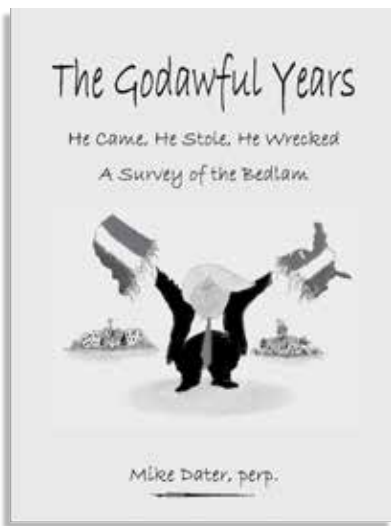
"Theodore Roosevelt's 1912 Progressive (or 'Bull Moose') Party helped elect Woodrow Wilson, while Ross Perot's 1992 candidacy helped elect Bill Clinton, and Ralph Nader's 2000 Green Party candidacy helped elect George W. Bush," writes David Shribman in a recent column. Now former Sen. Joe Lieberman is heading up the No Labels effort to subtract party affiliations (D. or R.) from our considerations for president in 2024 election, saying that we'd be best off with neither Trump nor Biden. But adding a third party to the mix could "be a spoiler that reflects Trump," says another challenging group, Third Way.

No Labels hosted all candidates when Trump came onto the political scene. I was with several hundred at the convention center/hotel on Granite Street and Elm in Manchester, [my] first sight of Trump. He had protection men wearing lapel mics. They set up a picket fence, not even knee high, along the stage edge. Novel, bizarre. Shortly into Trump's talking, a hippy-guy came running down the aisle, ranting incoherently. The goons with Trump got the guy and dragged him out. At the time it seemed so staged. Now I am sure it was.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

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a compendium of drawings by Mike Dater most of which first appeared in *The New Hampshire Gazette*
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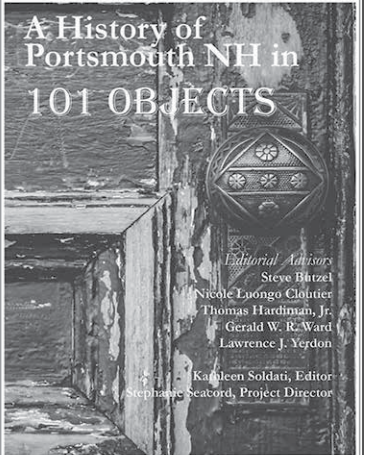
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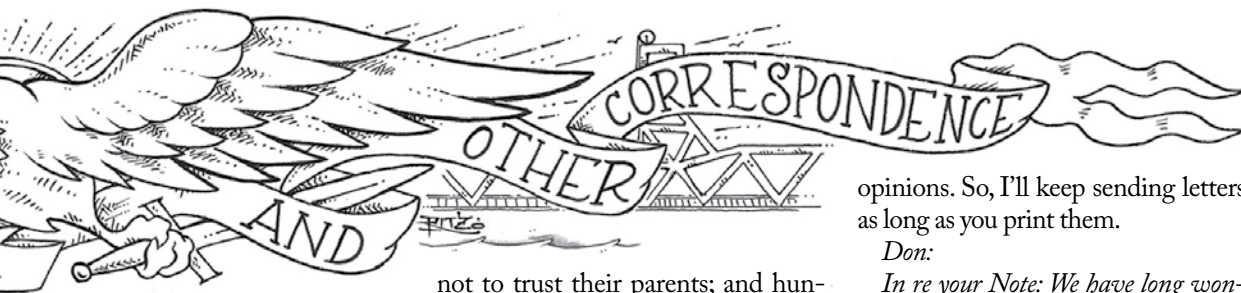
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Lynn:
You refer to Joe Lieberman as “head-
ing up” No Labels. He may be a founding
co-chair, and he may have something of a
say in the group’s activities, but we suspect
his true value to the organization is his
history.

Lieberman was elected a Senator in
1988—with support from William F.
Buckley, for pete’s sake. From 1995 to
2001, Lieberman chaired the Democrat-
ic Leadership Council, which is to say,
he wasn’t much of a Democrat. At some
point he began calling himself an Inde-
pendent Democrat, hoping, perhaps, to
lower expectations. In September, 2008,
he limboed right under them, by endors-
ing John McCain for President at the
Republican National Convention.

To a certain sub-set of the electorate—
those who don’t waste much time think-
ing—this sort of behavior might suggest a
man who thinks for himself, and is capa-
ble of transcending partisan politics. To us
it suggests a man desperate to hang onto
whatever shreds of relevancy he might
still be able to grasp.

The Editor

====

Mr. Ewing Is Amused

To the Editor:

Parents try to protect their children
because children are vulnerable to,
among other things, human predators.
Children become increasingly vulner-
able as they age because parents have
decreasing control of the adults that
interact with their children.

Children have been harmed by
teachers, coaches, medical profession-
als, Pastors/Priests, Scout Leaders, and
others who often start by befriending
children.

Many children are harmed in
school, e.g., some are blamed for other
people’s actions; some are confused by
premature introduction to pornogra-
phy, sex, and/or gender; some are told

not to trust their parents; and hun-
dreds of children are sexually exploit-
ed in schools annually (<https://tinyurl.com/2p89at3y>).

When parents see their child’s be-
havior change negatively, most parents
want, and try, to help their child. Ex-
perience teaches us that the sooner a
problem is addressed, the sooner the
suffering ends.

Shouldn’t parents have a right to
learn what a school system, or any or-
ganization entrusted with their child-
ren, knows about their child? The
Editors of the *New Hampshire Gazette*
apparently say “No.” They say it’s “rat-
ting out,” a la the East German Stasi,
the child to tell parents if their child’s
behavior change is due to gender con-
fusion or transitioning. (<https://tinyurl.com/263u66ad>)

The Editors apparently don’t care
that parents worry and children’s prob-
lems worsen. I do.

Most students who are bullies,
cheats, thieves, inattentive or disrupt-
ive in class, have an improper rela-
tionship with an adult, or victims of
bullying probably don’t want their par-
ents informed. Is it “ratting out” stu-
dents to tell their parents about these
problems too?

Is information kept from concerned
parents to help children or to protect
adults?

Parents, not teachers, will spend
their lives trying to repair a child’s
problems. Is providing honest answers
to parents’ inquiries “ratting out” chil-
dren or helping to protect children and
get their problems resolved?

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Note to Editors: I see my letters
amuse you. Your commentary amuses
me too since your ad hominem attacks
and irrelevant comments don’t refute
the facts that I present. It’s good for
your readers to see facts and different

opinions. So, I’ll keep sending letters
as long as you print them.

Don:

*In re your Note: We have long won-
dered if you read our replies. Nice to
know. Congratulations on the apparent
impermeability of your epidermis.*

*You say, “Parents try to protect their
children.” Then you list five categories of
people known to have harmed children.*

*That list does not mention parents. Are
you not aware that some children have
been harmed by their parents?*

*Your first citation leads to an article by
David Finkelhor, a Professor of Sociolog-
y at UNH. He writes, “unofficial esti-
mates... are scarce. Some of them... have
found from 361 to about 500 known
cases per year.”*

*We did a little Googling, as is our wont,
and found an estimate of the number of
children harmed by their parents. Accord-
ing to the American Society for the Pos-
itive Care of Children [ASPCC], there
were four million child maltreatment
referral reports received in 2021, involv-
ing 7.2 million children. In 90.6 percent
of the cases, these victims were maltreated
by one or both parents.*

*By our rough math, that suggests that
kids are 13,000 times more likely to be
harmed by a parent than by a teacher.*

*Right wingers are ginning up a panic
about kids and schools. What’s their mo-
tivation?*

*Schools—public schools—are a chal-
lenge to authoritarian adults.*

The Editors

====

**Putting the Judeo Back in Judeo-Christian
Hi Editor.**

Until recently, abortion rights have
rested on the *Roe v. Wade* decision.
This, in turn, rested on the right to pri-
vacy, implied by the 14th Amendment.
When states tried to pass abortion
restrictions, their laws were declared
unconstitutional, for being in conflict
with existing law. The current SCO-
TUS has swept all this away.

However, it seems to me (not a
lawyer) that there’s a much better,

stronger foundation on which to base
challenges to all the *de facto* abortion
bans passed by various states. Most of
these states—e.g., Florida and Iowa—
have “stand your ground” laws. All of
them have statutes pertaining to the
legitimacy of self defense. Abortion re-
strictions ought to be challenged as vi-
olating a woman’s right to self defense.

If a woman is approached by a man
with a big knife in the parking lot (and
she can’t run away, in states which
require trying that first), if she feels
threatened, she’s legally justified in
shooting him dead. Similarly, if some-
one’s yelling death threats while trying
to break down her door, she’s entitled
to use lethal force. Or if she’s about to
be attacked by a bear or a rabid dog.
Yet, when her life is being threatened
by a fetus, the anti-abortion laws
completely strip her of her stand your
ground rights! She must passively wait
for her attacker to injure her. In sever-
al states it’s now criminal to even talk
about the possibility of self defense!
What can possibly justify this denial
of rights?

Judaism has its own stand your
ground law as a Commandment: “If
a pursuer is coming to kill you, you
should get up and kill him first.” Self
defense is not just a right—it’s an ob-
ligation. This law is at the foundation
of the Jewish view on abortion. A fetus
which threatens the life or health of a
woman is considered to be “a pursuer
coming to kill.” If the doctors deter-
mine that continuing the pregnancy
will harm her, a Jewish woman is ob-
ligated to get an abortion—regardless
of trimester. While the fetus is consid-
ered to be an independent being with
its own soul after day 40, it’s not con-
sidered to have a human soul (to be a
human being) until the crown of the
head emerges. Up until then, it’s not
a question of balancing one human
life against another. It’s balancing a
human life against that of an innocent
animal—and human life always takes
precedence. I mention this because, if
there’s a lawyer brave enough to begin
challenging abortion restrictions on
self defense grounds, he can find all
the possible arguments for and against
in the Talmud.

I doubt that SCOTUS is going to
invalidate the right to self defense.
That right is plainer than privacy. It
ought to be used to challenge the
abortion bans.

Paul Fischler
Rochester, N.H.

Paul:

Fascinating.

*In general, when pondering the hu-
man condition, we usually end up think-
ing more about cosmic improbabilities
than the moral diktats of some ancient
desert dwellers.*

*In this case, though, given the wide-
spread obeisance our culture pays to re-
ligion, this does seem to be extremely
relevant.*

*The trouble is that the anti-abortion
crowd doesn’t really give a damn.*

The Editor

====

**EU General Court Disappoints Catalans
To the Editor:**

On July 5, the General Court of
the European Union (GC of the EU)
has dismissed the appeal of the Cat-
alan pro-independence politicians
exiled in Belgium (the MEPs Carles
Puigdemont, Toni Comín and Clara
Ponsatí) against the European Par-
liament’s request to extradite them to
Spain. They have lost their immunity
as MEPs.

Catalan pro-independence sup-
porters had hoped to win the appeal
because the Spanish state is “political-
ly persecuting” the Catalan MPs. For
example, the politicians who pushed
for the reform of some Spanish laws
publicly acknowledged that they did
so in order to be able to extradite Puig-
demont to Spain.

Then, there are also technical as-
pects to invalidate the supplication:
Adrián Vázquez, from the Spanish
anti-independence party Ciudadanos,
had strategically placed himself as
president of the Legal Affairs Com-
mittee of the European Parliament.
And neither could the rapporteur of
the supplication, the Bulgarian far-
right Angel Dzhambazki, close to the
Spanish far-right VOX party (which

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International Leaders in the Green Hydrogen Revolution

China is the favorite to win the “Green Hydrogen Sweepstakes.” They currently produce one third of the planet’s green hydrogen. In the U.S.A., 95 percent of the hydrogen produced is blue, made from fossil fuels. This still creates CO₂. Green hydrogen, by definition, must be sourced from renewable energy: solar panels, hydro-electric or wind turbines.

With the entire world awakening to the many advantages green hydrogen offers, many countries are investing heavily to become established producers. As Jules Kortenhorst, CEO of the Rocky Mountain Institute (the premier clean energy “think tank” consulted by world leaders for decades), recently said at the Green Hydrogen Catapult (GHC) meeting in Glasgow, UK in November of 2021: “Green hydrogen is a critical part of a sustainable energy future and one of the largest business opportunities of our time. It is the key to decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors of the world economy.” The GHC is a coalition of green hydrogen leaders working with the United Nations High Lev-

el Champions for Climate Action.

Steel making, railroads, aviation, heavy-duty trucks, city buses, shipping, and heating and cooling are the “hard to abate sectors” needing clean green hydrogen and green ammonia, which is useful in long duration renewable storage and as a transport fuel for fuel cells vehicles. Both can be manufactured, stored, and transported for end use anywhere in the world. Those countries with deserts near oceans are realizing they’re sitting on a gold mine of opportunity. They are building solar powered green hydrogen plants that desalinate the sea water, separate hydrogen and oxygen using electrolysis and combine the hydrogen with nitrogen from our atmosphere (78 percent nitrogen) to make green ammonia. In the process of producing energy, they also generate drinking water and fertilizer.

Saudi Arabia is investing billions to make green ammonia at their showcase city of Neom. That ammonia has already been presold to a European city that plans to power their entire public bus system using green hydrogen. Australia is mostly

a huge desert surrounded by ocean. Their national energy policy is very focused on building green hydrogen and ammonia plants. This plan creates good jobs while making their children’s future energy infrastructure clean and green.

Chile and Peru have reliable, substantial winds and deserts near their coasts that are perfect for making green ammonia. In addition to the high paying technical jobs that building the clean renewable energy infrastructure will create, these countries want to create more export revenue.

In Germany’s region of Lower Saxony, the rail system is already operating 14 trains that are using H₂ fuel. The trains connect Hamburg with numerous other regional cities such as Bremerhaven and Cuxhaven. Many other European Union countries have inquired about using this model for their railroad system.

Meanwhile in the UK, ZeroAvia has developed the first H₂-fueled aircraft engine. They expect to demonstrate flights up to 500 miles with aircraft of up to 20 seat capacity by late 2023. The City of

Seoul, South Korea, will complete the replacement of its 1300 city buses with ones powered by clean hydrogen by 2030. The plans envision replacing every municipal vehicle by 2030 with ones powered by H₂. Other South Korean towns and cities are already showing interest to follow this example. Kia recently announced they intend to make a hydrogen powered car that will cost half of what the Japanese Toyotas and Honda H₂ cars cost here in 2023.

The countries bordering the North Sea have formed a consortium called “The Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking” to combine offshore wind energy with electrolyzers to produce green H₂. The North Sea region is seen as ideal due to the consistent winds and shallow water suited for turbine installation. ITM Power and Orsted along with other partners have received funding to integrate hydrogen electrolyzers and offshore wind towers.

The energy group Total Energy and the hydrogen gas manufacturer Air Liquide are setting up a joint

venture to build hydrogen refueling stations for heavy-duty vehicles in France, Benelux and Germany. The joint venture will be in place by the end of 2023.

In Italy the largest European pipeline and gas storage company, Snam, has been experimenting with blending H₂ into its current natural gas pipelines to provide fuel for heating and cooling and for industrial customers. They have determined that most of their pipelines could handle even 100 percent H₂ with only minimal materials and infrastructure changes. Additionally, they claim that their pipelines would not only provide a network for transporting H₂ to users, but the pipelines could also serve to store surplus H₂ gas using compression.

Internet searches for these projects provide many links, or contact us at: peter.somssich@gmail.com.

Hydrogen Advocates of NH
Kent Howard, Community Energy Activist, Author, Journalist

Peter Somssich, former State Representative, Science Technology & Energy Committee

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

was part of the prosecution in the trial in Madrid that was at the origin of the conflict), be neutral. Both had made public proclamations against Puigdemont.

But this defeat is not strange, because so far the independentistas have lost all claims in the General Court of the EU (GCEU, court dedicated to the rules of the institutions), but have won all cases in the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU, court of higher rank, which is creating European jurisprudence). Now the Catalan MEPs will present an appeal to the CJEU, where they will presumably win.

The Catalan independence movement needs to win in Europe because, within Spain, the State plays

dirty. For example, the guidelines of the Spanish secret services have two priority targets: Islamist terrorism and Catalan independence! How can they target a peaceful, democratic and non-criminal movement?

Also on July 1, we discovered that Spain has put the Catalan and Basque independence movements on a Europol terrorist list as the “most active and violent” in the Spanish state. The director of the European police, Jean-Philippe Lecouffe, has confirmed in the European Parliament, that they give credibility to what the states tell them. They are aware that the Catalan independence movement has carried out 54 violent actions: placement of banners, illegal demonstrations, public disorder, railway blockades, damage to fascist monuments... Is that terrorism

or freedom of expression? Catalan independentism has not caused any death, not even any wounded, unless we count the independentist wounded provoked by the Spanish police.

And speaking of terrorism, we do not tolerate that the Spanish Parliament refused to investigate the Islamist attack of August 17, 2017 in Barcelona, because there are some very obscure points: there were Spanish policemen behind the Islamist group that killed 15 people. The Catalan police acted very quickly and arrested the few remaining terrorists alive, so the Spanish state could not decree a state of emergency that would have prevented Catalonia from holding the October 1, 2017 referendum on self-determination.

Addressing this legitimate political project in a criminal framework has allowed to justify the illegal spying of independentistas with the Israeli software Pegasus, as well as the infiltration of police officers in

peaceful independence movements. On July 14 we discovered the fourth case, the policewoman Maria I. T. who had been the partner of Oscar C., a prominent activist from Girona with whom she had been living for two years and with whom she participated in meetings of the lawyers in the trials of pro-independence activists.

We hope that the CJEU will corner Spain for so much police and judicial malpractice. Spain is a state that mistreats us and we do not want to be part of it at all. Next station: Independence!

Jordi Oriola Folch
Barcelona, Catalonia

Jordi:

Thank you once again for giving our readers a clear and comprehensible view of the Catalan struggle for independence.

The various subterfuges being used by Spanish authorities somehow seem familiar...

The Editor

==~==

You Get a Job, And You Get a Job... To the Editor:

Donald Trump says he was a great job creator and Joe Biden is wrecking the economy. Is he right? The government’s Bureau of Labor Statistics keeps track of the number of jobs created each month. We can exclude 2020 because of covid. In Trump’s first three years, the economy added 6,568,000 jobs. That was down from the last three years of Barack Obama’s term. He added 8,423,000 jobs. Joe Biden has only been in office for 2 ½ years yet his presidency has created 15,861,000 jobs. That is more than 2.4 times as many jobs as Trump in 6 months less time. Unemployment is the lowest in 50 years. There are help wanted signs everywhere. We should all be grateful Biden won the 2020 election and want him to win again.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

Can't argue that.

The Editor

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College Admissions: Foul & Fair

by W.D. Ehrhart

I find myself fascinated by the current debate over the Supreme Court's 6-3 decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* overturning a previous 2003 case and effectively gutting affirmative action in college admissions based on racial criteria.

I recently retired from high school teaching, and I watched a lot of kids go through the college admissions ordeal. I had students who scored poorly on SATs and ACTs, but who were excellent students I was never reluctant to write college recommendations for because they were smart, savvy, hard-working, and well-grounded.

And I had kids with superlative standardized test scores who were less-than-ideal students for all sorts of reasons ranging from laziness to arrogance to flawed characters, some of whom even had near-perfect Grade Point Averages (GPA) as well, who received admission to elite schools they had not earned and did not deserve.

According to Wilfred Reilly of the *National Review*, racial preferences resulted in Black and Hispanic teens who were "200 SAT points behind the ability curve" being admitted to "hyper-competitive" institutions of higher learning, a policy that was unfair to Asian and white applicants, but also harmful to Blacks and Hispanics who "weren't set up to succeed."

That business about SAT scores really strikes a chord with me. I went to college so long ago that "affirma-

tive action" wasn't even a concept. The idea didn't even exist. But it turns out that I was, in my own way, my college alma mater's attempt at diversity among the student body. It was not race-based, but I was certainly a minority of a sort. I was, in essence, a kind of affirmative action.

Had I applied to Swarthmore College as a high school graduate, my application would never have made it out of the "slush pile." My SAT scores were a combined total of 1218, easily 200 points below the median score for accepted applicants. Indeed, more like 300-plus below that average.

My GPA was a low A-minus, not bad, but not Swarthmore standards. I had not been captain of the debate team, or climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro at the age of 12, or done much of anything else to distinguish myself. But that was in 1966.

Instead of going to college, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps for three years. On the recommendation of a World War II navy veteran I met bodysurfing in Ocean City, New Jersey, after 13 months in Vietnam but still with a year to go in the Corps, I applied to Swarthmore and was accepted. I began there in the fall of 1969.

I became lifelong friends with the man who was Dean of Admissions during my four years at Swarthmore, so I know for a fact that I was accepted because the admissions committee was intrigued by the application from an active duty Marine sergeant who could write the English language and put the periods where they belonged. It certainly

wasn't my test scores that got their attention.

I'm told there was one other Vietnam War veteran at Swarthmore while I was there, but I never knew him. I think he may have been married and lived off-campus. Be that as it may, I was certainly a "minority" at Quaker, very liberal, visibly antiwar Swarthmore College.

Four years later, I graduated with a 3.7 GPA on a 4.0 base. According to my SAT scores, I was well "behind the ability curve" of my classmates, yet I did just fine academically. But I must surely have taken a spot that otherwise might have been used by some kid with 1583 SATs and a perfect straight-A GPA. Surely my admission was "unfair to the Asian or white" applicant who appeared on paper to be far more qualified for admission than I was, and who would have been accepted if I had not been.

But my experience then, and my experience after years of teaching, has left me with very little faith in standardized test scores or paper qualifications for college admission. Those artificial standards are exceedingly poor indicators of success in college, let alone success later in life.

Let me tell you a story. African American students were a distinct minority on the Swarthmore campus. At one point during my second year, all the Black students—maybe 40 or 50 of them—would gather each lunchtime on the patio outside the dining hall, walk in together, go through the food line and sit together, wait until everyone had finished, then stand up and leave together. It was kind of intimidating.

I had gotten to know a young Black woman who was in one of my classes, and one day I asked her what that lunchtime stuff was all about. "I live in an integrated dorm," she replied, "where I'm a minority. I sit in integrated classes where I'm a minority. I play on an integrated field hockey team where I'm a minority. I sing in an integrated chorus where I'm a minority. Every now and then, it's fun not to be a minority."

I have never forgotten that lesson. I have had many occasions to relate it to students of mine, especially white kids who resent the Black kids all sitting together in the cafeteria. And it is a lesson I never would have gotten to learn if I had not been exposed to students very different from me.

There is simply no way to measure the value of being exposed to people different from ourselves: racially different, economically different, religiously different, politically different. Race should not be the single determinant of college admission. But it should be one determinant. This Supreme Court decision is a disservice to college students everywhere. It is a disservice to the nation.

Indeed, one might make the argument that the current Supreme Court is a disservice to the nation. But I'll leave that for another time.

====

W. D. Ehrhart is a retired Master Teacher of History & English, and author of a Vietnam War memoir trilogy published by McFarland & Co.

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Joe Manchin's Pipe Dream

by Jim Hightower

Rube Goldberg would marvel at Sen. Joe Manchin's wacky, convoluted machinations to rig the system so fossil fuel polluters can run roughshod over nature, local people, and democracy.

Goldberg was a master of satirical cartoons, drawing hilarious schematics of convoluted contraptions to do silly tasks. His "Self-Operating Napkin," for example, involved a spoon, cracker, toucan, skyrocket, sickle, and a pendulum attached to a napkin—all operating sequentially to automatically wipe the chin of a soup eater.

So here comes Joe with his own sequential machinations to (*Zip! Ping! Sproing!*) push his pet corporate boondoggle into law. Manchin's Mountain Valley Pipeline would ram a 300-mile polluting pipe through the pristine mountains of West Virginia, into Virginia and ultimately into North Carolina, ripping through farms, communities, national parks, and 1,000 streams and waterlands. The people hated it—and, amazingly, environmental regulators and multiple courts sided with the people again and again!

Time for Joe's Rube Goldberg act. Late last year—*Ping!*—Manchin switched from a "No" on a climate change bill to a "Yes," in exchange for President Biden supporting the pipeline. But congressional progressives rebelled, so their dirty deal failed. Then—*Sproing!*—Biden snuck Manchin's boondoggle into this year's must-pass debt ceiling bill, so—*Whoosh!*—locals and environmentalists were blown away. Wait though, the federal court that had been siding with people still had a say. But—*Zzzzzt!*—Manchin and Biden teamed up with congressional Republicans to—*Whammo!*—shift jurisdiction over the pipeline from that court to one with corporate-friendly judges. But—*Screach!*—the abandoned court says, "Hold it"—Congress is unconstitutionally interfering in the Judicial Branch's power.

So, do Manchin and Biden get to stiff the people? Undecided—but they've already revealed to the people how corrupt their Rube Goldberg system is.

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Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

from page six

Doing Well by Doing...Good?

To the Editor:

Notice the heat? July 3rd was Earth's hottest day on record. That record was tied the next day, and broken the following day. Possibly the warmest in "at least 100,000 years," pronounced scientists at Woodwell Climate Research Center (formerly Woods Hole). Warmer weather is likely to produce heavier rainfall, and we're seeing that as well: a statewide flood watch, rains washing out roads in the Monadnock Region, crops destroyed across Connecticut River Valley farms, and a state of emergency in Vermont

causing hundreds of evacuations.

If we can slow emissions from fossil fuels, we'll send fewer heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere.

The U.S. is a relatively clean producer. The bipartisan "PROVE IT Act" now in the Senate would "prove our emissions-intensive goods are cleaner here at home," and "hold nations like China accountable for their emissions-heavy production of goods," say the bill's sponsors. Data proving the advantage of efficient U.S. manufacturing practices will pave the way to requiring that higher-emissions countries pay a "carbon border adjustment mechanism" (CBAM). The PROVE IT Act is supported by the National Association of Manufacturers [NAM], U.S.

Chamber of Commerce [USCOC], and Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions.

Please tell Senators Shaheen and Hassan, Representatives Kuster and Pappas that the PROVE IT Act is an essential first step. Then we can use a CBAM to motivate all countries to decrease their emissions. Go to cclusa.org/prove for a handy tool to send your message directly to your representatives. Yes, we can do something about the temperature.

Susan Richman
Durham, N.H.
Susan:

This is the first we've heard of this bill. Naturally, when we saw that it's sponsored by NAM and USCOC, we became deeply suspicious.

Firstly, neither of those organizations, to our knowledge, have ever done anything that was not intended to rebound to the benefit of capital.

Secondly, both of those organizations have long histories of scheming and plotting to subvert the will of the people.

Is that a coincidence? We doubt it. When have the interests of capital and the people ever been aligned?

This bill strikes us as what Richard Nixon—a great favorite of both these organizations—called "a modified limited hangout." Carnies might call it a flim-flam.

"Look at us solve the emissions problem, while lining our pockets with the fruits of a tariff!"

The Editor

- ✓ Personally autographed copies of Jim Hightower's best-selling books
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ADMIRAL FOWLE'S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

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

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

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

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of

Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

SUNDAY, JULY 30	MONDAY, JULY 31	TUESDAY, AUGUST 1	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2	THURSDAY, AUGUST 3	FRIDAY, AUGUST 4	SATURDAY, AUGUST 5
<p>1975—Jimmy Hoffa is last glimpsed by anyone who's talking.</p> <p>1974—Two of 17 Republicans on the Judiciary Committee vote to impeach Nixon for contempt of Congress.</p> <p>1969—"History will record that this may have been one of America's finest hours," says Richard Nixon in Saigon.</p> <p>1956—Congress adopts "In God We Trust" as the national motto.</p> <p>1945—The U.S.S. <i>Indianapolis</i>, having delivered the Hiroshima A-bomb to Tinian, is torpedoed and sunk on its return trip. Its sinking goes unreported due to security precautions. Drowning, exposure, and sharks claim 879 of the 1,100 aboard.</p> <p>1938—Two Nazi flunkies pin a swastika-festooned medal on Henry Ford at the behest of his admirer, A. Hitler.</p> <p>1917—A statement read in Parliament from Lt. Siegfried Sassoon says "the war is being deliberately prolonged by those who [could] end it."</p> <p>1916—German saboteurs destroy a thousand tons of munitions stored on a barge at Black Tom Island in New York Harbor. Three men and a baby are killed; the Statue of Liberty's upraised arm is hit by shrapnel.</p> <p>1866—Blacks march for civil rights in New Orleans; rioting whites kill 44.</p> <p>1864—Union forces detonate a huge mine to breach Confederate defenses at Petersburg. A drawn straw puts Brig. Gen. James Ledlie in command. Drunk, he sends Union soldiers into the crater. The result: 4,000 casualties.</p>	<p>2001—Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld sends a memo to Under Secretary for Policy Douglas Feith: "We ought to have on our radar screen oil—Venezuela, the Caucasus, Indonesia—anywhere we think it may exist and how it fits into our strategies."</p> <p>1999—Eugene Shoemaker becomes the first Earthling to have his cremated remains interred on the moon.</p> <p>1996—Gerald Ford and George H. [H.] Walker Bush uphold the dignity of their former office by speaking for pay before followers of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.</p> <p>1974—Richard Nixon's former advisor John Ehrlichman gets a free five-year stay at a felons' country club.</p> <p>1972—Tom Eagleton withdraws his candidacy; the public is shocked.</p> <p>1971—The "Justice" Department OK's ITT's ownership of Hartford Fire Insurance; ITT's recent \$400,000 "pledge" to the GOP convention is a mere coincidence.</p> <p>1961—Bruce Britt Sr. outruns cops at 120 mph, runs aboard a DC-3 in Chico, Calif., and shoots two men; but the first U.S. skyjacking fails.</p> <p>1950—Chicago OK's a plan to tattoo citizens with their blood type.</p> <p>1938—New York Yankee Jake Powell is suspended for saying on Chicago radio that he'd "hit every colored person in Chicago over the head with a club."</p> <p>1921—Pennsylvania censors a Will Rogers movie because it portrays hoboes in too favorable a light.</p>	<p>2007—An interstate highway bridge in Minneapolis collapses, killing 13.</p> <p>2002—The George W.[MD] Bush administration adopts a new policy: torture is now The American Way.™</p> <p>1974—Vice President Ford meets with AI Haig for 50 minutes; they talk about Nixon perhaps resigning, and a possible pardon from Ford. It's all quite kosher, though Haig did sign the official log under an assumed name.</p> <p>1972—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports on a "two-bit burglary" at DNC HQ.</p> <p>1972—First Lt. G.W.[MD] Bush loses his Air National Guard flying status; he skipped a required physical exam that included a drug test.</p> <p>1969—Herb Kalmbach accepts a \$100,000 bribe from milk producers on behalf of Richard Nixon.</p> <p>1969—A Mass. Superior Court judge denies a DA's request for an inquest into Mary Jo Kopechne's death.</p> <p>1966—Ex-Eagle Scout, honor student, and former Marine Charles Whitman shoots 45 (killing 12) from a tower at the University of Texas.</p> <p>1946—Corrupt Democrats in Athens, Tennessee, hole up in a jailhouse with ballot boxes. Disgruntled vets armed with Thompson guns stolen from the local Guard armory lay siege.</p> <p>1921—Baldwin-Feltes goons hired by coal barons shoot Police Chief Sid Hatfield and Deputy Ed Chambers dead on the courthouse steps in Matewan, W.Va. The dead were unarmed, but self-defense pleas free the killers.</p>	<p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush signs a law to let U.S. commandos invade Holland to free any U.S. troops being tried for war crimes at The Hague.</p> <p>2000—The GOP picks George W.[MD] Bush to preside, and Dick "Dick" Cheney to run the country.</p> <p>1993—A short circuit sends a self-destruct command to a Titan IV rocket which blows up over the Pacific destroying \$1 billion in spy satellites.</p> <p>1990—Iraq invades Kuwait.</p> <p>1964—The U.S.S. <i>Maddox</i>, in North Vietnamese territorial waters to support covert South Vietnamese attacks, fires on North Vietnamese torpedo boats. When they fire back, <i>Maddox</i> reports an "unprovoked" attack.</p> <p>1946—Disgruntled veterans in Athens, Tenn. prevail over a crooked Democratic machine, thanks to several well-placed dynamite blasts.</p> <p>1943—Treblinka prisoners revolt. Only 40 survive, but they do close the camp.</p> <p>1943—The nimble American PT boat #109 is rammed and sunk by a relatively ponderous Japanese destroyer.</p> <p>1939—Albert Einstein informs FDR that a nuclear bomb is feasible.</p> <p>1937—FDR signs the marijuana tax bill propagated by America's first narc, hardcore racist Harry Anslinger. Tim Leary gets it overturned 31 years later.</p> <p>1931—Albert Einstein urges all scientists to refuse military work.</p> <p>1832—Starving Sauk and Fox women and children surrender at Bad Axe, Wis. They're massacred by militia.</p>	<p>1981—Air traffic controllers give Ronald Reagan his cue to grandstand.</p> <p>1980—Ronald Reagan touts "states' rights" in his first post-convention speech—two miles from the site where, 19 years earlier, three murdered civil rights workers were buried.</p> <p>1971—New Hampshire man Alan Shepard hits a golf ball on the moon.</p> <p>1966—RIP Lenny Bruce, prosecuted to death at the age of 40.</p> <p>1962—Given a huge shot of LSD by a CIA subcontractor, Tusko the elephant, "pride of the Oklahoma City Zoo," keels over, defecates, and shudders. Big doses of anti-psychotics and tranquilizers don't help; Tusko dies.</p> <p>1961—Byron Rickards, piloting a Boeing 707 over New Mexico, is skyjacked by father and son team Leon and Cody Beardon. In 1931, in Peru, Rickards' Ford Tri-Motor had become the first plane ever skyjacked.</p> <p>1931—In Chicago, 60,000 march against evictions. A fatal riot ensues.</p> <p>1929—The DA of San Bernardino brings a posse of fellow American Legionnaires on a raid. They bust Yetta Stromberg, 19, for raising a red flag.</p> <p>1923—By lamplight, at 2:47 a.m. in Plymouth, Vermont, John Coolidge swears in his son Calvin as President.</p> <p>1922—The New York Society for the Suppression of Vice proposes that all literary manuscripts be screened to ensure they are not immoral.</p> <p>1919—The Chicago race riot ends: 38 dead, 537 injured, 1,000 homeless.</p>	<p>2003—Lightning strikes a warehouse in Bardstown, Ky. In the fire that results, 19,000 barrels release a flaming river: 800,000 gallons of Jim Beam. Thousands of fish die, and high winds whip up a 100-foot firenado.</p> <p>1992—Republicans re-nominate the Bush/Quayle ticket. [Snicker.]</p> <p>1991—The captain and officers of the sinking <i>Oceanos</i> abandon the ship—and its passengers. Entertainers organize a successful rescue of all aboard.</p> <p>1987—The FCC jettisons the Fairness Doctrine, declaring it "restricts the journalistic freedom of broadcasters."</p> <p>1964—The U.S.S. <i>Maddox</i> and U.S.S. <i>Turner Joy</i> report a second torpedo attack in Gulf of Tonkin. There are no casualties; nor is there any damage. Defense Secretary McNamara withdraws from President Johnson warnings that it may just be a false alarm.</p> <p>1961—Barack Hussein Obama is allegedly born in Honolulu, Hawaii.</p> <p>1948—J. Parnell Thomas [R-N.J.], the rabidly anti-commie chair of HUAC, is exposed in Drew Pearson's column as a tax-dodging grifter.</p> <p>1945—Joe Cleary's MLB career lasts one-third of an inning. Pitching for the Senators, he gives up five hits and three walks for an ERA of 189. He's relieved by one-legged Bert Shepard, whose career lasts one game. The Red Sox win it, 15-4.</p> <p>1942—The Bracero program begins. Mexican workers now get to be exploited north of the border, too.</p>	<p>2011—S&P lowers the U.S.'s credit rating because the GOP says it might not let the government pay its bills.</p> <p>2007—On Lake Winnepesaukee, the President of France, clad only in swim trunks, jumps into the boat of AP's N.H.-based ace photographer Jim Cole and berates him for doing his job.</p> <p>2004—"Our enemies," says George W.[MD] Bush, "never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we."</p> <p>1981—Ronald Reagan fires 12,700 air traffic controllers.</p> <p>1971—ITT comes through with \$100,000 towards the GOP Convention; the Justice Department overrules ITT violations of antitrust laws.</p> <p>1969—The Army says eight Green Berets are under arrest for "terminating" a suspected South Vietnamese double agent "with extreme prejudice."</p> <p>1968—The GOP convention starts in Miami. One delegate for Nelson Rockefeller: Theodore "Ted" Bundy.</p> <p>1962—An official South African goon squad nabs fugitive anti-apartheid "terrorist" Nelson Mandela, thanks to a helpful tip from the CIA.</p> <p>1950—When a B-29 hits a trailer park in California, 18 die. At least the nuke on board fails to explode.</p> <p>1912—Teddy Roosevelt founds the Progressive "Bull Moose" Party "to dissolve the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics."</p> <p>1888—Bertha Benz makes the first-ever motorized road trip; 66 km.</p>
 <p>9:40 9:53 3:25 3:29</p>	 <p>10:37 10:48 4:21 4:26</p>	 <p>11:30 11:42 5:15 5:21</p>	 <p>12:22 6:07 6:15</p>	 <p>12:34 11:12 6:56 7:09</p>	 <p>11:26 2:02 7:46 8:03</p>	 <p>2:19 2:53 8:35 8:57</p>
SUNDAY, AUGUST 6	MONDAY, AUGUST 7	TUESDAY, AUGUST 8	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9	THURSDAY, AUGUST 10	FRIDAY, AUGUST 11	SATURDAY, AUGUST 12
<p>2016—"One of my proudest moments," says Senator "Moscow Mitch" McConnell [R-Ky.], "was when I told President Obama, 'You will not fill this Supreme Court vacancy.'"</p> <p>2011—An RPG downs a Chinook in the Tangi Valley, killing all 38 on board; 30 are Americans, the most to die in a single incident in Afghanistan.</p> <p>2001—The CIA hands the President a report titled "Bin Ladin Determined To Strike in U.S." He ignores it.</p> <p>1991—Tim Berners-Lee introduces the World Wide Web to the world.</p> <p>1970—Disneyland closes as 300 Yippies smoke pot, chant V.C. slogans & demand freedom for Mickey Mouse.</p> <p>1957—Carol Burnett becomes an overnight sensation by singing on the Jack Paar show, "I Made a Fool of Myself Over John Foster Dulles."</p> <p>1954—The Illinois Department of the American Legion denounces the <i>Girl Scout Handbook</i> as subversive.</p> <p>1945—Sayonara, Hiroshima.</p> <p>1930—N.Y. Supreme Court Justice and Democratic bigwig John Force Crater purges private files, cashes a large check, and disappears forever.</p> <p>1895—The socialist paper <i>Appeal to Reason</i> begins. By 1902 it has the 4th highest circulation in the U.S.</p> <p>1890—William Kemmler thrashes and smokes for eight minutes as New York's new electric chair kills him.</p> <p>1855—Nativists in Louisville, egged on by a Know Nothing newspaper, torch Irish homes and kill 22.</p>	<p>2016—<i>Verrückt</i> (German for "insane"), the world's tallest waterslide, built in Kansas City by men who later admitted that they didn't know what they were doing, and exempt from state licensing, decapitates the 10-year-old son of a Kansas state rep.</p> <p>1974—Three GOP bigwigs tell Nixon he's through. Len Garment talks him out of pardoning the Watergate conspirators. Nixon's man Al Haig meets again in secret with Jerry Ford. Move along; nothing to see here.</p> <p>1964—Congress falls for the Gulf of Tonkin hoax. L.B.J. gets unprecedented and unconstitutional power. Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) votes no, saying "future generations will look with dismay and great disappointment upon a Congress which is now about to make such a historic mistake."</p> <p>1957—In Nevada, ZSG-3 becomes the first Goodyear Blimp to be brought down by a nuclear weapon.</p> <p>1936—Rep. Marion Zioncheck (D-Wash.), who once had a large load of manure dumped on J. Edgar Hoover's lawn, defenestrates from the fifth floor of a Seattle office building.</p> <p>1930—A mob lynches three Black men in Marion, Ind. A photo of two, dead, inspires the song, "Strange Fruit." The third, rescued, later founds America's Black Holocaust Museum.</p> <p>1893—William Ruffin Cox, ex-CSA Gen., is made Secretary of the Senate.</p> <p>1890—Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, "The Rebel Girl," is born in Concord, N.H.</p>	<p>2022—The FBI raids Trumpland.</p> <p>1989—E. Robert Wallach, a close pal of Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese, is convicted of racketeering. He pocketed \$425,000 to influence Meese and others as part of Wedtech Corp.'s scheme to win defense contracts.</p> <p>1986—Elliott Abrams cadges \$10 million from Brunei's Foreign Minister in a London park, to be used overthrowing the democratically-elected government of Nicaragua.</p> <p>1974—Rep. Earl Landgrebe [R-Ind.], says "Don't confuse me with the facts. I've got a closed mind. I will not vote for impeachment. I'm going to stick with my President even if he and I have to be taken out of this building and shot." Later that day, however, his idol Richard M. Nixon confesses that he lied—he is a quitter, after all.</p> <p>1973—Veep Spiro "Ted" Agnew says charges that he took bribes are "damned lies." They are not.</p> <p>1968—Richard Nixon chooses Spiro "Ted" Agnew for a running mate.</p> <p>1942—Condemned by an un-Constitutional secret military tribunal irregularly sanctioned by a Supreme Court Justice in cahoots with FDR, six German saboteurs are hanged six weeks after landing via U-boat. Bush #43 later relies on the precedent.</p> <p>1925—Imperial Wizard Hiram Evans leads 35,000 members of the Ku Klux Klan in full regalia—minus the hoods—down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Washington Monument.</p>	<p>2014—Ferguson, Mo. cop Darren Wilson shoots unarmed Michael Brown, 18, whose body is then left uncovered on the street for four hours.</p> <p>1997—New York City cop Justin Volpe sodomizes Haitian immigrant Abner Louima with a broomstick.</p> <p>1989—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush signs the Savings and Loan bailout. Among the bailees: his boys Neil and Jeb.</p> <p>1974—Richard Milhous Nixon vacates the White House—finally.</p> <p>1945—In Nagasaki, Hiroshima blast survivor Tsutomu Yamaguchi's boss calls the Colonel's bluff, and three full Air Force trucks are unloaded.</p> <p>1973—Free Marketeer Charles Koch writes Free Marketeer Friedrich von Hayek suggesting he move to the U.S. so he can collect Social[ist] Security.</p> <p>1968—Eight G.I.'s in Vietnam are killed by "friendly fire."</p> <p>1887—An engineer for the Toledo, Peoria & Western, seeing a burning bridge ahead, uncouples his engine and crosses safely. His 81 passengers die when it collapses.</p> <p>1856—Wind-driven waves drown 400 at a ball on Last Island, La.</p> <p>1835—A mob of 300 men wrecks Canaan, N.H.'s racially integrated Noyes Academy, using 100 yokes of oxen to drag it from its foundation. Black students are then chased from town.</p> <p>1680—Pueblo Indians begin an 11-day revolt that will kill 400 Spaniards and drive them from New Mexico.</p>	<p>2019—Mysterious sex criminal and pal of bigwigs Jeffrey Epstein is found conveniently but mysteriously dead in his closely guarded N.Y.C. jail cell.</p> <p>2000—"I want you to know," George W.[MD] Bush tells farmers in Salinas, Calif., "that farmers are not going to be secondary thoughts to a Bush administration. They will be in the forefront of our thinking."</p> <p>1974—"I take my instructions from General Haig," says a Colonel overseeing Richard Nixon's attempt to spirit files out of the White House. White House Counsel Benton Becker calls the Colonel's bluff, and three full Air Force trucks are unloaded.</p> <p>1973—Free Marketeer Charles Koch writes Free Marketeer Friedrich von Hayek suggesting he move to the U.S. so he can collect Social[ist] Security.</p> <p>1968—Eight G.I.'s in Vietnam are killed by "friendly fire."</p> <p>1887—An engineer for the Toledo, Peoria & Western, seeing a burning bridge ahead, uncouples his engine and crosses safely. His 81 passengers die when it collapses.</p> <p>1856—Wind-driven waves drown 400 at a ball on Last Island, La.</p> <p>1835—A mob of 300 men wrecks Canaan, N.H.'s racially integrated Noyes Academy, using 100 yokes of oxen to drag it from its foundation. Black students are then chased from town.</p> <p>1680—Pueblo Indians begin an 11-day revolt that will kill 400 Spaniards and drive them from New Mexico.</p>	<p>2017—A "good person" rallying for White Supremacy in Charlottesville, Va. commits vehicular homicide.</p> <p>2009—President Obama speaks inside Portsmouth, N.H. High School. Outside a Libertarian packs a 9-mm pistol and totes a sign calling for the "blood of patriots and tyrants."</p> <p>1972—Delta Co., 3/21st Infantry, conduct the last U.S. combat patrol in Vietnam; booby traps wound two.</p> <p>1966—The first Coast Guardsmen (2) are killed in Vietnam when B-57s and F-4s attack the cutter <i>Point Welcome</i>.</p> <p>1965—A white L.A. cop pulls over a Black driver in Watts. Five days of riots cost 34 lives, mostly Black, and \$200 million in damage.</p> <p>1942—Ten years after her scandalous <i>Ecstasy</i> nude scene, Hedy Lamarr's "piano roll" system to defend torpedoes from radio-jamming gets a patent.</p> <p>1911—Workers incensed by the "scientific management" imposed by stopwatch-obsessed Phillips Exeter grad Frederick Winslow Taylor go on strike at the Watertown Arsenal.</p> <p>1897—Senator-to-be and ex-slaver Rebecca Ann Latimer Felton tells the Georgia Agricultural Society, "lynch a thousand times a week if necessary," to protect "[white] woman's dearest possession from the ravaging human beasts," i.e., Black men.</p> <p>1894—Charles "Hobo" Kelley and his 1,200 man "army" of the unemployed are driven from Washington D.C. by Federal troops.</p>	<p>2004—N.J. Gov. Jim McGreevey resigns after admitting he's been sleeping with a man who is not his wife.</p> <p>1985—A 747 with 524 on board, enroute to Osaka, crashes after the tail falls off. Many survive but, due to delays, only four are rescued alive.</p> <p>1977—CBS reports that the state won't replace a washed-out bridge in Vulcan, W. Va., so the town has asked the U.S.S.R. for foreign aid.</p> <p>1958—Art Kane takes the photo known as "A Great Day in Harlem." 57 jazz greats on a brownstone stoop.</p> <p>1955—Ike raises the minimum wage from 75 cents to \$1 per hour.</p> <p>1953—Russia tests an H-bomb. Yup, it works.</p> <p>1898—The U.S. annexes Hawaii and makes peace with Spain.</p> <p>1865—Joseph Lister introduces a novel refinement to the art of surgery, which he calls "disinfectant."</p> <p>1827—William Blake is released from his earthly form.</p> <p>1806—In Haverhill, N.H. 10,000 assemble to see Josiah Burnham hanged on his 63rd birthday. He had stabbed two fellow inmates in debtors prison.</p> <p>1676—John Alderman, a "Praying Indian," shoots and kills Metacom, aka King Philip. Alderman is awarded the head and one hand. He sells the head to the town of Plymouth where it's displayed atop a stake for 25 years. Metacom's wife and child are sold to West Indian slave traders.</p> <p>30 BCE—RIP, Cleopatra.</p>
 <p>3:13 3:45 9:24 9:54</p>	 <p>4:09 4:39 10:16 10:53</p>	 <p>5:09 5:36 11:10 11:56</p>	 <p>6:14 6:37 12:09</p>	 <p>7:21 7:40 1:02 1:11</p>	 <p>8:28 8:42 2:08 2:14</p>	 <p>9:28 9:39 3:10 3:14</p>

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