

*The Fortnightly Rant***From Just Wrong to Plain Crazy**

Recently it was reported that the Defense Department had asked the Rand Corporation to determine if “Individuals who hold or held a security clearance and handled classified material could become a security threat if they develop dementia and unwittingly share government secrets.”

Yet another example of Pentagon waste. We could and would have answered that question for lunch money: “Yes.”

Here’s the answer which probably cost taxpayers \$640,000: “Considering the potential consequences of an inadvertent security breach stemming from cognitive impairment, we believe that further study of risk, recognition, and mitigation strategies is important.”*

The narrowness of the question is what bothers us.

What we really need, as a nation, is an answer to the question, “What can be done when key parts of the government are in the hands of fascist crackpots?”

Let us consider, for example, the then-Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, on January 2, 2021. He received the following text from Senator and former Republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney:

“In case you have not heard this, I just got a call from Angus King, who

* While we’re on the Pentagon’s case, it lost another F-35 the other day—literally. The Marine pilot punched out over the burbs of Charleston, S.C., and the \$80-million dingus just kept on keeping on. Joint Base Charleston was reduced to tweeting, “If you have any information that may help our recovery teams locate the F-35, please call the Base Defense Operations Center at 843-963-3600.” Helpful, civic-minded citizens in the Charleston area responded by putting up “Lost!!!” posters of the jet.

said that he had spoken with a senior official at the Pentagon who reports that they are seeing very disturbing social media traffic regarding the protests planned on the 6th. There are calls to burn down your home, Mitch; to smuggle guns into D.C., and to storm the Capitol. I hope that sufficient security plans are in place, but I am concerned that the instigator—the President—is the one who commands the reinforcements the D.C. and Capitol police might require.”

McConnell, according to McKay Coppins’s reporting, did not reply. One can only assume it’s because his head was fully retracted and hidden under his carapace.

Now Romney is being driven out of the Republican Party and the U.S. Senate because he voted to convict Donald Trump in his second impeachment, and people are threatening Mitt and his family. Call us callous, but Romney’s personal safety is not our primary concern here. To paraphrase Hyman Roth, this is the business he’s chosen. He has money to burn only because he made an obscene fortune in the private equity racket.

Our concern is these new Brown Shirts. Romney is just an easily-identified canary in the unsafe, unregulated, unventilated, gas-filled and combustible coal mine that is today’s America. No one shells out nearly \$2 million a year for personal protection without good reason—not even a man who has an elevator for his cars.

What about the rest of us? Are we destined to be just so much collateral damage when the Goon Squad really cuts loose?



January 6th was bad. A frothing lunatic stood before a howling mob and urged them on to attack and shut down the legislature—so that he could continue wreaking havoc at the head of the executive. They gave it a shot, but they failed. We’ll never know for sure how close we were to losing the whole shebang.

Now there’s a video clip making the rounds that, while completely different—and not in the good, Monty Python way—may be as frightening as January 6th.

The head goon himself, #45, stands before a red and white-striped background, hands clamped to the podium. No “air accordion” today. As he speaks, low, slow, and calmly, quasi-celestial music plays faintly in the background. It’s an autonomous sensory meridian re-

sponse, or ASMR, session—a flat-out attempt at mind control. He’s trying to create a zombie army.

Things were bad enough half a century ago, when the fat cat party welcomed the racist Democrats fleeing LBJ’s pro-civil rights agenda.

Reagan and Bush #43 made things worse, courting fundamentalist Bible-thumpers to stay competitive. You would think that aggressively pious souls would have been more suspicious of such an obvious bunch of Mammon-worshippers chanting “greed is good.” Alas, critical thinking is not their forte.

This, though—turning the party over to a violent cult, at a time when the natural world itself is literally howling at us, “stop with the business-as-usual”—that’s just certifiably insane.

Thoughts on Beginning Another Year

With this issue we begin our 268th year. After 26 fortnights of steady effort, we get to add an “I” to the “CCLXVII” up there on our nameplate.

We’re always prone to taking the long view, so milestones like these just egg us on. Looking backwards is easy, and it can be fun, as when we celebrated our 250th anniversary, 17 years ago.

Looking forward is different. Will our present staff be celebrating our 275th, in the year 2031? That’s hard to say, and it’s only eight years off. Our 300th? Let’s not ask.

What’s our point here? Maybe just this: a marker to remind ourselves that “Succession” is not just an amusing cable TV program.

*The Alleged News®***Biden Is The Latest President To Tout The Vietnam War As Proud History**

By Norman Solomon

When Joe Biden flew out of Hanoi last week, he was leaving a country where U.S. warfare caused roughly 3.8 million Vietnamese deaths. But, like every other president since the Vietnam War, he gave no sign of remorse. In fact, Biden led up to his visit by presiding over a White House ceremony that glorified the war as a noble effort.

Presenting the Medal of Honor to former Army pilot Larry L. Taylor for bravery during combat, Biden praised the veteran with effusive accolades for risking his life in Vietnam to rescue fellow soldiers from “the enemy.” But that heroism was 55 years ago. Why present the medal on national television just days before traveling to Vietnam?

The timing reaffirmed the shameless pride in the U.S. war on Vietnam that one president after another has tried to render as history. You might think that—after killing such

a vast number of people in a war of aggression based on continuous deceptions—some humility and even penance would be in order.

But no. As George Orwell put it, “Who controls the past controls the future: who controls the present controls the past.” And a government that intends to continue its might-makes-right use of military power needs leaders who do their best to distort history with foggy rhetoric and purposeful omissions. Lies and evasions about past wars are prefigurative for future wars.

And so, at a press conference in Hanoi, the closest Biden came to acknowledging the slaughter and devastation inflicted on Vietnam by the U.S. military was this sentence: “I’m incredibly proud of how our nations and our people have built trust and understanding over the decades and worked to repair the painful legacy the war left on both our nations.”

In the process, Biden was pretending an equivalency of suffering and

culpability for both countries—a popular pretense for commanders in chief ever since the first new one after the Vietnam War ended.

Two months into his presidency in early 1977, Jimmy Carter was asked at a news conference if he felt “any moral obligation to help rebuild that country.” Carter replied firmly: “Well, the destruction was mutual. You know, we went to Vietnam without any desire to capture territory or to impose American will on other people. We went there to defend the freedom of the South Vietnamese. And I don’t feel that we ought to apologize or to castigate ourselves or to assume the status of culpability.”

And, Carter added, “I don’t feel that we owe a debt, nor that we should be forced to pay reparations at all.”

In other words, no matter how many lies it tells or how many people it kills, being the United States government means never having to

say you’re sorry.

When President George H.W. Bush celebrated the U.S. victory in the 1991 Gulf War, he proclaimed: “By God, we’ve kicked the Vietnam syndrome once and for all.” Bush meant that the triumphant killing of Iraqi people—estimated at 100,000 in six weeks—had ushered in American euphoria about military action that promised to wipe away hesitation to launch future wars.

From Carter to Biden, presidents have never come anywhere near providing an honest account of the Vietnam War. None could imagine engaging in the kind of candor that Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg provided when he said: “It wasn’t that we were on the wrong side. We were the wrong side.”

Mainstream political discourse has paid scant attention to the deaths and injuries of Vietnamese people. Likewise the horrendous ecological damage and effects of

poisons from the Pentagon’s arsenal have gotten very short shrift in U.S. media and politics.

Does such history really matter now? Absolutely. Efforts to portray the U.S. government’s military actions as well-meaning and virtuous are incessant. The pretenses that falsify the past are foreshadowing excuses for future warfare.

Telling central truths about the Vietnam War is a basic threat to the U.S. war machine. No wonder the leaders of the warfare state would rather keep pretending.

Published under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License. Norman Solomon’s latest book, *War Made Invisible: How America Hides the Human Toll of Its Military Machine*, was published in summer 2023 by *The New Press*.

The Alleged News®

from page one

114 Climate Defenders Arrested For Blocking Federal Reserve

by Brett Wilkins

A day after tens of thousands of climate activists marched through Manhattan's Upper East Side demanding an end to oil, gas, and coal production, thousands more demonstrators hit the streets of Lower Manhattan Monday, where more than 100 people were arrested while surrounding the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to protest fossil fuel financing.

Protesters chanted slogans like "No oil, no gas, fossil fuels can kiss my ass" and "We need clean air, not another billionaire" as they marched from Zuccotti Park—ground zero of the 2011 Occupy Wall Street movement—to pre-selected sites in the Financial District. Witnesses said many of the activists attempted to reach the New York Stock Exchange but were blocked by police.

"We're here to wake up the regulators who are asleep at the wheel as they continue to let Wall Street lead

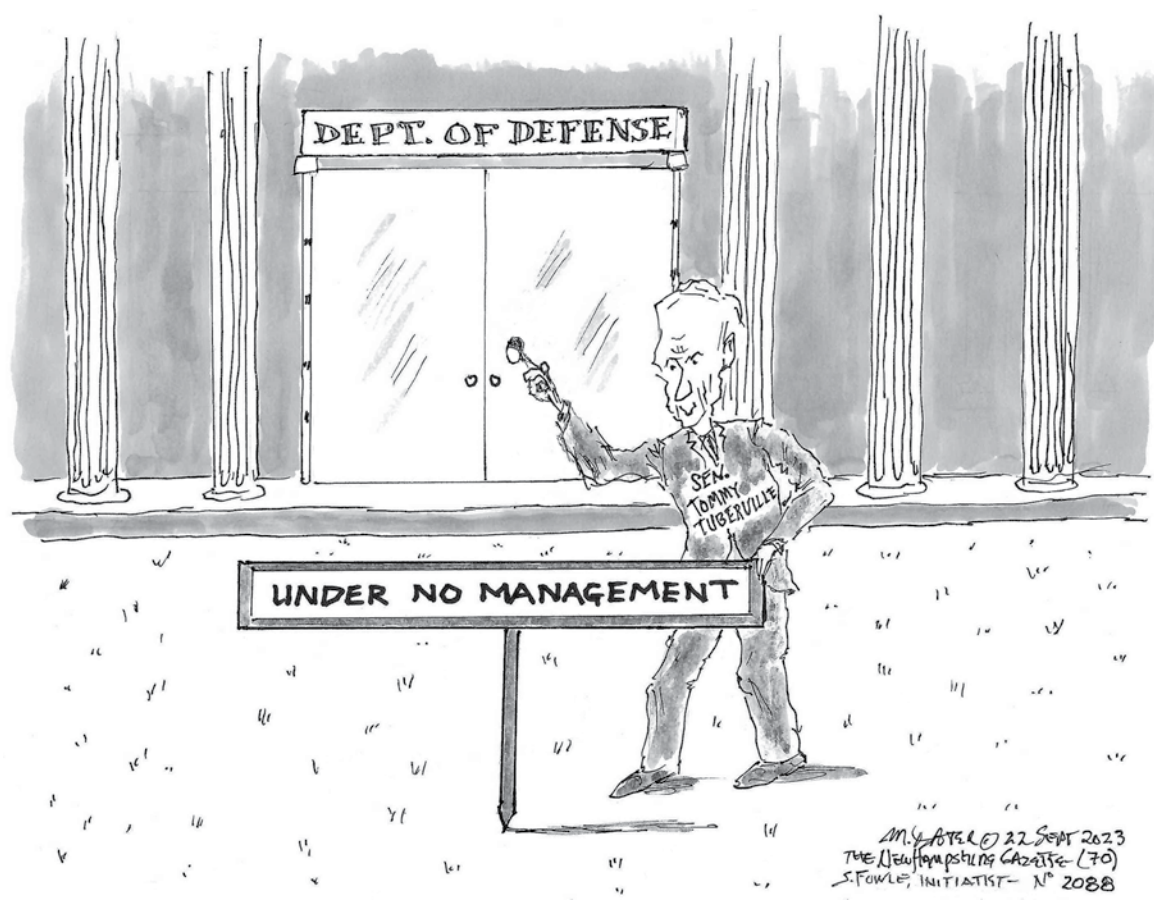
us into ANOTHER financial crash with their fossil fuel financing," the Stop the Money Pipeline coalition explained on social media.

Local and national media reported New York Police Department (NYPD) officers arrested 114 protesters and charged them with civil disobedience Monday after they blocked entrances to the Fed building. Most of those arrested were expected to be booked and released.

"I'm being arrested for exercising my First Amendment right to protest because Joe Manchin is putting a 300-mile-long pipeline through my home state of West Virginia and President [Joe] Biden allowed him to do it for nothing in return," explained Climate Defiance organizer Rylee Haught on social media, referring to the right-wing Democratic senator and the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

As she was led away by an NYPD officer, a tearful Haught said Biden "sold us out."

"He promised to end drilling on federal lands, and he's selling out Appalachia's future for profit," she added.



Responding to the "block-long" line of arrestees, Climate Defiance asked: "Why are we getting handcuffed while people who literally torch the planet get celebrated for their 'civility' and their 'moderation'?"

Brett Wilkins is a staff writer for Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).

[Note: As of Tuesday, the New York Times seems to have deemed news about this protest not fit to print. — The Ed.]

Hundreds Of Signs Outside Capitol Protest Tuberville's Blockade

By Ashley Murray, States Newsroom

WASHINGTON, September 19, 2023—More than 300 signs dotted the lawn outside the U.S. Senate Tuesday, each bearing the name of a military nominee blocked this year by Republican Sen. Tommy Tuberville of Alabama in protest of a

Pentagon abortion policy.

Multiple Democratic senators delivered comments Tuesday at the sign installation organized by the progressive VoteVets Political Action Committee, which has run ads against the senator's hold on nominees.

"I literally cannot believe that Tommy Tuberville is still doing this," Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota said. "I hope that he comes out of that building and sees these 300 signs that are in front of us right now because every single picture, every single name, every single title represents someone who has decided to put their life on the line for our country."

Tuberville announced to fellow Republicans during a meeting Tuesday that he plans to force a vote Wednesday on Marine Commandant nominee Gen. Eric M. Smith, according to Tuberville's spokesperson.

While the Alabama senator has no plans to release his blanket

freeze on nominees, he will attempt to push Smith's nomination to the floor individually—a move that Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, has refused to take because of concerns over floor time.

Tuberville opposes the Department of Defense policy that grants leave and travel allowances for service members seeking reproductive care that is not covered by the federal government. Those services can include in vitro fertilization, egg retrieval or abortion.

The senators spoke Tuesday facing the hundreds of white lawn signs—resembling a memorial display. Each showed the nominee's photo and rank alongside the hashtag #ConfirmThemToday.

Tuberville and Republicans are "sabotaging" the leadership nominations, said Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"They are injecting partisanship and politics into what should be



Our Wandering Photographer was not surprised to spot an alien on Congress Street last Sunday. After all, Exeter's annual UFO Festival had taken place just a fortnight earlier. Consider how long it took for people to clear out after Burning Man—and those were mere terrestrial miles! What about light years? The surprising thing was the relatively plebian mode of transport. A Kawasaki Ninja—ho hum. We'd have expected a bug-eyed individual such as this to be riding a more exotic mode of transport.

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clearly a meritorious decision. All of these men and women have earned their promotions," Reed said.

Reed and Klobuchar were joined in delivering remarks by Sens. Tim Kaine of Virginia, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Tammy Duckworth of Illinois and Chris Murphy of Connecticut.

Signs elevated on easels behind the senators showed some of the highest ranking nominees delayed by Tuberville. They included Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff nominee Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Chief of Staff of the Army nominee Randy A. George, nominee to be Chief of Staff of the Air Force David W. Allvin, and Smith.

Admiral Lisa Franchetti, the first woman to be nominated for Chief of Naval Operations, is also among the nominees waiting for confirmation.

Tuberville's hold on the Senate's unanimous consent of the nominees has lasted longer than six months.

The routine unanimous process for nominations allows senators to approve hundreds of military promotions simultaneously rather than bringing them to the floor for individual votes, which could take up to three months, according to a calculation provided to the Senate Committee on Armed Services by

the Congressional Research Service. *This story is taken from the Maine Morning Star (see below), <https://mainemorningstar.com/>, and is here published under Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-ND 4.0.*

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Something New Under the Sun

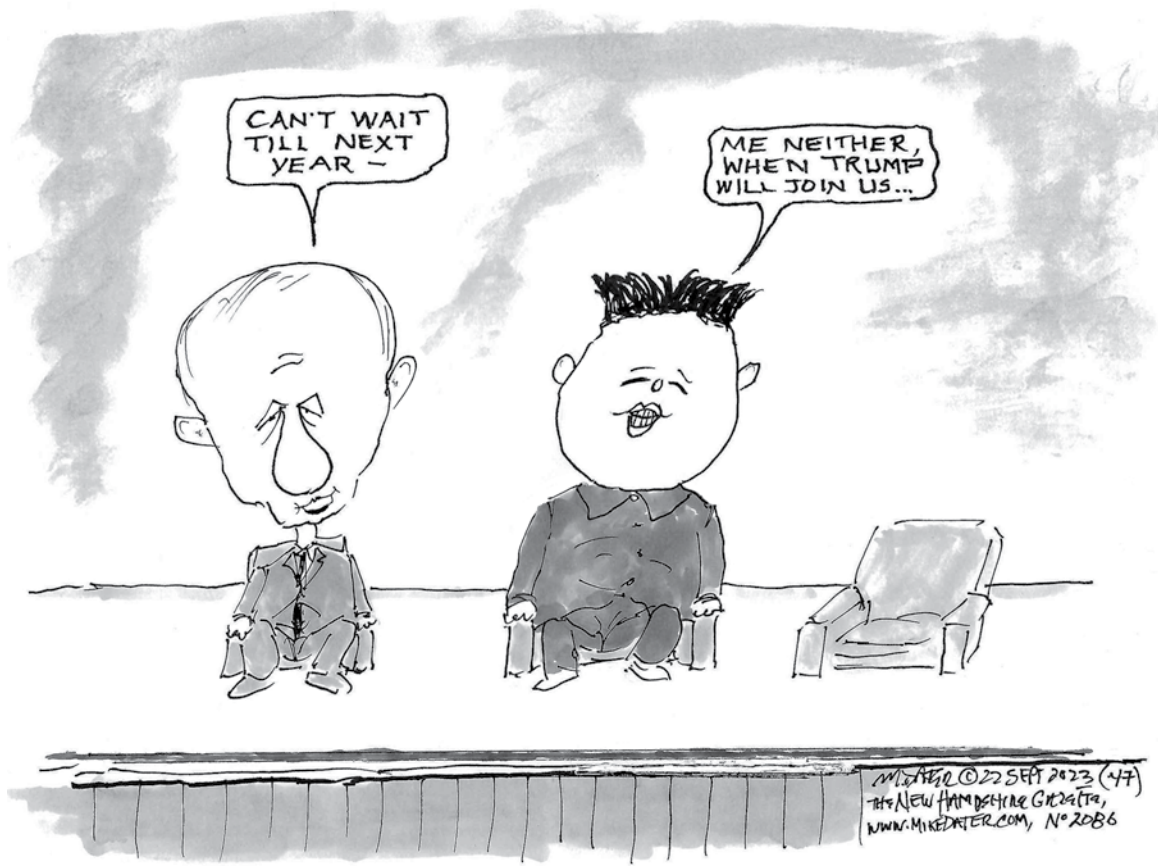
It may come from over across the Piscataqua, but as the above news story shows, the perspective of the *Maine Morning Star* seems similar to ours.

Launched on Tuesday, September 19th, the *Morning Star* says it's "an independent, nonprofit and nonpartisan news site covering state policy and politics—and how they impact the lives of Maine's people. We focus on issues that Mainers grapple with every day: from the overdose crisis, to housing affordability, to tribal rights, to the challenges of the legal system, to the impact that our changing climate will have on the geography and economy of the Pine Tree State.

"We aim to hold powerful people and institutions accountable and explain how their actions affect communities from Kennebunk to Caribou. You might say we've got Moxie™."

Ayup.

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Respectable New York Media Critic Interviews Gazette Editor

After decades spent editing newspapers, one might begin to think there are few surprises left. If so, one would, of course, be wrong.

We were certainly surprised when we got an interview request from the Fair Media Council [FMC]. FMC bills itself as "one of the oldest, most successful media watchdogs in the country. We advocate for quality news and prioritize keeping local news local. Creating a media-savvy society that can successfully navigate today's complicated media landscape is a growing part of our mission. FMC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered on Long Island, N.Y., inside the No. 1 media market in the world."

Jaci Clement is the Executive Director of the organization. Speakers at its annual Folio Awards have included Dan Rather, Maggie Haberman, Al Roker, Helen Thomas, and Bob Woodruff.

Clements also hosts its "Fast Chat Podcast." For a new series, "Local

News in America," she began as close to the beginning as possible—with The Nation's Oldest Newspaper™.

Some people are said to have a face made for radio. Others have a manner of extemporaneous speaking made for judicious editing. Our editor, alas, has both. As Clements describes the interview, "This oral history offers a look at the *Gazette's* beginnings and meanders its way through to the present day..." Nevertheless, FMC has forged ahead, and recently posted the video online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSKrJ-rANjk>.

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WCSA Interviews Portsmouth City Council Candidates

Portsmouth, New Hampshire will hold its municipal elections on November 7th, including for nine positions on the City Council.

To help Portsmouth voters make more informed decisions, the hosts of Seacoast Currents on Portsmouth Community Radio (WCSA 106.1 FM) will interview the City Council

candidates over the next month and a half. The hosts of Seacoast Currents are Kathy Somssich and Larry Drake. Listen live from the radio station's website <https://wscafmr.org/>.

Here's the schedule:

Thursday, October 12th:

- 8:00 a.m. – Esther Kennedy
- 8:30 a.m. – Kate Cook
- 9:00 a.m. – Peter Whelan
- 9:30 a.m. – Kevin Coyle

Thursday, October 19th:

- 8:00 a.m. – Rich Blalock
- 8:30 a.m. – Josh Denton
- 9:00 a.m. – Paige Trace
- 9:30 a.m. – Rick Becksted

Thursday, October 26th:

- 8:00 a.m. – Joanna Kelley
- 8:30 a.m. – John Tabor
- 9:00 a.m. – Deaglan McEachern
- 9:30 a.m. – Petra Huda

Thursday, November 2nd:

- 8:00 a.m. – Vince Lombardi
 - 8:30 a.m. – Andrea Pickett
- Due to scheduling difficulties, Beth Moreau will not be interviewed. Andrew Bagley and Kathleen Soldati were interviewed Thursday, September 21st.



STEVE FOWLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE

Daniel Fowle, our founder, wrote shortly after his 1754 imprisonment, "I should have been glad had I remain'd in Obscurity... and slid out of this noisy World unnoticed." Our Editor knows the feeling. When the Fair Media Council asked for an interview, though, he was duty-bound to agree.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"It's a weak nation, like a weak person, that must behave with bluster and boasting and rashness and other signs of insecurity."
 – Jimmy Carter (1924-)

"Schisms do not originate in a love of truth ... but rather in an inordinate desire for supremacy."
 – Baruch Spinoza
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A Cult of Quislings

Dear Editor;

It gets more worrisome by the day. Now we've been given more insight into the dysfunction and cowardice of the political party which should have put the twice-impeached, never-won-the-popular-vote, 91-times-indicted liar/criminal away for good, thanks to *The Atlantic's* excerpts of McKay Coppin's upcoming book on Mitt Romney.

The acquiescence by those in the Senate who didn't have the guts to do what they knew was absolutely necessary to save our democracy is beyond disturbing. Aren't these the members of the "party" who constantly compare themselves to those who risked their lives and fortune to defy the British in the 1770's, members of the "party" always waving the flag in everyone else's face, members of the "party" who declare themselves "true patriots," members of the "party" who failed in their most important moment to act because they were thinking of the children, thinking of their positions and their sorry little lives more than thinking of saving 240 years of democracy? Despicable doesn't even begin to describe their cowardice. The rot in what used to be the Republican Party is worse than previously thought. This isn't a legitimate political party, it's a cult of quislings.

Can this really be happening, that the country with the world's mightiest armed forces and one of the highest living standards on the planet stands on the brink of defeat not by any other world power, but by the combination of a media ecosystem pumping lies 24/7 into a gullible, and frankly stupid, public at the behest of a madman who threatens his opposition with violence? Seriously?

John C. Fidor
Richmond, Va.

John:

"All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Buonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years.

"At what point then is the approach of

danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide."

—Abraham Lincoln,
Springfield, Ill.,
January 27, 1838

The Editor

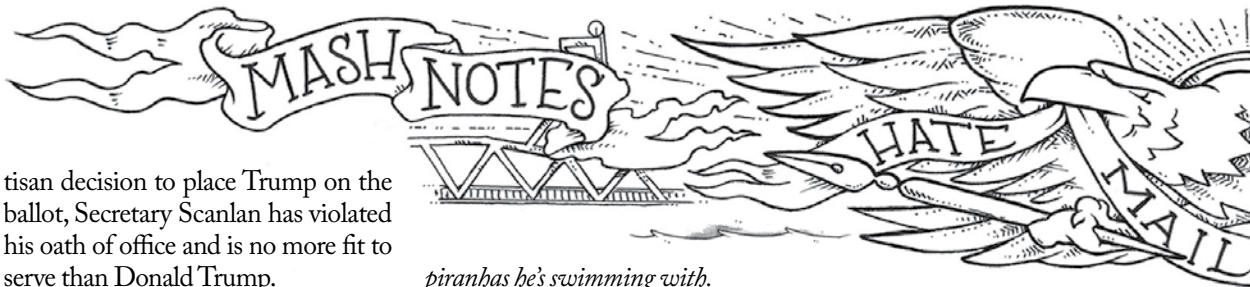
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Sec. of State Scanlan and the Rule of Law
To the Editors:

New Hampshire Secretary of State Scanlan took an oath to protect and defend the U.S. Constitution. Article 3 of Amendment 14 to the Constitution clearly disqualifies Donald J. Trump from serving as any elected official. For any Secretary of State, who is responsible for deciding which names appear on the ballot, to ignore the U.S. Constitution, is a dereliction of duty and disregards his / her sworn oath. In lieu of the 14th Amendment explicitly designating the proper authority to determine that a person has violated the amendment, it falls to whomever is responsible for elections to act in accordance with the law—the Secretaries of State in most States.

Secretary Scanlan has said that, "New Hampshire has a proud tradition of welcoming all qualified candidates participating in a presidential primary, and that will continue here." That is true, but Trump is not qualified and does not excuse his blatant disregard for federal law. He has said that this should be decided by the courts, but he did not seek any guidance or judgment from any court. He said that he followed N.H. law in choosing to put Trump on the ballot, but ignored the U.S. Constitution, which supersedes N.H. law. His fellow GOPers have said that the people should be the ones to decide, but the people did decide, way back after the Civil War. Do N.H. GOPers believe that when they don't like the Rule of Law, it shouldn't apply to them? It sure looks like that to me.

By choosing to ignore the U.S. Constitution, and instead choosing to make a MAGA, ass-kissing, par-



tisan decision to place Trump on the ballot, Secretary Scanlan has violated his oath of office and is no more fit to serve than Donald Trump.

Paul Cully
Dover, N.H.

Paul:

According to reliable sources, Sen. Mitt Romney is shelling out \$5,000 per day to protect himself and his family against his own party's Brown Shirts.

We don't know how much New Hampshire pays Scanlan, but it can't be enough to cover that sort of expense.

It's not a pretty thought, but that seems to be where we're at.

The Editor

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Swimming With Piranhas

To the Editor:

Congress needs to pass the 12 appropriation bills that fund the government by the end of September. The Senate has done so, but the House has passed only one. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy won't bring any of these bills up for a vote unless they can pass without any support from Democrats. He does this even though the most radical fringe of his party told him they will not support the budget he negotiated with the White House and most voted to approve back in May.

These radicals want to keep the government from functioning and are trying to force a government shutdown. It is time Speaker McCarthy stood up to them and by the budget he negotiated. It is time he brought the appropriation bills up for a vote. They would pass with wide bipartisan majorities. It is time Speaker McCarthy cared more about the country than keeping his job as leader of a dysfunctional party.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

For McCarthy to do the right thing, he would have to put the country's welfare above his own. That's unlikely. Even if he did, it wouldn't protect him from those

piranhas he's swimming with.
The Editor

McCarthy's Disgrace

Dear Editor:

With his decision to direct committees of the House of Representatives to open an impeachment inquiry against President Biden, Kevin McCarthy has sealed his already despicable legacy as Speaker of the House. The decision to open an impeachment inquiry came not with the vote of the full House, but as an order. McCarthy did not hold a House vote as previously promised, caving in to a small group of radical Republicans, knowing that he did not have sufficient votes in the Republican controlled House to pass a resolution for an impeachment inquiry.

Kevin McCarthy has demonstrated a level of cowardice, moral bankruptcy and a total lack of integrity that has disgraced his office and our nation. In an effort to gain and retain power, McCarthy has sold his soul to a lunatic fringe hell bent on destroying the nation. McCarthy has given full power and control over the House of Representatives to those not worthy of holding their positions. If McCarthy had an ounce of courage, any regard for the office he holds and even the slightest concern for the nations' security he would have behaved in a manner consistent with his oath to protect and defend the constitution, not to destroy it. Unfortunately, McCarthy chose to disgrace himself and his office and inflict unnecessary harm to our national security and prosperity.

Liz Cheney has recently stated with regard to her former Party, "The Putin Republicans & their enablers will end up on the ash heap of history," as they prepare to cause another disastrous government shutdown and embark on an impeachment inquiry in search of high crimes and misdemeanors. Liz

Cheney's words echo the words of George Orwell, "In a time of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act."

Hon. Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

Cheney went on to say, in that tweet, "Patriotic Americans in both parties who believe in the values of liberal democracy will make sure of it." Apparently Darth Cheney's daughter expects us to make some kind of distinction between two purported camps of Republicans. One camp can be found easily enough: a mob of bucksters, lunatics, and cowards. We searched for the other camp, but found only a circle of blackened stones where a fire used to be.

The Editor

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New Success of the Movement for the Independence of Catalonia

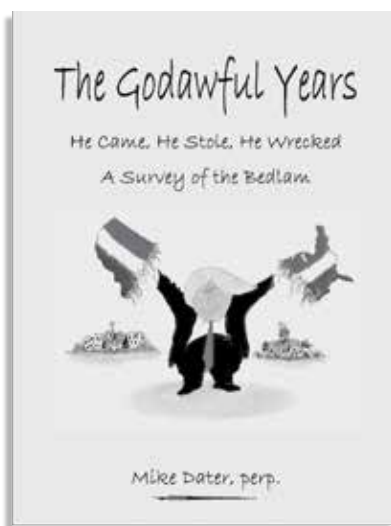
To the Editor:

September 11 is the National Day of Catalonia and every year a demonstration is held to commemorate that in 1714 Catalonia lost, by blood and fire, its freedom and became a territory without rights conquered by Castile. After 2010, already with a certain degree of democracy, the annual mobilization became a great demand for the independence of Catalonia, because we realized that, within Spain, there would never be a way to live as the Catalan society wishes. Right now, Catalan independence is the European political movement that brings more people to the streets to protest. In Barcelona this year we have been 800,000 people demanding our freedom as a nation.

And at the same time, the interim president of Spain, Pedro Sánchez, to be invested president of the country, needs the votes of Junts, the party of the 130th President of Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont, who had to go into exile in Belgium because Spain

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We've a printer's devil on one shoulder, who's been egging us on. Perhaps it's time to heed the angel on our other shoulder.
The Editor

What You'll Be Missing

To the Editor:
[Having reconsidered our position (see above), we have decided to make the most recent Memo from Meredith our last. Rather than go cold-turkey, we have summarized it below. — The Ed.]

Our correspondent says that, as a presumably white male living in a town that's 97.3 percent white—7.5 percent whiter than the rest of the state—he's being oppressed by black billionaires complaining about systematic racism.

He would have us believe that a handful of dubious cases, highly-publicized, disprove the lived experience of millions, and require us to discard a mountain of statistical evidence.

Furthermore, if he were Black, he would provide a better role model than these apparently multitudinous Black billionaires.

Instead, these deceptive Black elites malign our sacred Constitution, which "set the stage for its eventual elimination by reducing the power of slave states." In support of this assertion, he cites "the maligned 3/5ths clause." Contrary to what the Sage of Meredith would have us believe, the 3/5th clause significantly increased the power of the slave states in Congress, and in the Electoral College, to boot.

Republicans are laboring tirelessly to make life better for Blacks, but Democrats and wealthy Blacks thwart them at every turn.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.
Don:
Feel free to keep filling our inbox with toxic misinformation. We like to think it keeps our immune system tuned-up. Don't expect to see it in these columns, though.
The Editor

The New Hampshire Disadvantage

To the Editor:
Good news! The N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES) is receiving \$7,640,000 this year to address PFAS contamination in our

water.
Bad news! PFAS and other chemicals also spread through the air, harming lungs and causing cancer. Our DES carefully follows federal rules monitoring air quality, but many are limited and outdated. (Large companies like St. Gobain and Casella Waste Management choose to locate in New Hampshire, where standards are looser.) DES knows it can do more, yet holds to minimal federal standards.

Currently, DES is working on air permits to allow increased pollution from Turnkey Landfill's expansion, accepting 1.4-1.5 million more tons of waste annually. This facility is a major source for toxic substances. People living nearby smell the pollution, and every breath brings Turnkey emissions into their lungs and bloodstream.

The new permit
· monitors only formaldehyde and methane—not another 100 toxic air pollutants, including PFAS, that it is capable of monitoring.

· doesn't provide adequate provisions for monitoring or upgrading to "Best Available Technology."

· doesn't provide for reliable low-cost monitors to measure pollutants such as particulates, that travel to surrounding communities.

· doesn't include recent standards set for diesel emissions, although trucking will increase by 3,000 weekly trips. (Truck emissions can now be limited with an upgrade installation.)

DES has the knowledge and legal authority to protect our air. Will they, and the governor they serve, insist on their right to maintain minimal, outdated standards? Email DES Air Division craig.wright@des.nh.gov to protect our air, not permit pollution.

Susan Richman
Durham, N.H.
Susan:
Have you never heard of "The New Hampshire Advantage"? Apparently you haven't been listening to our Republican Governors over the years.

Uniquely among New England states, we tacitly offer corporations the oportuni-

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

to clear the file of the Spanish Justice before the sentence of the Court of Justice of the EU, which is expected to be devastating for Spain.

For this reason, in the demonstration nobody demanded amnesty, nor any investiture pact of Sánchez, but the unanimous cry was for independence. And this is Puigdemont's demand: four preconditions are needed, but the negotiation must be about self-determination. And Sanchez completely resists entering this debate with the excuse that the Constitution does not allow it (which is false). He asks to be invested, but does not want to give in on anything that is central to Spanish nationalism. So, if Sánchez does not stand as a true statesman who knows how to lead Spain to a negotiation in which the use of violent force is renounced and only the force of democracy is counted, I think we are heading towards the sixth elections in eight years (normally it would have been two) and a destabilization of Spain as we have not seen so far.

Jordi Oriola Folch
Barcelona, Catalonia
Jordi:
The Catalonians, like the United Auto Workers, seem to have a moment of unusual opportunity.
The Editor

Why Publish Ewing?

Dear Editor,
I have spent well over three decades of the past four and one-half decades teaching, including eighteen of the past twenty-three years. In all that time, I have never seen or even heard of a teacher "presenting graphic sex talk and images to young children," let alone witnessed such behavior on the part of teachers with whom I've worked. Nor have I ever heard of a teacher confusing "children about gender, suggesting that maybe boys

and girls are in the wrong bodies and should get life-changing hormone or surgical treatments," let alone ever witnessed such behavior on the part of teachers with whom I've worked. I have never heard of a teacher who taught "that young white children are bad" and "young black children can't succeed," nor ever worked with a teacher who taught such things.

These accusations are at best the hysterical rantings of a fear-fueled political Chicken Little, at worst the calculated lies and falsehoods of someone devoid of Judeo-Christian "love and tolerance."

As for "Democrat Jim Crow laws and lynchings," even a cursory knowledge of history makes clear that such laws and lynchings were the responsibility of Southern Democrats in the era before passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act extending political rights to southern African Americans, passage of which resulted in the "Solid South" flipping over wholesale from solidly Democratic to solidly Republican in a single presidential election cycle.

Why, week after week, you continue to offer a platform for such hateful misinformation and demonstrable lies is a mystery to me. It stopped being amusing years ago. If I want to be subjected to this tripe, I need only turn on Fox News.

William D. Ehrhart, PhD
formerly Sergeant, USMC
Bryn Mawr, Pa.
William:
"Week after week"? How dare you, sir? We would never publish at such a frenetic pace. At our age, that would be undignified—not to mention, too much work.

Thank you for conveying so concisely the essence of Don Ewing's sperwings.

For quite a few years now, we have taken his screeds as challenges, treating the opportunity to respond as if it were a sport. In a sedentary occupation, it's provided mental exercise.

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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.

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from page three

ty to externalize certain expenditures. They get to pass off the cost of their industrial processes onto our citizens, who quietly pay with their health.
The Editor

Your Choice: Crazy? Or Ineffective?

To the editor;
The unprecedented series of catastrophic weather events that characterized this summer should provide convincing evidence that climate change is a current existential threat. The rare and destructive floods, fires, droughts and persistent heat domes are exactly the events that climate scientists have been warning about for decades. Current efforts to reduce carbon emissions have not been effective. Although the rate of increase in carbon emissions has decreased over the last decade, atmospheric carbon is still increasing (by .9 percent in 2022). Without further action to reduce emissions, climate catastrophes are likely to become both more common and more severe.

Climate change is not the only problem with existential consequences for U.S. society. Serious inequalities in wealth and income separating the educated from the uneducated have contributed to resentment and alienation of the working class from financial and political elites. This has facilitated populist resentment and cultural conflict. The constant danger of civil violence and the ongoing threat of Donald Trump to constitutional democracy are indicative of the seriousness of this problem.

On a global scale, the continuing Russian invasion of the Ukraine creates a quandary for the U.S. Overly aggressive support of the Ukraine threatens a wider war that may bring U.S. forces into armed conflict with Europe once again and increase the chance of nuclear conflict. On the other hand, to allow Putin to succeed is likely to encourage additional ventures to re-constitute a Russian empire.

These issues threaten serious



harm to life and property as well as a threat to the stability of social structures. They are "messy" problems characterized by complexity where many interconnected variables create evolving and unpredictable outcomes. Their resolution is not obvious and not predictable. These problems will be overcome only through an intensive trial-and-error process, not through the application of quantitative models. This entails thorough analysis requiring ongoing collaboration among specialized groups with the cooperation of policymakers. All who have seen "Oppeheimer" will have a sense of the nature of the projects.

Given the gravity of these problems, it should be expected that policymakers would be laser-focused on creating the capabilities to prevent potential disaster. Instead, U.S. legislators are engaged in often silly parochial conflicts and their supporters both on the left and the right are mired in ideological fantasies that distract them from an awareness of real threats. Certainly, this problem is more severe on the right. Most Republicans continue to support Donald Trump's candidacy for president in 2024 despite his crackpot contention of voter fraud. The Republican cult rallies around Trump claiming that recent indictments of Trump are merely political efforts to discredit their leader. Radical House Republicans threaten the impeachment of Joe Biden without providing any evidence of wrongdoing and the "Freedom Caucus" threatens to shut down the government at the end of September if their radical demands are not met. Vivek Ramaswamy, a candidate in the 2024 Republican presidential primaries, has incredibly claimed that climate change is a hoax. Much of the Republican base get their news and beliefs from unhinged conspiracy theories published on discredited internet sites. These are not serious people. They live in a partisan fanta-

sy world driven by lies and a deluded ideology. It is difficult to imagine that this group would provide support for bipartisan initiatives to solve real world complex problems.

The radical left is not innocent of delusion. The extreme focus on identity politics by some has degenerated into demands for slavish conformity to fanciful ideologies. The esteemed actor Helen Mirren has been accused of "cultural appropriation" for the audacity of portraying Golda Meir and not being Jewish. The San Francisco city council has called for reparations to black residents of \$5 million dollars each as well as a guaranteed income of \$97,000 per year and a home for \$1. Estimates are that it would cost non-black taxpayers \$600,000 each to implement the program. Even if you support reparations, the San Francisco proposal is not realistic and at best is leftist political theater. Such actions distract from efforts to address real world dangers.

If we as a nation continue to focus on distractions, we will never generate the effort to resolve the serious issues that we face. The U.S. has united to win major wars, overcome severe economic depressions and successfully implement impressive technology-based projects. It did so through the collaboration of disparate groups in a united effort. I doubt if the same collaboration could be accomplished today.

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

"These are not serious people." Well done, sir. Our own excesses notwithstanding, we do love understatement.

For a moment there, towards the end, we feared you were heading into false equivalency. As it is, the examples you cited focused on relatively minor issues: one municipality and a pop culture fixation.

That leaves Democrats off the hook for its large-scale failure to provide a clear alternative to the increasingly fascistic Republicans. The progressive wing of the party—the Sanders wing, for shorthand purposes—has offered plenty of proposals that would make a

material difference in the lives of millions of Americans. But nooo... Those proposals might upset the Democrats' deep-pocket donors.

The Editor

The Dogs of War Will Always Bite

Dear Editor,
President Biden wants to wean communist Vietnam away from using Russia as military suppliers and have them use America instead.

Such a pivot will do nothing to remove Vietnamese dictators from power and will do little to check Chinese aggression in the Far East. Communists will always align with other communists.

Lenin successfully used American corporations to help build his Soviet utopian dictatorship in the 1920s. It didn't take much encouraging.

Josef Stalin got President Franklin Roosevelt to loan him billions (that he never paid back) to help build the workers' paradise, even though behind the scenes millions of workers had already died of starvation inside of Russian Ukraine.

Brezhnev promoted "détente" in the 1970s and 80s and convinced gullible America to sell him military-grade trucks which he then used to subdue freedom loving Afghanistan.

Ever since Nixon first visited there, we have been arming China with American technology, equipment and managerial expertise helpful for erecting a Chinese surveillance state and for building the country up into the menace it is in the Far East and South America today.

We need to stop our rogue corporate military establishment and their puppet politicians before they enslave or destroy the entire globe.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah

As the Twig is Bent...

To the Editor,
In *The New Hampshire Gazette* of September 8, 2023, Mr. Hightower ("Yes, We Can Stop Drug Price Gouging! Here's How!") questions whether executives of giant pharmaceutical companies should be

counted human beings. The same speculation is, of course, warranted by the executives of cigarette and arms manufacturers among other commercial enterprises; all could, should they deign to be bothered to do so, make a case, at least biologically speaking, for so being, but would likely have rather a more difficult time identifying as humane (marked by compassion, sympathy, or consideration for other human beings or animals—*Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary*, 1967.

Recently, Laura Ann Carleton, a shop-owner in Cedar Glen, California, was shot and killed by 27-year-old Travis Ikeguchi when she objected to his disparaging remarks about an LGBTQ flag flying outside her store. In the Richneck Elementary School in Newport News, Virginia, a six-year-old withdrew a 9mm handgun from his backpack and shot Abby Zwerner, the teacher giving instructions to her first grade class (who, shot in the chest, got the other children to safety before seeking medical help for herself). No provocation by either victim, unless exercising freedom of expression is deemed such.

It's ironic that the fetishization of weapons by the gun crowd, whose membership, ironically, seems often to include the "pro-life" contingent (though the latter seem to be looking for a term to substitute for "life," given that that's not really what they're "pro," caring not a damn what happens to the children that the fetuses they're so concerned about become), is premised on some inherent right enshrined in a Constitution drafted by fallible, imperfect humans; doesn't that Constitution also reference an inherent right to life, of which bodies punctured by bullets are often deprived?

So, given that you might be shot by a six-year-old or some twenty-something who watches hate media (yeah, that's you Fox "News") and swims in the swirl of online social media conspiracy and hate mongering, how thrilled you must be to learn that Wee 1 Tactical is marketing to the parents of "smaller enthusiasts" the JR-15, a .22 long rifle roughly 20 percent smaller than a standard AR-15 and weighing in

to next page

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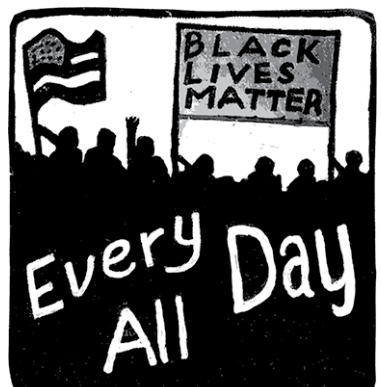
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I Really Hope I'm Wrong

by W.D. Ehrhart

I had coffee this morning with a friend of mine who is a generation younger than me. He's thoughtful, broadminded, and optimistic. He's also a creative entrepreneur, having started three highly successful businesses in succession. He's accustomed to confronting serious difficulties and obstacles, and finding workable solutions.

We were talking about the sorry state of American democracy and the fractured body politic, the apparently growing and seemingly unbridgeable rift between the political left and right, and he asked me what I would do—if I could—to get this nation and its governmental systems functioning rationally again.

I told him that if he really wanted my honest opinion, I don't think there is any workable solution to the problems this country is faced with. I said there's no historical reason to think that the U.S. is not in a state of permanent decline, mentioning that Pax Romana lasted some three centuries, but eventually ended, and reminding him that the sun never used to set on the British Empire.

He conceded that things are looking bleak, but feels that positive change could eventually come from all this turmoil and conflict. I told him what I often tell people who are less pessimistic than I am: "I hope you're right. I really do hope you are right."

When I got home, however, and turned on my computer, the first thing I saw was an e-mail from a childhood friend of mine that included an article about the Pennridge School District where we both grew up. On the first day of school,

the school board voted to require teaching of the "1776 Curriculum" developed by Christian arch-conservative Hillsdale College and written in part by the district's recently contracted consultant, Jordan Adams of Vermilion Education, LLC. Adams, who is being paid \$125 an hour with no cap on the number of hours, has no public school curriculum development experience.

For a detailed analysis of this curriculum, see the *Bucks County Beacon* at <https://bucks-countybeacon.com/2023/09/whats-in-hillsdales-1776-curriculum/>. But for now, suffice it to say that it badly soft-pedals such issues as slavery, the Civil War, Jim Crow, and other less-than-flattering aspects of U.S. history, often to the point of misleading, misdirecting, and all-but-lying.

This is a school board that has already banned such books as Leslea Newman's *Heather Has Two Mommies*, Ibi Zoboi's *American Street*, and Tiffany Jackson's *Allegedly*.

In 2018, the same district school board that supported punishing students who went outside to stage a peaceful gun violence protest in the wake of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School massacre by giving them Saturday morning detention, a story that garnered national media attention. Meanwhile, a school board member who subsequently became board president called the students "Marxist truants."

Instead, the board's approach to addressing gun violence was to hire two armed security officers to protect students in two high school buildings, three middle schools, and seven elementary schools located



W.D. Ehrhart, a 1966 graduate of Pennridge High School, with his wife, Anne, on his induction into the Pennridge Wall of Fame in 2003.

miles apart.

This is a school board that has forbidden teachers to display any image or object in their classrooms that does not relate directly to the subjects they are teaching and has actually banned Banned Books Week, ending a 15-year tradition at the high school.

And very recently, an attempt to change the voting system for school board members to make elections more democratically representative was rejected by the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas.

The school district I grew up in has been forcibly commandeered by—sorry if you don't like the term, but it's true—right wing radical extremists who think Gay Pride flags insult Christians, *Heather Has Two Mommies* is a conspiracy to make homosexuals of every last child in the district, students who don't want to be gunned down in their classrooms are Marxist truants, and looking at American history through an honest lens is unpatriotic.

And this is just one small school

district in a very large country where millions of people think four separate indictments against our former and possibly future president are just political witch hunts; white men are a persecuted minority; Blacks, gays, and immigrants get all the perks; the 2nd Amendment was chiseled in stone by God's hand; facts are irrelevant; elections are only fair if their side wins; and free speech is only free to those who agree with them.

Which brings me back to the friend I had coffee with this morning who thinks our present dysfunctional political system and the torn and shredded fabric of our body politic may yet result in positive change and a brighter future. As I said to him, and I'll say to you: "I really and truly hope so." But I'm not holding my breath.

—==—

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

—==—

from previous page

at less than 2 1/2 pounds. What, one wonders, are that corporation's executives thinking about other than money? Certainly not where they're likely to spend eternity, if there is such a thing, and a just god who determines whether the conditions of that existence are heavenly or hellish.

John Simon
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

No Expectations

Dear Editor:

When young men of Ancient Athens reached the age of 17 they took what was known as "The Athe-

nian Oath."

They vowed: "We will never bring disgrace on this our City by an act of dishonesty or cowardice.

"We will fight for the ideals and Sacred Things of the City both alone and with many.

"We will revere and obey the City's laws and will do our best to incite a like reverence and respect in those above us who are prone to annul them or set them at naught.

"We will strive increasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty.

"Thus in all these ways we will transmit this City, not only and not less, but greater and more beautiful

than it was transmitted to us."

In many ways America too was founded, not only on principles of individual rights but on true doctrines of personal responsibilities and accountabilities.

Learning of our history dating back to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1647 we discover and appreciate the contributions of our public school system.

It would be nearly 200 years (1827) before Massachusetts passed laws opening public education to all pupils. In 1837 the State Board of Education was formed. Boston had already opened the first High School in 1820, as public education

spread westward.

It was believed public education was essential to producing good workers—not so much for the knowledge they would acquire—but for the discipline schools once promoted but no longer seem to find necessary (much less feel compelled) to impart upon our youth today.

I offer that observation because, once upon a time America (like Athens) was strong in a large part because a lot was expected of our children and, if memory serves, of our leaders as well. I don't really need to finish that thought for you, do I?

David Snell
Franklin, N.C.

—==—

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—==—

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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, SEPTEMBER 24	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
<p>2007—A plane previously used for "rendition" flights carrying alleged terrorists to Gitmo crashes in the Yucatan carrying 3.3 tons of cocaine.</p> <p>2006—The <i>New York Times</i> reports that our spies think the Iraq War makes Islamic terrorism more likely.</p> <p>2006—George W.[MD] Bush says, "When the final history is written on Iraq, it will look just like a comma."</p> <p>1981—CIA boss Bill Casey says the Freedom of Information Act shouldn't apply to intelligence agencies.</p> <p>1978—On his yacht in Chesapeake Bay, right-handed CIA spook John Paisley takes a shotgun blast behind his left ear. It's ruled suicide.</p> <p>1968—Protestors destroy 10,000 draft files in Milwaukee, Wis.</p> <p>1957—The 101st Airborne arrives in Little Rock, Arkansas and establishes a perimeter around Little Rock High.</p> <p>1955—Vacationing Ike has a heart attack but his doc diagnoses indigestion. He falsifies papers to protect his reputation and Ike's electability.</p> <p>1945—Reacting to yesterday's French coup, the Viet Minh paralyze Saigon with a general strike, storm the jail, and liberate hundreds of comrades.</p> <p>1911—Portsmouth-born U.S. Navy Ensign Charles Emerson Hovey, 26, is shot and killed by natives on the island of Basilan in the Philippines.</p> <p>1869—Black Friday: Jay Gould and Jim Fisk conspire to "corner" gold; the market collapses, chaos ensue. Both are charged, neither is convicted.</p>	<p>2008—Somali pirates capture the <i>MV Faina</i>, a 500-foot freighter whose cargo includes 33 Soviet tanks.</p> <p>2007—Because Judge Sharon Keller refuses to work overtime, Texas gets to kill Michael Richard on schedule.</p> <p>2003—An early draft of an interim report from weapons inspectors in Iraq says no WMD have been found.</p> <p>2002—Disregarding facts, George W.[MD] Bush says, "You can't distinguish between al-Qaeda and Saddam when you talk about the war on terror."</p> <p>1966—The White Sox beat the Yankees 4-1, at Yankee Stadium. Attendance is 413, the lowest ever.</p> <p>1961—State Rep. E.H. Hurst murders Black voting advocate Herbert Lee at mid-day in Magnolia, Miss. Coroner's jury: "justifiable homicide."</p> <p>1959—The U.S. Navy loses a nuclear depth charge in Puget Sound. Fortunately it's lacking a fissile core.</p> <p>1957—Nine Black kids get to enter Little Rock High School, courtesy of the President and the 101st Airborne.</p> <p>1945—Vietnamese of all factions massacre French civilians in Saigon.</p> <p>1926—Henry Ford announces the eight-hour, five-day work week.</p> <p>1915—At Loos, France, British forces release 150 tons of chlorine gas towards German troops. Then, to their chagrin, the wind shifts.</p> <p>1789—The Bill of Rights passes.</p> <p>1662—Portsmouth adopts a bounty: £5 for every wolf killed whose head is "naye[d] upon the meeting house."</p>	<p>2022—Mysterious forces sabotage Russia's NordStream gas pipeline.</p> <p>2016—"We've got a couple things up our sleeve that should turn this thing around," says Rudy Giuliani, two days before Jim Comey reveals the Clinton email investigation is on again.</p> <p>2001—Six or eight CIA spooks invade Afghanistan in a Soviet Mi-17 helicopter with \$3 million cash.</p> <p>1983—Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Petrov disregards Red Army computers showing attacking American nuclear missiles. For thus averting World War III, Col. Petrov is reprimanded.</p> <p>1955—As Franco visits Barcelona, Quico Sabaté roams the city in a cab, distributing anti-regime leaflets through the sun-roof with a mortar.</p> <p>1950—A U.S. Navy minesweeper begins six days of spraying live bacteria into the air two miles upwind of San Francisco; 800K citizens get a dose.</p> <p>1945—Mistaking him for a French officer, Viet Minh in Saigon kill OSS Lieut. Col. Peter Dewey. Days before he had filed a report saying the U.S. "ought to clear out of Southeast Asia."</p> <p>1918—The Battle of the Meuse-Argonne begins, the last great battle of the War to End All Wars.</p> <p>1908—Józef Pilsudski, Poland's future Chief of State, loots a Russian mail train to fund a revolution.</p> <p>1901—Lincoln's body is viewed before being covered with two tons of concrete. Among 23 present is Fleetwood Linley, 13, who lives until 1963.</p>	<p>2018—Brett Kavanaugh whines, weeps, and shouts while badgering the Senate Judiciary Committee.</p> <p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld says a made-up link between al-Qaeda and Iraq is "accurate and not debatable."</p> <p>2000—Frank Will, the guard who discovered the Watergate burglary, dies at 52, of a brain tumor, in poverty.</p> <p>1994—On the Capitol steps, 350 GOP candidates led by Newt Gingrich take out a Contract on America.</p> <p>1989—To show kids there are more constructive things to do than take drugs, Jeffrey Petkovitch and Peter DeBernardi climb into a barrel and go over Niagara's Horseshoe Falls.</p> <p>1986—The United Way of Cleveland holds a fundraiser, releasing 1,429,643 helium balloons. Rain and a cold front bring them down, where they clog the harbor, halt a Coast Guard search, close an airport, and spook horses.</p> <p>1964—Ex-CIA boss A. Dulles & the Warren Commission report that L.H. Oswald, acting alone, killed JFK.</p> <p>1944—A group of 35 U.S. B-24s, isolated over Germany by a navigational error, are jumped by 100 enemy fighters; only four survive.</p> <p>1864—William T. "Bloody Bill" Anderson and his 80 guerrillas, including Jesse James, massacre 150 Union soldiers in Centralia, Mo.</p> <p>1854—Holed in a collision off Newfoundland, the SS <i>Arctic</i> sinks. The crew commandeers the lifeboats, leaving 300 passengers to drown.</p>	<p>2014—Future President D.J. Trump tweets, "Every time I speak of the haters and losers I do so with great love and affection. They cannot help the fact that they were born fucked up!"</p> <p>2001—To avoid further scorn in these pages, Fleet Bank removes its 18-foot tall green, illuminated sign from the middle of Pleasant Street's sidewalk.</p> <p>1964—U.C. Berkeley students protest free speech restrictions.</p> <p>1960—Ted Williams takes the plate at Fenway for his last at bat. He hits his 521st home run. Most seats are empty.</p> <p>1919—Ten thousand rioting whites storm the Omaha courthouse, drag out Will Brown, a Black man, and lynch him. From his father's printing plant across the street, Henry Fonda, 14, watches in horror.</p> <p>1918—In Philadelphia, Pa., 200,000 people gather to watch a Liberty Bond parade—and spread influenza. In weeks it kills 12,000 of them.</p> <p>1891—In New York, 72 year-old Herman Melville dies in obscurity.</p> <p>1868—Knights of the White Camelia massacre between 25 and a few hundred Blacks in Opelousas, La.</p> <p>1859—Fifty loggers, farmers, and laborers, irate over the damage it causes, try but fail to destroy the dam controlling the outflow of Lake Winnepesaukee. Later they're crushed in court by Boston-based capitalists.</p> <p>1778—USS <i>Raleigh</i> runs aground and is captured in Penobscot Bay after battling with two British ships.</p>	<p>2008—The Dow drops 777 points.</p> <p>2006—Anti child-porn crusader Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) resigns after his lurid e-mails to young males leak.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush claims Iraq has WMDs, al-Qaeda terrorists, and a nuke coming soon.</p> <p>1976—The Hyde Amendment gives Congress the power to make medical decisions for women.</p> <p>1972—A short, bearded man in sneakers spontaneously grabs ex-Sec. of Defense Robert Strange McNamara and tries to throw him off the ferry into Vineyard Sound.</p> <p>1969—The U.S. Army drops murder charges against Special Forces Col. Robert Rheault—the CIA won't let its agents testify. "Terminate with extreme prejudice" enters the lexicon.</p> <p>1957—A Soviet nuclear fuel plant blows up near Kyshtym, killing hundreds and spewing more radiation than anything until Chernobyl. The CIA suppresses the news to protect the U.S. nuke industry.</p> <p>1913—Rudolph Diesel, inventor of the eponymous engine, disappears from the steamer <i>Dresden</i>: a suicide, a murder victim, or an absconder.</p> <p>1864—Black Union soldiers capture Confederate entrenchments at the Battle of New Market Heights.</p> <p>1862—Jefferson C. Davis [the Union General, not the rebel President] shoots Union General William "Bull" Nelson dead. Never charged, Davis goes back to fighting Rebels.</p>	<p>2016—N.H.'s Attorney General reports that ex-Rep. Kyle Tasker [R-Nottingham] sold pot to five other State Reps. for medicinal purposes.</p> <p>2011—U.S. citizen Anwar al-Awlaki is smote by a drone in Yemen. Trial? We don't need no stinkin' trial!</p> <p>2005—NY <i>Times</i>'s Judith Miller tells a Grand Jury that Dick "Dick" Cheney outed Valerie Plame to her.</p> <p>1998—The GAO reports that Ken Starr had spent \$40 million in a failed effort to nail Bill Clinton.</p> <p>1962—César Chávez founds what becomes the United Farm Workers.</p> <p>1956—Drunk-flying a stolen Cessna, Thomas Fitzpatrick lands on St. Nicholas St. in Manhattan, taxis to Joe's on the corner, and orders a beer.</p> <p>1954—U.S.S. <i>Nautilus</i>, the first atomic-powered ship, is launched.</p> <p>1938—Thanks to the Munich Agreement, peace in Europe is assured.</p> <p>1919—A white man dies in a shootout in Elaine, Ark. Over the next three days, 240 Blacks and five whites die in the U.S.'s worst single racial conflict.</p> <p>1847—Dr. Vorlogor P. Coolidge, of Waterville, Me., autopsies Edward Mathews—superfluously, since he had just poisoned the deceased, then struck him on the head to disguise the cause of death. He is later hanged.</p> <p>1630—John Billington becomes the first Pilgrim hanged for murder.</p> <p>1542—Johannes Gutenberg publishes <i>The Bible</i>. No royalties for the presumed author.</p>
12:32 6:51 7:09 12:54	1:39 7:58 8:16 1:53	2:41 9:01 9:19 2:57	3:39 9:57 10:16 3:57	4:32 10:48 11:10 4:52	5:20 11:36 5:43	6:07 12:01 12:23 6:34

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1	MONDAY, OCTOBER 2	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7
<p>2013—In the name of fiscal discipline, Republicans shut down the government. Cost to the economy: \$24 billion.</p> <p>2003—With the blessings of Gov. Benson [R-8], Free Staters choose New Hampshire as their libertarian paradise.</p> <p>2002—Northern Command is established to "Defend America's Homeland"—<i>posse comitatus</i> be damned.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush claims he hasn't "made up his mind we're going to war with Iraq." Right. Got it.</p> <p>1999—<i>Dow 36,000</i> is published. In real life the Dow peaks months later at 11,722, then loses 37% of its value.</p> <p>1993—Caving under pressure, the IRS grants tax-free status to the "Church" of Scientology.</p> <p>1973—Michael V. Paul is born!</p> <p>1973—Despite his many failures to meet requirements, George W.[MD] Bush is given an honorable discharge.</p> <p>1964—Campus cops at U.C. Berkeley arrest Jack Weinberg; big mistake. The Free Speech Movement ensues.</p> <p>1952—The first issue of <i>Mad</i> is unleashed on an unsuspecting world.</p> <p>1917—Arabs led by T.E. Lawrence capture Damascus.</p> <p>1910—A botched dynamiting badly damages the HQ of the virulently anti-union <i>Los Angeles Times</i>. A burst gas main finishes the job; 21 die.</p> <p>1903—Fred Van Wormer's autopsy is halted because he's breathing. Taken back to Sing Sing's electric chair, he is found to have died. He is electrocuted again anyway, just for good measure.</p>	<p>2003—Survey chief David Kay reports that his three-month, \$300 million search for Saddam Hussein's WMD has turned up squat.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush calls Iraq "a threat of unique urgency," because of its WMDs.</p> <p>1990—Three Texans in a Cessna come within 30 feet of clearing Mt. Washington. Their bodies are brought down on the Cog Railway.</p> <p>1980—Senior members of the Reagan campaign team meet in D.C. with a representative of the Ayatollah, who offers to release U.S. hostages.</p> <p>1980—Michael Myers (D-Pa.) becomes the first Rep. expelled in 120 years, for bribe-taking and conspiracy. Why only him? Who knows.</p> <p>1978—With the Yankees and Red Sox tied for the season, a playoff game is held; it's decided by a three-run homer hit by New York's Bucky F. Dent.</p> <p>1967—Thurgood Marshall becomes the first Black Supreme Court Justice.</p> <p>1965—In Natchez, Miss., 500 people are sent without trial to the Parchman Penitentiary for protesting the denial of their right to register to vote.</p> <p>1941—On Malta, Major-General Clifford Thomason Beckett of the Royal Artillery tells Major H.S. Fowle he is "not fit to command anything."</p> <p>1919—Woodrow Wilson has a stroke; the U.S. gets a woman president.</p> <p>1918—In the Argonne, the Lost Battalion gets cut off behind German lines; in a week, ¾ are KIA or WIA.</p>	<p>2009—Combat Outpost Keating, in Nuristan, badly-sited and scheduled for abandonment, is mostly overrun by Taliban fighters who capture weapons and ammunition, leaving eight Americans dead and 27 wounded.</p> <p>2006—Republicans in Congress try to "roll over" \$20 million set aside for a celebration of victory in Iraq.</p> <p>2003—<i>National Enquirer</i>: Rush Limbaugh is under investigation for illegally procuring prescription opioids.</p> <p>1993—Berlin, N.H. native Michael Durant's helicopter is one of two shot down in the First Battle of Mogadishu. Durant, played by Ron Eldard in <i>Black Hawk Down</i>, survives.</p> <p>1986—Missile sub <i>K-219</i> catches fire. Soviets blame an alleged collision with USS <i>Augusta</i>. The Pentagon blames sloppy Commie work habits.</p> <p>1980—Moral Majority co-founder and U.S. Rep. Bob Bauman (R-Md.) is charged with making sexual solicitations to an under-aged boy.</p> <p>1973—Donald Segretti testifies before the Senate about the dirty tricks he used to get Nixon re-elected.</p> <p>1968—A CH-47 Chinook and a C-7 Caribou collide over Camp Evans in Vietnam; no survivors, 22 perish.</p> <p>1968—George Wallace's running mate, ex-SAC Commander Curtis LeMay, says he's not afraid of nuking Vietnam, but deems that unnecessary.</p> <p>1955—CIA HQ gets a cable from the Caracas Station: a former SS trooper says Hitler is alive in Argentina.</p>	<p>2017—America learns the hard way it has 800 troops in Niger: four Green Berets are killed in an ambush.</p> <p>2004—<i>SpaceShipOne</i>, Burt Rutan's tourist rocket, makes it to space a second time, winning the Ansari X Prize.</p> <p>2002—Knight-Ridder: "The White House and the Pentagon...are pressuring intelligence analysts to highlight information that supports Bush's Iraq policy." One paper runs the story.</p> <p>2001—George W.[MD] Bush orders the NSA to spy on Americans without getting warrants, i.e., illegally.</p> <p>1986—Dan Rather is attacked on the streets of New York by two men yelling, "What's the frequency, Ken?"</p> <p>1971—Pres. Nguyen Van Thieu, unopposed, is reelected. He says it's "an achievement for democracy" in Nam.</p> <p>1958—At 12:45 a.m., Thomas "Fitz" Fitzpatrick wins a bar bet by landing a "borrowed" Cessna on Amsterdam Ave. and 187th St. in Manhattan, just as he had done two years earlier.</p> <p>1957—Two bombs wound 13 GIs in Saigon—the first announced U.S. casualties in Vietnam.</p> <p>1936—Two thousand British fascists try marching through largely Jewish Steplany; 20,000 anti-fascists forcibly explain to them why that's a bad idea.</p> <p>1918—The world's largest munitions factory explodes in South Amboy, N.J., killing 80. Thousands more are made homeless and are left exposed to the elements. Many catch influenza; 300 of them die from it.</p>	<p>2017—The Senate confirms Steve King—who, in 1972, on ex-AG John Mitchell's orders, restrained his wife Martha Mitchell as she was forcibly injected with tranquilizers to keep her from talking to the press—as Ambassador to the Czech Republic.</p> <p>2010—"Fox and Friends" reports that Los Angeles has bought \$1 billion worth of jet packs for its Police and Fire Departments. They cribbed the story from the <i>Weekly World News</i>.</p> <p>2003—Timothy Treadwell and Amie Huguenaud learn the hard way that their supposed "friends"—Alaskan grizzly bears—are not vegetarians.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush tells N.H. Guardsmen that Saddam could inflict "massive and sudden horror" on the U.S. It's not true.</p> <p>2001—Robert Stevens, an editor of the supermarket tabloid <i>The Sun</i>, dies of anthrax. The perp remains at large.</p> <p>1988—In a Vice-Presidential debate, Lloyd Bentsen informs Dan Quayle that he's "no Jack Kennedy."</p> <p>1986—Nicaraguans shoot down a U.S. plane illegally supplying Contras with arms bought with the proceeds of illegal U.S. arms sales to Iran.</p> <p>1971—Pat Buchanan advises Nixon to take government action that would "cut [the country] in half," because the GOP will get "the larger half."</p> <p>1789—Parisian women ransack the city armory for weapons, march on Versailles, and demand—successfully—to meet with Louis XVI.</p>	<p>2004—The top U.S. arms inspector in Iraq says there is no evidence Saddam Hussein had tried to manufacture any WMDs after 1991.</p> <p>1976—Cubana Flight 455 is bombed over Barbados, killing 73. Everyone suspects CIA-trained Luis Posada Carriles, a Miami resident, is behind it, but the U.S. won't extradite.</p> <p>1970—The replacement statue of a cop in Chicago's Haymarket Square is blown to bits by the Weathermen.</p> <p>1969—The statue of a cop in Chicago's Haymarket Square is blown to bits by the Weathermen.</p> <p>1961—President Kennedy recommends that, in case of nuclear war, American families get ready to live for a while in holes in the ground.</p> <p>1927—Lawyer-turned bootlegger George Remus shoots his wife dead in front of witnesses in a Cincinnati park (she had an affair with a revenue agent and stole all his money). Defending himself, he's acquitted on grounds of temporary insanity. Prosecutors try to have him committed, since he's insane, but he cites their witnesses, who said he was sane, and goes free.</p> <p>1856—Portsmouth celebrates the centennial of the founding of <i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i>. Extra trains bring visitors from around New England and beyond for a parade, a regatta, and a banquet featuring many speeches.</p> <p>1536—William Tyndale is strangled and burned for printing a Bible in English so people could read it.</p>	<p>2020—The nation is mesmerized during the Vice Presidential debate, as a fly takes a stroll on Mike Pence's hair.</p> <p>2016—The <i>Washington Post</i> releases a videotape on which the GOP Presidential candidate brags about grabbing women by their genitals. Hours later hacked emails of his opponent's campaign chairman are released.</p> <p>2011—On her 62nd birthday, Wal-Mart heir Alice Walton gets her 2nd DWI, but no charges are filed. She killed a woman in a 1989 car wreck, but no charges were filed then, either.</p> <p>2004—George W.[MD] Bush and Dick "Dick" Cheney do the bait-and-switch: so what if Saddam didn't have WMDs—he cheated on oil-for-food.</p> <p>2001—"Operation Enduring Freedom" begins with the CIA botching the first-ever drone strike; Taliban chief Mullah Omar gets away.</p> <p>1996—Fox News begins broadcasting mass quantities of insidious swill.</p> <p>1985—Attorney General Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese explains that "Miranda only helps guilty defendants," because "if a person is innocent of a crime, then he is not a suspect."</p> <p>1985—Stop illegal meddling in Nicaragua? No, the Reagan administration pulls the U.S. out of the World Court.</p> <p>1756—Daniel Fowle and enslaved pressman Primus X begin printing <i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> in Portsmouth. It achieves national seniority in 1839 when the <i>Maryland Gazette</i> [founded 1727] folds.</p>
12:50 6:53 7:23 1:08 7:23	1:39 7:38 8:12 1:54	2:29 8:24 9:03 2:42	3:22 9:13 9:58 3:33	4:18 10:07 10:57 4:30	5:20 11:07 5:33	6:28 12:02 12:14 6:42

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