

## The Fortnightly Rant

### Predictable Chaos

As expected, it took a fortnight for the general tone of the second term of the Dunning-Kruger administration to reveal itself.

This is not to say there have been no surprises. Who knew Donald Trump was a Maoist? "There is great chaos under heaven; the situation is excellent."

We certainly did not expect to hear, on National Polite Radio, such a devastatingly accurate assessment of the President's declaration, on Tuesday, of Nakba II.

"I understood this as the meeting between a convicted felon, in the White House, and an indicted war criminal, in Benjamin Netanyahu," Yousef Munayyer told Steve Inskip. "So the expectation was, there was going to be a conspiracy to commit further crimes, once these two gentlemen got together."

Munayyer's expectation manifested itself as a proposed final solution to the problem of Palestinians living in Gaza. It starts with driving out the ones who haven't yet been killed. For all we know, it will wrap up with the unveiling, atop a garish building, of five huge, gold-plated letters, spelling out the name of you know who.

The Current Occupant of the White House, who campaigned on a platform of opposing foreign entanglements, did not rule out the possibility of using U.S. troops to bring golf to Gaza. This seeming contradiction can be easily dismissed. Though Canada and Greenland are in line ahead of it, surely Gaza can become our 53rd state.

It is, of course, impossible to know whether the conspirators Munayyer cited actually intend to carry out this bizarre scheme. We are well into the 21st century. Thanks to the internet, we have access to an untold wealth of information. And, thanks to theories and practices originally promulgated by Kremlin allies, imported and perfected by presidential advisor and sartorial trend-setter Steve Bannon, it is exceedingly difficult to know anything at all.

So, "Trump Gaza" may be an actual plan, or it may be just another elaborate hoax, the latest cloud of dust kicked up by the elevator-shoe shod man whose unfortunately unforgettable advent was staged on a gilded escalator, before a crowd of stooges who attended only because they were promised a check.\*

Think of it as a heist movie, turned up to 11—or maybe 11<sup>2</sup>: a gang blows up a building to distract the cops, then they rob a bank on the other side of town.

\* Their checks may still be "in the mail." Conveniently, the signer can shift the blame to Louis DeJoy, the man he hired to destroy the U.S. Postal Service, and whom the feckless Joe Biden failed to dislodge.

If Gaza is the distraction, where is the heist? Well, the U.S. Treasury building is conveniently located right next door to the White House, and last week newly-confirmed Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent gave the keys to the department's multi-trillion dollar payment system to Elon Musk.

That's quite a vote of confidence in a guy whose "use of drugs—including LSD, cocaine, ecstasy, mushrooms and ketamine," according to the *Wall Street Journal*, is "worrying leaders at Tesla and SpaceX." President Trump, though, who for years has bragged that he is too rich to be bribed, seems to be taking the Alfred E. Neuman approach: "What, me worry?"

Bessent, a hedge fund manager, is worth about \$700 million. He said at his confirmation hearing that he is not worried about the \$7.25 federal minimum wage—or the high cost of housing, or child care, or health care. His No. 1 priority, he told senators,† was to extend Trump's tax cuts for billionaires—and, presumably, aspiring billionaires like himself.

Musk can be trusted with the nation's checkbook because he's already the richest person in the world. Besides, Attorney General Pam Bondi—who, as Florida's top cop, declined to prosecute Trump University for fraud after receiving a totally unrelated \$25,000 campaign donation from Donald Trump—is right there to take the appropriate steps if it looked like there was anything amiss here.‡

Since Musk can be trusted with the U.S. Treasury, there's no need to worry about what these people might get up to with the proposed sovereign wealth fund or the strategic bitcoin reserve, either.

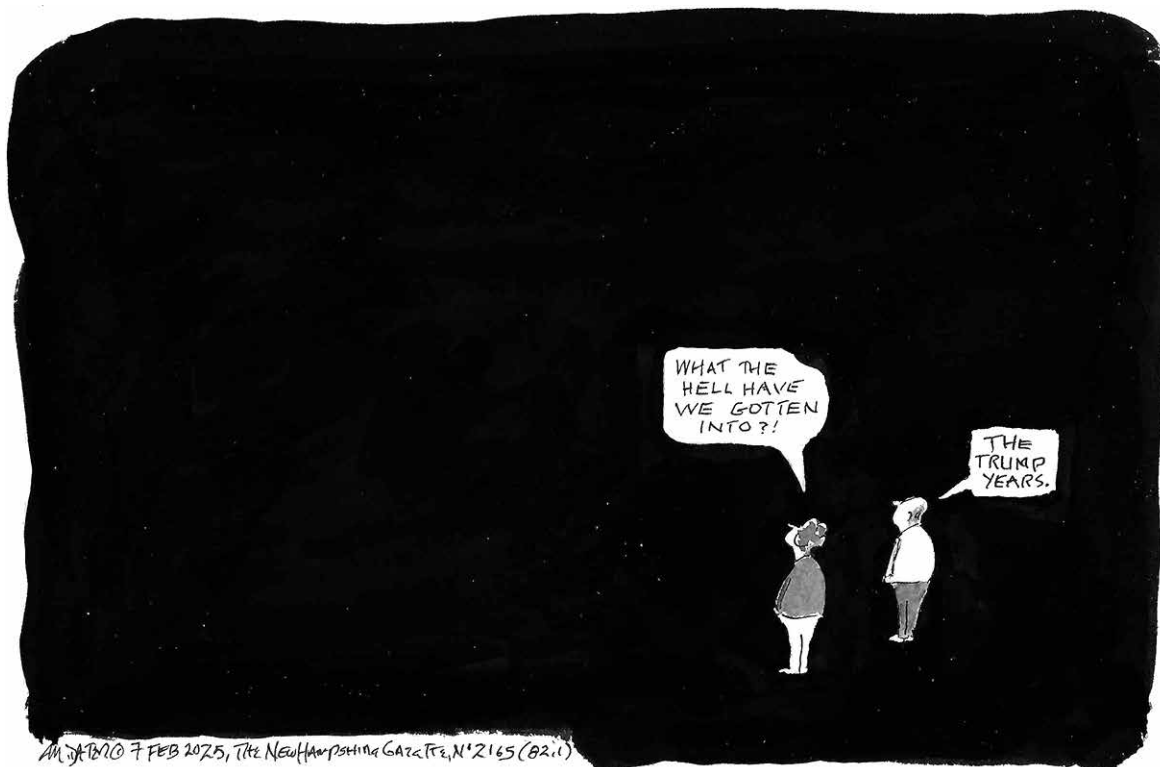
So, we can just relax and ignore trade wars, airplanes falling out of the sky, the civil service reverting back into the corrupt spoils system we discarded 140 years ago, and the deportation of the farmworkers who pick our veggies. We won't need them anyway; the veggies won't be growing because Trump, cosplaying as a firefighter, sent their irrigation water into Tulare Lake to evaporate.

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that tragedy plus time equals comedy. We joke two thousand years later about Nero fiddling while Rome burned.

Today our emperor is fiddling with fictitious money. It's too early to find it funny, though. It's not just Rome—the whole world is burning.

† New Hampshire's Democratic Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan both voted to confirm Bessent.

‡ Speaking of things amiss, astrophysicists at Harvard recently thought they'd found a new asteroid, possibly capable of colliding with Earth. It turned out to be a used car, i.e., Elon Musk's own 2010 Tesla Roadster, launched into a solar orbit in 2018.



### Sanders Urges 'Independent Press That Reports the Truth Without Fear' of Trump Retribution

**"If major media outlets succumb to intimidation from the Trump administration, the First Amendment is in serious danger."**

by Brett Wilkins

Independent U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont on Monday took aim at both President Donald Trump's attempts at "suing the media into submission" and news outlets' willingness to settle such cases and self-censor as "incredibly dangerous" precedents.

In a video posted on social media, Sanders highlighted that CBS News parent company Paramount is in talks with Trump's lawyers to possibly settle a \$10 billion lawsuit filed by the president just days before the 2024 election accusing "60 Minutes" of deceptively editing an interview with Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee.

Sanders also noted how ABC News agreed last year to pay a \$15 million settlement that included a letter of regret after veteran anchor and political commentator George Stephanopoulos said Trump had been found "liable for rape" of writer E. Jean Carroll. A federal jury in Manhattan found Trump civilly liable for sexual abuse and defamation of Carroll, but not rape—even though Carroll testified in graphic detail that Trump raped her in a department store dressing room in the 1990s.

"I regard that as an incredibly dangerous precedent, both of those, ABC and CBS," Sanders said in the video, denouncing "major media outlets succumbing to pressure from the Trump administration."

"People have a right to express their own point of view," Sanders asserted. "Yeah, networks are wrong all of the time. They're wrong about me, wrong about Trump. But if you use the power of government to intimidate networks, they're not going to do the big stories. They're not going to do the investigations. Why should they go out on a limb and tell you something if they're afraid about being sued by the Trump administration?"

The video also notes Trump's lawsuit against pollster J. Ann Selzer, her polling firm Selzer & Company, *The Des Moines Register*, and the Iowa newspaper's parent company, Gannett, alleging fraud and "brazen election interference" over a November 2nd poll showing Harris beating Trump by 3 points in the 2024 election. Trump won Iowa by 13 points.

"If major media outlets succumb to intimidation from the Trump administration, the First Amendment is in serious danger," Sanders stressed. "We need an independent press that reports the truth without fear of retribution."

Major media outlets have also been accused of self-censorship. Jeff Bezos and Patrick Soon-Shiong, the billionaire owners of *The Washington*

*Post* and *Los Angeles Times*, respectively, have come under fire for prohibiting or restricting opinion pieces critical of Trump or supportive of his adversaries.

"If you believe *The Washington Post's* slogan that 'Democracy Dies in Darkness,' their owner was the first to switch off the light," journalist David Helvarg wrote last month for *Common Dreams*.

*The Nation* justice correspondent and columnist Elie Mystal wrote last month that "recent events have shown that Trump does not have to impose a new regime of censorship if the press censors itself first."

"And that, I believe, is what we are witnessing now: a press that gives away its First Amendment rights before Trump takes them away," he continued. "A press that will not speak truth to power if power threatens to kick their owners off a cocktail party list or gum up their operations."

"The debasement of the press will continue until readers and viewers reject the media that would rather lie to them than tell the truth to Trump," Mystal added. "The people who run these publications and news organizations are betting that we won't."

Brett Wilkins is a staff writer for *Common Dreams*. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). Feel free to republish and share widely.

## BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

### A Tale of a Billy

Special police officer James W. Preble, in addition to his other mishaps Saturday, Jan. 30th, lost his badge and billy, we are told, sometime before his wrestle with the culvert on Miller's avenue. Those who have seen the weapon describe it as unique in character, being a piece of round iron one inch in diameter bent to form a

handle at one end, and with a piece of lead pipe beaten on the other and rounded over to form a head, the whole making a most formidable and dangerous weapon, one blow from which would be very apt to fracture a man's skull. A subscription ought to be started to provide him with a regular locust.

City Solicitor Guptill humorously

remarked this morning that owing to opposition he was encountering from one of the local newspapers, he felt like retiring from his office.

—The Post

Honest Perhaps. Foolish, Sure. John J. Laskey and his associates in

# The Super Bowl and the Super Rich: Partners in Slime

by Sam Pizzigati

About three score years ago, on a January Sunday afternoon in 1967, some of us gathered in college dorm basement lounges to watch pro football's historic first "Super Bowl." A good bit has changed since then—in football and America.

The changes in pro football could hardly be more striking. Today's players dwarf the size and strength of players back then. National Football League linemen here in the 2020s, for instance, weigh on average well over 300 pounds and stand almost six-and-a-half feet tall. Pro football players of that size simply "didn't exist" before 1980.

Contemporary players earn much more as well. The first NFL collective bargaining agreement, signed a year after that initial Super Bowl in 1967, set a \$10,000 minimum annual salary for veteran players, the equivalent of some \$90,000 today. In 2024, NFL players averaged \$3.2 million, with a median base pay of \$860,000.

But pro football players these days pay a steep price for their paychecks. The average player career now lasts only a little over three years. But the much longer careers of players in positions that don't face much physical

contact distort that average. Running backs regularly last no more than two years.

Pro football player lives, more significantly, often run markedly shorter than the lives of their generational peers. Those shorter lifespans reflect both the violence of the collisions between today's much bigger and stronger players and the much longer length of today's NFL season. Players participating in that first 1967 Super Bowl only competed in 16 games. Players on the 2025 Super Bowl's Philadelphia Eagles squad will have competed in 21 games once this season's competition ends.

The contrast between the dawn of the Super Bowl era and today for NFL team owners rates as even starker.

We need a little history here for context. A century ago, in the NFL's earliest days, ownership of NFL franchises came at a price that even the modestly affluent could easily afford. Tim Mara, a horse-racing bookkeeper, bought the New York Giants in 1925 for \$500, the equivalent of less than \$9,000 today. In 1933, Art Rooney bought a Pittsburgh NFL franchise for \$2,500, about \$60,000 today.

By the 1960s, those early owners were sitting pretty, and much rich-

er Americans, like the oil tycoon H.L. Hunt, wanted in on the pro football action. These rich ended up establishing their own pro circuit, the American Football League, and then, in 1966, cut a deal with NFL owners to merge their two leagues. The first fruit of that merger would be the inaugural "Super Bowl" in 1967.

Back in those mid-20th-century years, the United States overall rated as a much more equal place than the nation had been during the NFL's early years in the 1920s. One key reason: The tax rate on income in the top federal tax bracket had jumped from 25 percent in 1925 to 91 percent.

Only a relatively few of America's deep pockets—like the oilmen H.L. Hunt and Bud Adams, another of the AFL's original franchise owners—could manage to end run those stiff top rates, thanks to generous tax loopholes like the infamous oil-depletion allowance.

But by the early 1980s, with the Reagan Revolution's onset, the distribution of America's income and wealth was sliding rapidly back to the top-heavy levels of the 1920s. Tax rates on top-bracket income would bottom out at a mere 28 percent by Reagan's last full White House year in 1988, and the United States would soon be experiencing an explosive growth in billionaire fortunes.

The number of U.S. billionaires—only 13 in the first *Forbes* 400 count in 1982—jumped to 66 in 1990 and 298 in 2000 and then all the way up

to 404 in 2010 and 614 in 2020.

All these billionaires desperately needed new high-profile playthings. Many found them in NFL franchises. In quick order, teams that had been selling in the tens of millions began going for hundreds of millions and then billions. In 2018, the hedge funder David Tepper spent \$2.2 of those billions buying the Carolina Panthers. Four years later, Robson Walton, an heir to the Walmart fortune, led an ownership group that shelled out \$4.65 billion to take possession of the Denver Broncos.

Do these sorts of outlays amount to just an innocent deep-pocket hobby? Not given the impact on average taxpayers.

Billions of average taxpayer dollars, a CNN analysis has shown, are "subsidizing the wildly profitable National Football League." Between 1997 and 2015, NFL owners opened up 20 new stadiums "with the help of \$4.7 billion in taxpayer funds." Owners have saved billions more by financing stadium construction with tax-free municipal bonds, a tax-runaround "originally created by Congress to help fund roads and schools."

U.S. corporate executives, meanwhile, get to write off the billions they shell out for NFL game luxury suites as legitimate business entertainment expenses.

Average taxpayers don't get to sit in those suites. They essentially don't get to sit anywhere in NFL stadiums. In the 2024 season, the average cost for a family of four to attend an

NFL game ran \$808.

At Super Bowl time, ticket costs soar considerably higher. The face-value price on a single Super Bowl ticket for this year's game ranges from \$950 to \$7,500. But no face-value tickets ever go on sale to the general public. The only way for anyone in that public to see the Super Bowl in person? Buy a seat on the secondary market. For Super Bowl LIX, secondary-market tickets are averaging \$8,000 each.

Our Super Bowl may now stand, in effect, as our nation's most visible symbol of plutocratic excess, or, as the sportswriter Sally Jenkins once put it, a "divorced-from-reality de-bauch." We still don't know, Jenkins added, where the "pain threshold of the average NFL fan" sits.

"Thirty-two owners digging relentlessly in our pockets," she observed some years back, "haven't found the bottom yet."

Those billionaire owners still haven't—and their upside remains enormous. Just between 2020 and 2023 alone, MarketWatch noted last month, the NFL's cumulative franchise values rose 1,108 percent.

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*Sam Pizzigati, an Institute for Policy Studies associate fellow, co-edits Inequality.org. His latest books include The Case for a Maximum Wage and The Rich Don't Always Win: The Forgotten Triumph over Plutocracy that Created the American Middle Class, 1900-1970. Follow him on Bluesky. This content licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0.*



Call it Schrödinger's streetlamp. This iconic piece of Portsmouth street furniture was wearing a mini-traffic cone for a bat last Saturday. Is the cute conical cap still up there today? Not knowing, we can't say. Now that it's been observed and documented, though, the chances of it remaining in place have surely been compromised. We calculated the risk and concluded that by publishing this proof we could at least assure it would stay put on paper.



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## BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page one  
 the city government are not rascals. They are honest men. Democrats every one of them. The treasury under their care is safe.

—Times

We do not accuse the present city government of being dishonest, but we think that the city treasury is hardly safe in the care of men who pay \$120 for the natural death of a fellow democrat's \$30 cow, and gives away for the paltry sum of \$62.50

property worth \$7,500. These transactions and several others which the Chronicle proposes to ventilate, may not contain a cat in the meal, and may not be dishonest, but they are certainly not such as will tend to make out tax payers endorse their present representatives in the city government.

Having no further argument to make against the McKinley tariff law, the democrats have abandoned their former tactics and confine

themselves to cursing the measure, which is giving us greater prosperity than was ever known before.

The Cleveland men in New York now threaten to disregard the action of the State convention this month, and to call a convention of their own in May. We hope they will. When rogues fall out honest men will have some chance to recover their own.

**Better Old News**  
 to next page

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

**Origins Story**  
 In 1623, David Thomson settled at Odiorne Point. 2023 celebrates 400th Anniversary

To learn more about memorials and what else we choose to remember go to [PortsmouthGenome.org](http://PortsmouthGenome.org)  
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## Entities Behind Trump Crypto Coin Made Up to \$100 Million in Trading Fees in Under 2 Weeks

“Trump and his cronies get rich while the little guy gets fucked,” said one critic.

by Jessica Corbett

Reuters reported Monday that the entities behind U.S. President Donald Trump’s cryptocurrency token “generated between \$86 million and \$100 million in trading fees” from the mid-January launch to the end of the month, sparking a fresh flood of criticism and accusations of grift.

Trump announced the \$TRUMP meme coin on the Friday night of the first-ever Crypto Ball in Washington, D.C., ahead of his Monday inauguration. Its market value swiftly soared that weekend, but has since dropped dramatically. Reuters had Chainalysis, Merkle Science, and a third blockchain analytics firm whose founder requested that it not be identified review the blockchain, a public ledger that shows transactions involving the coin.

Merkle Science estimated that three crypto wallets earned \$86 million in trading fees from January 17 to January 30, while Chainalysis put it at about \$94 million for the same period. The third firm found that by January 29, it was roughly \$100 million.

According to Reuters:

One of the entities behind the crypto coin is a company owned by Trump, called CIC Digital. The official website for \$TRUMP says CIC

Digital will “receive trading revenue derived from trading activities” of the meme coin. Reuters could not determine what portion of the fees so far, if any, had accrued to Trump personally, nor the ownership of the other entities behind the coin.

The creators of the meme coin receive a share of the trading fees from Meteora, a little-known crypto exchange where the \$TRUMP coins were first sold, the blockchain analyses showed.

At least 50 of the largest investors in the coin have made profits in excess of \$10 million each on the \$Trump coin, according to Chainalysis. At the same time, some 200,000 crypto wallets, most with small holdings, lost money on \$Trump on the exchange, it said.

Responding to the reporting on the social media platform Bluesky, an account called Trumpflation Tracker declared that “Trump and his cronies get rich while the little guy gets fucked, same story different year.”

Software engineer Jonathan McHugh similarly said, “His entire life is one giant grift, most often of people who can least afford it.”

Rodrigo Fernandez, a senior researcher at the Amsterdam-based Center for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO), said that “the conflict of interest if obvi-

ous—but he managed to flood the zone to such an extent that this detail will go unnoticed.”

The White House did not address Reuters’ questions about the trading fees; instead, it sent a fact sheet about Trump’s executive order on digital financial technology. The news agency noted that the president “has pledged to put his assets in a trust managed by his children on entering the White House” and his son Eric Trump did respond on behalf of the Trump Organization.

Eric Trump told Reuters that he is proud of what “we continue to accomplish in crypto. \$TRUMP is currently the hottest digital meme on Earth.” Echoing his previous comments on the coin, the president’s son added that “we are just getting started.”

Late last month, former U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Reich wrote about the \$TRUMP coin—as well as the first lady’s \$MELANIA coin that soon followed—and tied both to the president’s related executive order “protecting and promoting” the crypto industry.

“In effect, Trump is writing the rules for a business venture from which he and his family are personally profiting. It could earn them hundreds of billions of dollars,” he stressed. “The real significance of such blatant profiteering off the highest office in the land is what it reveals—not just about Trump but about the entire oligarchic enterprise he fronts for. It is likely to contribute to a vast wave of public alarm and disgust.”

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Jessica Corbett is a senior editor and staff writer for Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).

## Federal Workers Sue Over Musk-Led ‘Exfiltration’ of Data Using Illegal Server

by Jake Johnson

A pair of unnamed federal employees filed a lawsuit on Tuesday seeking to stop lackeys of billionaire Elon Musk from using an illegally connected server to “ingest and store vast quantities” of highly sensitive personal information about government workers and contractors.

The complaint and request for a temporary restraining order, first reported by *Wired*, was filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and it marks the latest in a flurry of high-stakes legal actions aimed at countering Musk’s lawless and hostile takeover of key federal agencies and operations.

The new lawsuit was filed against the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), an obscure but important agency that has effectively been seized by Musk associates.

“At some point after 20 January 2025,” the complaint states, “OPM allowed unknown individuals to simply bypass its existing systems and security protocols and install one or more new systems to ingest and store vast quantities of [personally identifiable information] about Executive Branch employees (as well as an unknown number of contractors and Judicial Branch employees) for the stated purpose of being able to communicate directly with those individuals without involving other agencies.”

“In installing these systems, OPM ignored entirely the rules Congress established in the E-Government

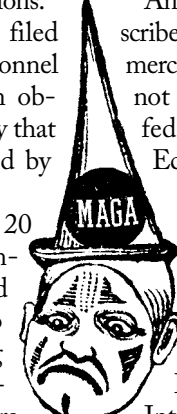
Act of 2002 which would safeguard the personal data being transferred into and stored by these systems,” the lawsuit continues. “In utilizing these systems to send numerous email messages to individuals across the Executive Branch and beyond, and then insisting that Executive Branch employees must reply by email to the same systems, OPM further exacerbated the situation.”

The complaint points to reporting from Caleb Ecarma and Judd Legum, who wrote Tuesday that “a new server being used to control [government databases] has been placed in a conference room” at OPM “that Musk’s team is using as their command center.”

An anonymous OPM worker described the server as “a piece of commercial hardware they believed was not obtained through the proper federal procurement process,” Ecarma and Legum reported.

According to Reuters, “some senior career employees at OPM have had their access revoked to some of the department’s data systems” including “a vast database called Enterprise Human Resources Integration, which contains dates of birth, Social Security numbers, appraisals, home addresses, pay grades and length of service of government workers.”

Sean Vitka, policy director at the Demand Progress Action Fund—an advocacy group that’s supporting the new lawsuit—said in a statement Tuesday that “Elon Musk and his team’s incompetent and rapid efforts



### Federal Workers Sue

to page six



Undaunted by beautiful but brisk weather, locals paired up with professional last Saturday at Strawberry Banke’s LaBrie Family ice rink. Seacoast Skating with the Stars was organized by Ice Dance International.

### Old News

from previous page

### Police Court

Before Judge Batchelder, Feb. 3d, Edward P. Philbrick was charged with drunkenness, and was sentenced to sixty days at Brentwood with costs of \$6.90. Eddie was in town this time for only a few hours. At the same time and place Frank Quinn was fined \$3 and costs of

\$6.90 for drunkenness, and went to Brentwood in default of the cash.

### Isaac H. Maynard

Isaac H. Maynard, the [Democratic] man who was rewarded for his political trickery and stealing of election returns by being made a judge of the Court of Appeals of New York, believes he is safe from any punishment for his crime, and exults that his present position exempts him from subpoena. He may,

however, find that the United States statute covers his case, and that he is liable to arrest and imprisonment for tampering with the United States mail. A pretty spectacle will thus be afforded the country, when a judge of the highest court in New York is tried on a criminal charge, and will be a fit climax to the spectacles al-

### Old News

to page six

**Beware of Cruise Ships**  
— a Bar Harbor reader

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**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.”  
— President James Earl “Jimmy” Carter (1924-2024)

“I would rather move for a Law to compell the Masters of Families to inoculate every Child born within a certain limited time under severe Penalties.”  
— George Washington, in a 1777 letter to his brother  
john@wordpraxis.com

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**May the Gods Preserve Us**

To the Editor,

If you're looking for the Antichrist look no further than His Excellency: the antithesis of Jesus, who preached love, compassion, acceptance, truthfulness, fidelity, and humility among other beatitudes; the epitome of Lucifer, a faithless, deceitful, hate filled narcissist devoted to demeaning, misleading, and corrupting.

So shame on all who identify as Christians who voted Lucifer over their professed Savior; were Speaker Johnson to read, and understand, the forgoing, it might occur to him that should the Rapture to which he seems to so look forward materialize he will likely find himself among those the Celestial Finger flicks into the fire.

Shame, too, on all veterans who voted for a man who evaded service in the manner of the privileged ever since Washington, who disrespected veterans not only en masse, but individually within his own party ("I prefer heroes who weren't captured), and who is compromising the integrity and effectiveness of the armed forces with his picks for his cabinet of clowns.

Shame as well as on all in law enforcement who voted for a man who within days of his inauguration released hundreds convicted of assaulting police officers, who flouts the justice system and, convicted felon that he remains, so far, has no regard for what is legal.

Shame, shame on every woman who voted for a man who has already set about legislating their bodies and even legislating them out of positions of responsibility and authority in the military, and for assuring that the children they bear, whether by choice or force, will, thanks to other picks for his cabinet of clowns, be duly indoctrinated (and not, heaven forbid, inoculated).

As for those who thought gas and food prices excessive under the former president, they will pay at the pump and checkout as the effects of His Excellency's tariff and mass deportation policies become manifest (oh, you thought the foods with which you stuff your face were all harvested by John Deere machines; not so, much

of that's done by immigrants paid less than minimum wage and subjected to barely human living conditions).

With respect to Republicans, shame, alas, is lost on the shameless. Those with consciences have retired or left the party or been sidelined; how does one shame the likes of Senator Tommy Tuberville, who, professing to decry violence against police even as he's shown video footage of same, states, "I didn't see it."

These are folks who in confirmation hearings cannot answer "yes" and "no" questions, who simply repeat stock phrases like the toadies they've become. It might take a miracle, but as long as we're entertaining notions of salvation and perdition, why not posit the possibility of some subset of that party blatantly threatened with having the fortune of some rich witch—pardon me, Wiccans, I used the wrong consonant—deployed in the unseating of any who dare stray from the party line respond by leaving that party.

And as for those who parrot the MAGA chant, when has America ever been great? When it engaged in genocide against the native inhabitants? When it built its early economy on the backs of imported slaves? When it brought in Chinese laborers to build its railroads and then tried to expel them? When it... need I go on?

America has had its moments, but "great?" Perhaps if our revolution had failed and we were today still a colony of Great Britain we might have become as great as Canada. But we are where we are and may the Great Spirit, or God, or Allah, or Hayyi Rabbi, or Ra, or Bhagavan, or Xwedê, or Khu, or Odin or Thor, or those monitoring the devolution of Earth from the Mother Ship sequestered behind Mars preserve us.

John Simon  
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:

*How about Ptah, the ancient Egyptian god of creation?*

*Do MAGAs suffer from an irony deficiency, making them unable to see their own internal contradictions? If science was legal, maybe we could find out.*

The Editor



**The Signs Were There**

Dear Editor,

Donald Trump's out-of-the-gate national policy agenda involves removal of security details for enemies; firing of FBI employees who did their job; sweeping up non-criminal aliens along with criminals; removing media privileges for good guys and giving them to bad guys; a choice of trade war with friendly nations or conquest and annexation of them by means of the new "lethality" in our military; illegally impounding federal spending on programs that irritate him like infrastructure, clean energy, and international aid programs; undermining the nation's hallowed federal civil service to make career employees into political minions; blaming random events on DEI....

And he is just getting started with the sacred work of the new Republic of Trump.

Kimball Shinkoskey  
Woods Cross, Utah  
Kimball:

*"The sacred work..." Exactly—though it's a bit odd considering the man's penchant for fornication.*

*The handwriting was on the wall, to use another Biblical reference, at the CPAC gathering where believers took selfies next to a golden idol of the guy who has since claimed that God saved him from assassination so he could save America—and woe betide us heathens, who through disbelief have forsaken any claims to mercy. At least, so believe the followers of his cult.*

*Apparently they never read the Book of Daniel: "You, O king... [beheld] a great image! ... whose splendor was excellent... its form was awesome [its] head was of fine gold... its feet... of clay."*

*Nebuchadnezzar II, in his wisdom, placed the prophet Daniel "over the province of Babylon."*

*The Lord of Mar-a-Largo just put Elon Musk in charge of the Treasury's check-writing apparatus.*

The Editor

**Straight to Hell in a Fast Handbasket**

Dear Editor,

Well, you gotta hand it to him. Hitler took 53 days, our guy did it in a mere 14. Musk's got our money, and everything and everyone else belongs to him. Well done, sir and Sieg Heil!!

John C. Ficar  
Richmond, Va.

John:

*It was to be expected. Did you think our Fearless Leader was keeping that volume of Adolf Hitler's speeches next to his bed for decorative purposes?*

The Editor

**Our New, Bible-Based Foreign Policy**

To the N.H. Gazette:

Yes, indeed, "interesting times" doesn't begin to describe the new Administration.

In the last few weeks, I've learned that two likely ambassadorial positions use the Bible as their reference for diplomatic decisions. Mike Huckabee (likely the next U.S. Ambassador to Israel) and Elise Stefanik (likely the next U.S. Ambassador to the UN), both stated they believe the current state of Israel should encompass all of biblical "Judea and Samaria," terms not currently used by geographers, citing The Bible.

Do they have Biblical texts to justify renaming the Gulf of Mexico also?

We are truly in the age of magical thinking, à la Alice in Wonderland.

Beth McCarthy  
Tamworth, N.H.

Beth:

*Motorists who rely on their car's GPS run the risk of driving off non-existent bridges.*

*Surely, though, when navigating international relations today, we can rely on the Bible—after all, it's God's word.*

*Things could be worse—at least our State Religion is monotheistic.*

The Editor

**Speeding Down the Highway to Tyranny**

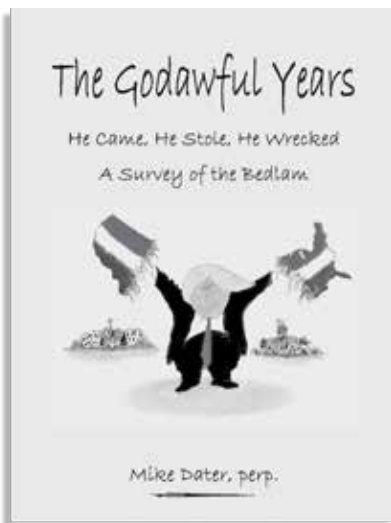
Dear Editor:

During the campaign Trump was asked if he would be a dictator. He replied "no, other than day one." Unfortunately, like in the movie "Groundhog Day," the day-one dictatorship will continue to repeat itself every day for months and years to come. On the first day one Trump violated the 14th Amendment of the Constitution by issuing an executive order ending "Birthright Citizenship." A Federal Judge nominated by President Reagan called the order "blatantly unconstitutional." On subsequent day one's he has issued executive orders that are in violation of various laws including the law regarding the firing of Inspectors General. This law requires that the President give Congress a 30-day notice before firing an inspector general and provide "substantive rationale, including detailed case-specific reasons" for removal actions. Trump ignored these requirements. He also violated the law that prohibits the President from impounding Congressionally approved spending when he stopped spending on the bipartisan infrastructure law passed during the Biden Administration, as well as having the Defense Department end all foreign aid approved by Congress except for military assistance to Israel and Egypt. As he did in 2017, he took little time to violate his oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution.

As we have already seen, Trump's dictatorial goals will be extended far beyond his "day one" pronouncement, and there is little that can be done now to stop it. Any President has already been prevented from being prosecuted while in office, and the Supreme Court went even farther, deciding that a President is immune from crimes committed as "official acts." Anything

**You Suffered Through Them...**

*Now Enjoy Them!*



a compendium of drawings by Mike Dater most of which first appeared in *The New Hampshire Gazette* Now Available at RiverRun Bookstore and at MikeDater.com

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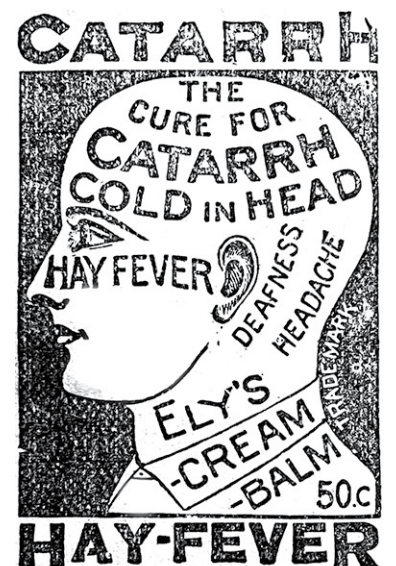
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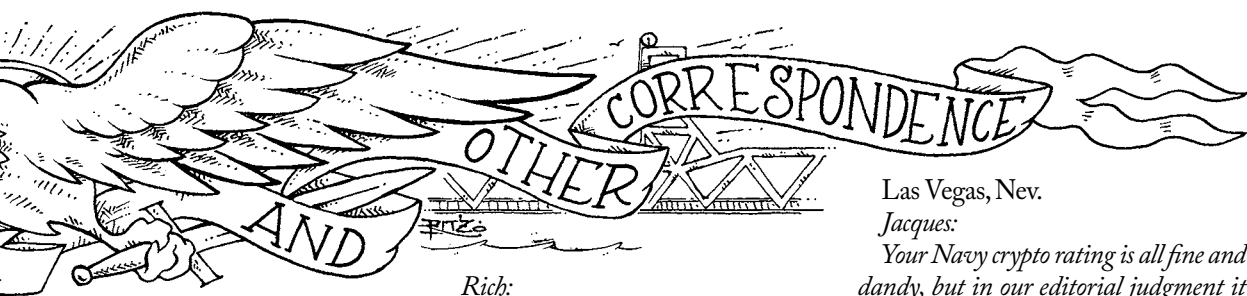
**Dear Reader: Thank You**

Without you, our paltry efforts would be without meaning, and void.

To show our appreciation, we have held our subscription rate to \$25 per increasingly-hellish annum.

Please see the form on the opposite page to take advantage of our sincere appreciation.





*Rich:*  
*Sounds bad, when you put it that way. [Sorry, but around here, as the situation worsens the humor darkens.]*

*We do have some more hopeful thoughts, which we're reserving for the Rant.*

*The Editor*

**Navy Vet Demands Action From ACLU**  
 [No salutation]

No president Trump's order to reverse "Birth Right Citizenship" is a legal and righteous interpretation of America's Constitutional laws.

... "illegal migrants" ... "Right to an American Citizenship" ... 14th Amendment ... "Tortious Interference" ... America's established Legal Immigration laws ... DEFRAUD the American people's Rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness ... the financial burdens of that child's existence.

... 1856 Dred Scott decision ... 3/5ths of a person ... DACA ... "Tortious Interference" ... the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations ... I demand the American Civil Liberty's Union file a Writ of Certiorari [sic] with the Supreme Court and present the case that President Trump's Executive Order is LEGAL and CONGRUENT, with all U.S. Constitutional laws, protecting the American people, our American representative government and the U.S. Constitution, as per our first established act of 1776 "Self Government" in accordance with all our Rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

I took an oath as a member of the U.S. military to defend the U.S. Constitution from "ALL Enemies, foreign and domestic," and this writing affirms my continuing commitment to that oath.

Very Respectfully, CTI2 Jacques Porche, U.S.N., Ret.

Las Vegas, Nev.  
*Jacques:*  
*Your Navy crypto rating is all fine and dandy, but in our editorial judgment it does not qualify you to wield legal jargon. That stuff is bad enough in the hands of professionals.*

*As you will see from the many ellipses, we have reduced the bulk of your letter by half; please don't complain, it hasn't lost much in the way of coherence.*

*It could have been worse. Our first thought was to simply 86 your letter. We retrieved it out of admiration for your audacity in making such a demand of the ACLU. We'd never be that presumptuous, and we've got a membership card around here somewhere.*

*The Editor*

**Well, Governor Ayotte... ?**

Dear Editor:

As a result of the tariffs Mr. Trump imposed on Canada, Irving Oil, a Canadian Company which supplies much of New Hampshire's home heating oil stated that their prices would rise to cover the tariff. This means that thousands of New Hampshire residents will be paying much more to heat their homes this winter. Irving Oil will not be paying this tariff, New Hampshire consumers will be experiencing what Mr. Trump now admits will create "some pain." Of course the pain will not be felt by Mr. Trump or his billionaire friends, but by the average Granite Stater struggling to make ends meet.

Another potential financial threat to New Hampshire will be the loss of tourism revenue. Canadians are very angry at the U.S. because of Trump's tariffs, as witnessed by the crowd booing at a recent professional basketball game in Canada when our national anthem was played. Each year according to Plymouth University over a half million Canadians visit New Hampshire, spending on average \$250 per person. In addition, Canada is the number one market for

New Hampshire goods, with exports of \$1.4 billion to Canada annually. New Hampshire imports \$2 billion in goods from Canada each year. A trade war with Canada will seriously hurt the New Hampshire economy and our residents.

Governor Kelly Ayotte endorsed Mr. Trump for President, even though she was aware of his promise to impose tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China. As such, she is partially responsible for the consequences of that support. What plans does Governor Ayotte and the Republican-controlled legislature have to ease the burden of the increased cost of heating oil for New Hampshire residents? Will the Governor recommend that the Legislature increase its fuel assistance program to help families? Will the Governor and legislature provide funding to support a damaged tourism industry this summer and beyond? Will the Governor send a message to Mr. Trump telling him that his actions are hurting her State and request that he reconsider his actions? I will not hold my breath.

Elections have consequences, and what we are seeing now is just the beginning of the dire consequences that are yet to come.

Rich DiPentima  
 Portsmouth, N.H.

*Rich:*  
*It ain't easy being Kelly. Her smiling predecessor left her with a ticking budget time bomb, and now the guy she backed is about to blow up the economy with his ham-handed whims.*

*Given the position she's in, you might think we'd be able to rustle up a little empathy for her, but no. She rose to prominence by putting a figurative rope around a Black man's neck. Whatever her fate, she deserves it.*

*The Editor*

**Political Parties Are Hiding Secret Agendas**  
 To the Editor:

I am struck by the fact neither major political party wants to disclose the real reason for the huge battle over the Southern border today. The history of the United States reveals that immigrants from northern Europe tended to join the Republican party and

immigrants from southern Europe tended to join the Democrat party. Therefore, each party has long wanted to restrict immigrants that build up the other party and welcome immigrants that build up their own party's dominance.

Today, immigrants from south of our border tend to join the Democrat party, worship in Catholic churches, and often require public welfare services while they are boot-strapping themselves out of poverty. Immigrants from Europe and Asia today tend to be more inclined to the Republican party with its self-help orientation and many lean Protestant. Politics in a democracy is a numbers game, people. The MAGA party believes in big business, not big government, and it needs the votes of the religious Protestants who work for big business. Democrats believe in big government, not big business, and they need Catholic immigrants from the south who come from nations reliant on big government.

Trump's war against immigrants is therefore only partly a racist policy. In large part it is an economic class issue. The big corporate donors of the MAGA party are billionaires and centi-millionaires, who, like the Robber Barons of the 19th century, do not want to have to share the wealth with newcomers or to suffer attempts by the opposing party to control corporate monopoly, usurious interest rates, and the current regressive tax rate structure. They are jealous and hateful of anyone that joins the other political party and anyone that is not evangelical Protestant. They also want to assure the poorer members of their party that they won't have to compete for jobs.

Trump wants to stack the political deck long-term in favor of a privileged class in America, and that is why so many rich Republicans have converted over to his side. They dig the idea of becoming a protected, untouchable class with immunity from prosecution for any of their misdeeds.

This is what the prophet Isaiah

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

a President does could be considered an "official act," leaving Trump free to do almost anything he wishes without any legal consequences.

But, you say, he can be impeached, convicted and removed from office. True, however, with Republicans in control of both chambers of Congress, the chance of him being impeached is small, and even if impeached, the chance of him being convicted by the Senate is almost zero. Even if he were to be convicted, since he has all the legal protections stated above, he could ignore any impeachment and conviction by refusing to leave office, by declaring martial law, suspending the Constitution, and using the Insurrection Act to have the military enforce his orders. And, with his hand picked loyal servants in control of the Department of Defense, Homeland Security, Justice, and other major Cabinet departments, his illegal orders will be faithfully carried out.

I am certain that some will object and criticize my comments, saying that they are too pessimistic and that it can't happen here. For the sake of the nation I hope they are right. However, a study of history will show that the scenario I painted is exactly how dictators have taken control of other democracies. Considering the current makeup of the Supreme Court and the Congress we can not expect that our traditional constitutional checks and balances will protect us as has been the case for almost 250 years. If we think it can't happen here we only have to look at what has already happened, and to ignore it is being dangerously naive. Denial and complacency will not change the fact that we are speeding down the highway to tyranny, and all the exits have been blocked.

Rich DiPentima  
 Portsmouth, N.H.

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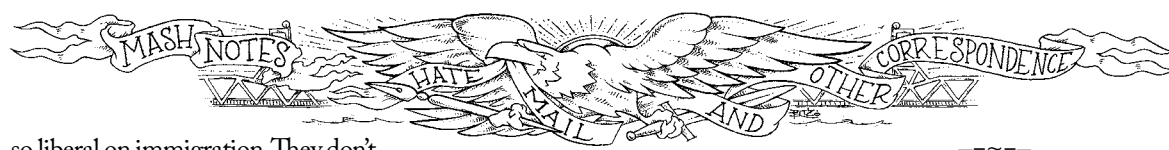
GIFT OF: (WHERE APPLICABLE) \_\_\_\_\_

from page five

railed against in once-democratic ancient Israel, when the wealthy landowners turned into an aristocratic class and lorded it over the rest of the country. They had no empathy for the poor and for immigrants from the north like the Samaritans, from the west like Philistia, from the east like Moab and Ammon, but welcomed immigrants from Egypt where the people embraced a wealthy class. Their only concern was land, money, and their special privileges in the discriminatory social structure. Their political interests were inherited from the political party that Aaron headed among those who left Pharaoh's Egypt. Aaron's party wanted to gild their culture with a golden calf to show their solidarity with oriental kings and their aristocratic and oligarchic tendencies.

A privileged class is also what happened in England when the French conquerors encouraged a class of dukes and barons to sprout in the soil of England to complement and support the new dynasty of Norman kings. This new nobility in England wanted to lord it over the middle and poorer classes there just like wealthy MAGA Republicans do today.

In like manner, Democrats don't want America or even their own rank and file to know why they are



so liberal on immigration. They don't want them to know their equally crass agenda of boosting their party's power, boosting the growth of big government in Washington D.C., and consolidating the personal power of their party leaders. Many of our early immigrants to America came from southern European countries like Italy and Greece and those immigrants wanted big government here to mimic the political and religious climate of the places they left. Democrats want that trend to continue well into the 21st century, this time with Hispanics.

Both parties need to come clean on their secret agendas and start compromising with each other in the interests of the survivability of the republic and of our whole commonwealth, not just the interests of their own constituencies and their own personal power. They need to act like the Congress did on the border security bill that Trump killed. They need to resurrect that kind of bipartisan action before the current Oval Office administration destroys every last one of the Constitution's seven articles and a host of its amendments as well.

Kimball Shinkoskey  
Woods Cross, Utah

**Kimball:**  
*We don't know whether to applaud the broad vision you've brought to this topic, or dismiss it as an overwrought case of imposing a predetermined pattern onto random historical events.*

*We can say this: the Democrats have shown, and continue to show, a willingness to negotiate with the devil himself, whereas the Republicans appear to have lost their grip on reality altogether.*

The Editor

**Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable Slated for Feb. 11th**

Portsmouth Democrats hold a roundtable at a local restaurant on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. The next will be on February 11th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. It's an opportunity for new residents and old friends to socialize without any agenda or rigid structure. New residents can meet those involved in the Portsmouth Democrats and learn of opportunities to get involved, suggest new ideas, or be supportive of planned initiatives. For location and other information contact Peter Somssich at (603) 436-5382 (No Texts Please) or email [peter.somssich@gmail.com](mailto:peter.somssich@gmail.com). In March the Roundtable will be held on March 11th.

**Portsmouth Democratic Committee Elections, Feb. 20th**

The Portsmouth Democrats will be holding an Election Caucus to elect members of the Executive Committee for a 2-year term on Feb. 20th at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom.

Only Democrats registered to vote in Portsmouth are eligible to run for an office and to vote at this caucus. All Democrats are encouraged to attend.

There are 24 officers to be elected. They include a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and a Secretary, along with four officers from each of the five Wards (Ward-Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary). Only registered Democrats in Portsmouth who live in a particular Ward are allowed to run for or vote for Ward officers. The Ward is identified by the polling station that a voter uses to cast a ballot: Ward 1, New Franklin School; Ward 2, Middle School; Ward 3, Senior Center; Ward 4, Dondero School; Ward 5, Little Harbor School.

To register for the caucus, both to vote and to run for a position, please contact the Portsmouth Democrats at: [portsmouthnhdems@gmail.com](mailto:portsmouthnhdems@gmail.com).

For information or questions please contact Peter Somssich

(member Portsmouth Democratic Outreach Committee) at (603) 436-5382 (No Texts Please) or [peter.somssich@gmail.com](mailto:peter.somssich@gmail.com).

**From the Portsmouth Halloween Parade**

This was a dark week for our community, and not the darkness that we normally revel in. We have lost two people that had ties to the Portsmouth Halloween Parade. Tom Colletta was a larger than life presence in the local music scene and known for both being the lead singer for the local rock bands Ghandi's Lunchbox and Jupiter 2 as well as a living encyclopedia of music knowledge that he has been dispensing for decades at the local music stores Rock Bottom Records and then Bull Moose. He was our Grand Marshall in 2008 and supported the PHP by performing at the annual "I Gotta Rock" show, sometimes even when his band wasn't booked. Heather Lessard was the proprietor of Tulips in downtown Portsmouth, a shop that featured art by local artisans. She was a poet and was the host for a time of Beat Night, an ongoing monthly performance of poetry and jazz. She was a supporter of, and a Minion (volunteer) for the parade for many seasons. The two of them were true pillars of the community and the void left by their passing will be felt by many for a long time to come.

**Federal Workers Sue**

from page three

are putting millions of Americans in danger."

"We are witnessing an unprecedented exfiltration and seizure of the most sensitive kinds of information by unelected, unvetted people with no experience, responsibility, or right to it—all orchestrated by the richest man in the world, with billions on the line in other countries, including ones that have recently hacked exactly this kind of sensitive data," said Vitka. "Millions of Americans and the collective interests of the United

States desperately need emergency intervention from the courts. The constitutional crisis is already here."

As the two federal employees brought their lawsuit, top Democrats on the House Oversight Committee demanded answers about the "server of unknown nature and origin" that was reportedly installed on OPM premises by Musk associates.

In a letter to Acting OPM Director Charles Ezell, Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) and Shontel Brown (D-Ohio) demanded the names of "the individuals who installed and/or accessed the equipment" and information on "whether they

were OPM employees at the time of their installation/access of the equipment."

"At best, the Trump administration's actions at OPM to date demonstrate gross negligence, severe incompetence, and a chaotic disregard for the security of our government data and the countless services it enables our agencies to provide to the public," Connolly and Brown wrote. "At worst, we fear that Trump administration officials know full well that their actions threaten to break our government."

*Jake Johnson is a senior editor and staff writer for Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). Feel free to republish and share widely.*

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**BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES**

from page three

ready presented of democratic knavery in the Empire state.

Lieut. C.A.L. Totten, U.S.A., the latest end-of-the-world foretelling crank, who is still allowed to occupy a chair in the faculty of Yale University, is out with another prophecy and says that the conjunction of Jupiter and Venus on Saturday last was a sign of the early dissolution of the earth.

**The Hook and Ladder Case**

The jury in the case of Moulton vs. City of Portsmouth, for furnishing a hook and ladder truck, returned a verdict against the city, giving Moulton the sum of \$1952.75; with interest; Moulton claimed \$2167. As the case will cost the city for legal fees, etc., about \$400, and they saved only about \$175 by the suit, it shows another one of the stupendous follies of the present city government, acting by advice of the city solicitor.

It is evident that if our citizens wish to save the city from bankruptcy they will have to get rid of this most extravagant and foolish municipal government.

— February 11, 1892

Assemblyman Stein of New York saw the electrocution of Charles McElvaine and then hurried to Albany and introduced an amendment to repeal the electrocution law.

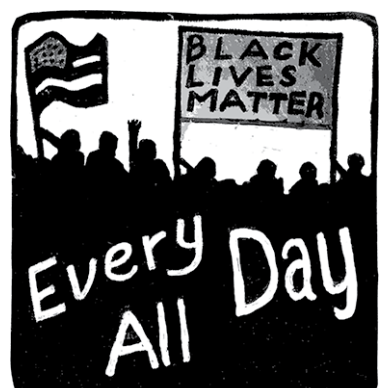
Michael O'Connor of Fall River, who kicked his wife to death last November, was yesterday sentenced to two years in the house of correction. The case in all its bearings is one of the saddest before the Bristol County courts in late years.

The Great Falls Chinaman, who was found with a bullet-hole in his body in his laundry Monday, committed suicide no doubt while temporarily insane from opium.

"Jack the Hair Cutter" is loose in New York again.

— February 18, 1892

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## 13 Ways of Looking at Presidents' Day

I. Let us combine Washington's birthday with Lincoln's birthday so that we can add a holiday for the man who once described the United States government as "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today."

II. There are 14 quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr. on his memorial in DC, but the quote above was not included.

III. Are we supposed to honor all our presidents on Presidents' Day?

IV. William Henry Harrison was our president for 32 days, barely enough time to screw things up. Lucky man.

V. Warren G. Harding appointed a US Army deserter to be the first director of the Veterans Bureau; he proceeded to embezzle \$2 million from the veterans whose well-being he was responsible for.

VI. On the other hand, Harding was no paragon of virtue either.

VII. Among his many accomplishments, John Fitzgerald Kennedy may have slept with Marilyn Monroe.

VIII. Richard Nixon was a crook.

IX. Texas Air National Guard pilot George W. Bush had his wings lifted for refusing a drug test.

X. Should we honor Dick "Dick" Cheney for running the country while "W" was president?

XI. Donald Trump claims his golf handicap is 2.8. GolfNewsNet suggests this figure may be less than accurate. No! Really?

XII. Save up to 60% on lingerie, panties & bras at Victoria's Secret Presidents' Day sale!

XIII. On February 22nd, 1936, retired pitcher Walter Johnson threw a silver dollar (twice) across the Rappahannock River, proving that George Washington could have done it, too.

—W.D. Ehrhart

## I've Become Rip Van Winkle

by Jean Stimmell

The world has changed so much that I feel like I'm living on a different planet from the rural Yankee town where I grew up in the late 1940s and 1950s.

To gauge how the U.S. has changed, I watched a documentary on PBS examining those exact years that featured Walt Disney, who was then building Disneyland to show "America's future."<sup>1</sup>

In terms of predicting new inventions, Walt got a lot of things right: Disneyland, made up of four "lands," opened in July, 1955. One of the four, Tomorrowland, featured rocket rides "to the moon;" the Monsanto House of the Future, made entirely of plastic and displaying cutting-edge kitchen appliances; and a futuristic replica of Los Angeles' emerging freeway system. Tomorrowland was imbued with optimism for the future and confidence in American superiority."<sup>2</sup>

Indeed, we accomplished most of those things: We rocketed to the moon but now find ourselves submerged in plastic and choked by highways, cloverleaves, and high-tech gadgets. Paradoxically, despite achieving the future we thought we wanted, we've lost our spunk and optimism: in fact, a majority of us now believe our country is heading in the wrong direction.

What the show missed were the cataclysmic changes that erupted between then and now, totally upending our societal norms and former way of life. Growing up in the

early 1950s, I lived in radically different circumstances before the civil rights movement, Vietnam, Woodstock, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and all the other major historical shifts that transpired—all the way up to last week when we swore in our new president, who spurns the Constitution and pretends he is our king.

Thinking back on it now, I feel like a modern-day Rip Van Winkle who fell asleep in third grade and woke up nearly 80 years later living in this strange new land. The last thing I remember was sitting at my desk practicing cursive penmanship at my old Northwood Narrows school, which had two classrooms downstairs and a meeting room upstairs.

My only reference material was an old set of encyclopedias housed in the local library. The town contracted with a neighborhood farmer to transport us kids who lived on Jenness Pond to school in his old Jeep station wagon that smelled of hay and manure. We didn't get our first TV until I was in the fourth grade.

Jenness Pond Road was dirt and often impassible during mud season. When that happened, we had to leave the family car half a mile away from home and walk in. During those times, our ancient neighbor, who we called Tib, would save time by cutting across the ice rather than taking the longer route by land. We were a little afraid of him, thinking he might have magical powers because he never fell through the crumbling, rotten ice and drowned.



The Northwood Narrows School, still standing. Photo by Jean Stimmell.

After growing up in the sparse simplicity of rural New Hampshire, a significant chunk of what has happened since seems like a bad dream. While we had to practice ridiculous "duck and cover" drills designed to protect us from an imminent Russian nuclear attack that never came, today, we are facing existential dangers on multiple fronts, many of them unimaginable in the 1950s.

The original "Rip Van Winkle," written by Washington Irving, was

a fable about how America was founded. I'm afraid that I am presiding over its unraveling—along with the Earth itself.

—=====

1 — <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/tupperware-future/>  
2 — *Ibid.*

—=====

Jean Stimmell writes from Northwood. His work can be found at [jstim.substack.com](http://jstim.substack.com).

## Today's Politicians Celebrate Jerks and Ignore Grassroots Genius

by Jim Hightower

Corporate chieftains are giants, even geniuses—right?

Years ago, laissez-faire ideologue Ayn Rand hailed them as society's supermen, comparing them to Atlas, the mythological Greek god who "holds the world on his shoulders."

But look, here comes one of her modern-day gods now—Timothy Wentworth! He stands astride Walgreens, the multibillion-dollar drug store conglomerate. Last month, Wentworth demonstrated his corporate prowess by offering a stunning insight. He noted that, with shoplifting on the rise, chains like his had reacted by moving much of their merchandise into locked display cases. But the ever-alert Big Boss has now deduced that this impacts sales, "because when you lock things up, for example, you don't sell as many of them." Wow... pure genius!

Did I mention that Walgreens pays Timothy \$13 million a year? Or, that his monopolistic chain is closing some 1,200 of its "less-profitable" stores, which will leave entire communities with no pharmacies to meet their crucial needs?

My point is not to disparage one silly corporate boss, but simply to say: Hey, why are the so-called "leaders" of both of our political parties kowtowing to the painful ignorance, arrogance, and avarice of the most self-serving group of egos in the world: Billionaires! Look at them—Elon Musk is a jabbering jerk, Mark Zuckerberg is a pathetic whiner, and Jeff Bezos cluelessly floats around on a garish yacht he financed by underpaying and mistreating his workers.

These are our giants? What about schoolteachers, family farmers, mechanics, cooks—and other everyday people who really make things work? America needs to start listening to them... and reinvesting in their genuine genius.

—=====

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## ADMIRAL FOWLE'S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
<p><b>2007</b>—A Pentagon report concludes that Douglas Feith's policy office inappropriately manipulated intelligence on Iraq. Punished? Hell, no.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The USS <i>Greeneville</i>, demonstrating an emergency ballast-blowing maneuver for 16 "Distinguished Visitors" onboard, half with Texas oil and Bush connections, sinks a Japanese high-school fishery training ship off Hawaii, killing five adult crew and four high-school students.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush denies ever having used the term "voodoo economics." NBC obligingly plays him the tape.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Ted Bundy gets married and is sentenced to die. In Florida, of course.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Satchel Paige becomes the first Negro League player inducted into the Hall of Fame.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—NYC cops bust cellist Charlotte Moorman for playing Mathews' "International Lullaby" while topless.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—"I have here in my hand," says Sen. Joe McCarthy, "the names of 205 men that were known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist Party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping the policy of the State Department." Years later he admits he held a laundry list.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—HMS <i>Venturer</i>, submerged, torpedoes and sinks <i>U-864</i>, also submerged, off the coast of Norway.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Suffragists burn W. Wilson in effigy in front of the White House.</p> <p><b>1737</b>—Happy B-day, Thomas Paine.</p>	<p><b>2020</b>—"You know, a lot of people think [Covid-19] goes away in April with the heat," predicts Dolt #45.</p> <p><b>2014</b>—Donald J. Trump tells Fox "News," "When the economy crashes, when the country goes to total hell, and everything is a disaster, then you'll have riots to go back to where we used to be, when we were great."</p> <p><b>2010</b>—Innovative tax protestor Joe Stack flies a fuel-laden Piper into the IRS Field Office in Austin, Texas, killing another person, injuring 13, and causing damage in the millions.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The G.W.[MD] Bush Administration touts plastic sheeting and duct tape as a first line of defense.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—General Westmoreland, U.S. commander in Vietnam, sends a cable to the Navy's top admiral in the Pacific. It's a request for tactical nukes.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—HMAS <i>Melbourne</i> cuts HMAS <i>Voyager</i> in half. <i>Voyager</i> sinks; 82 die. It's the first of two friendly ships <i>Melbourne</i> is destined to sink.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—A mural for which they paid Diego Rivera \$21,000 is destroyed by order of the Rockefeller because it includes a depiction of Vladimir Lenin.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—At the Power's gold mine in Arizona's Galiuro Mountains, a four-man posse seeking two draft-dodgers ends up 3/4th dead. The Power brothers get out of Florence Prison in 1960.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Five Bloomsbury Groupers, disguised as Abyssinian royalty, trick Royal Navy officers into giving them a tour of HMS <i>Dreadnaught</i>.</p>	<p><b>2017</b>—The U.S. President and the Japanese Prime Minister confer and read classified documents about a North Korean missile launch while surrounded by diners at Mar-a-Lago.</p> <p><b>2014</b>—An FEC report confirms what his mom and sis said: U.S. Rep. Frank Guinta lied, that \$355,000 wasn't his.</p> <p><b>2013</b>—Bad news today from KRTV in Great Falls, Mont.: "the bodies of the dead are rising from their graves and attacking the living."</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Dick "Dick" Cheney becomes the second sitting Vice President to shoot a man when he "peppers" his pal Harry Whittington in the face.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—"I'd like to thank my family for loving me and taking care of me," says Johnny Frank Garrett (IQ under 70), as Texas prepares to poison him, "and the rest of the world can kiss my ass."</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Nelson Mandela is released from prison after 27 years.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—RIP Sylvia Plath.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—The CIA creates a "Domestic Operations Division." What could possibly go wrong?</p> <p><b>1937</b>—The Great Flint, Mich. Sit-Down Strike ends in victory for the workers. Good times start to roll.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—The Mexican government nationalizes all church property.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Emma Goldman is arrested for the crime of telling women how birth control works.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—The House of Representatives unanimously resolves that it will do nothing about slavery in any state.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—<i>USA Today</i> reports that former top Texas Air National Guard officers say files were "cleansed" to protect George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—N.H. Senators Gregg and Smith notwithstanding, the Senate finds President Clinton not guilty.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—SS <i>Marine Electric</i>, a rusted, beat-up hulk whose lying owners faked inspections, sinks off Virginia; three survive from a crew of 34.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The New World Liberation Front bombs Hearst Castle.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—LBJ puts the kibosh on Westy's plan to nuke the NVA.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Bill Lancaster is discovered in the Sahara, mummified alongside his biplane, 29 years after disappearing.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Sixty antiwar protesters burn draft cards in New York City.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Black combat vet Isaac Woodard gets his honorable discharge and boards a bus in Georgia. Before he can get to N.C., he's beaten and blinded by white cops in Aiken, S.C.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—A huge mob in Bisbee, Ariz. herds 1,200 members of the IWW into boxcars to be shipped off and dumped in the New Mexico desert.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—Marines and sailors from the USS <i>Portsmouth</i> quell a riot in Honolulu to assure the election of a pro-American King.</p> <p><b>1839</b>—The Aroostook War between Maine and New Brunswick begins.</p> <p><b>1554</b>—Queen "Bloody Mary" Tudor has Lady Jane Grey, her 16-year old cousin and predecessor, decapitated.</p>	<p><b>2013</b>—Justice Antonin Scalia goes to his final judgment.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—The Senate tells the CIA to cool it with the waterboarding.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—An Al-Qaeda tape calls George W.[MD] Bush a drunk gambler.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Donald Rumsfeld's ex-assistant Ken Adelman predicts the Iraq War will be a "cakewalk."</p> <p><b>1991</b>—A super-accurate, laser-guided U.S. bomb kills some 400 Iraqi civilians in a bunker in Baghdad.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Radicalized by anti-Semite Henry Ford, decorated WW II vet and anti-tax crank Gordon Kahl and son Yorie Von Kahl murder two U.S. Marshals and wound three other lawmen in a shootout near Medina, N.D.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Hexane gas illegally discharged from a Purina plant fills the Louisville, Ky. sewer system. A spark from a car causes two miles of sewer lines to explode. Purina denies liability.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Five soldiers are busted at Ft. Jackson, S.C.; they prayed for peace.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—The National Student Association admits that over 15 years it's received \$3 million from the CIA.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—The crew of a burning B-36 jets its Mark IV A-bomb and bails out. With no plutonium core, it merely scatters 100 lbs. of uranium when it explodes over British Columbia. Five crewmen freeze to death.</p> <p><b>1837</b>—Loco Foco Democrats protest rapidly rising food prices in New York City. Hundreds of barrels are liberated in the ensuing Flour Riot.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—A cargo jet linked to the CIA lands in Harare, Zimbabwe carrying 67 tons of South African currency and the decomposing body of a Black man.</p> <p><b>2016</b>—With wind blowing 20 m.p.h., and the thermometer at -13°, the wind chill in Portsmouth falls to -38°.</p> <p><b>2015</b>—Another 18 inches of snow fall on Portsmouth, making nearly eight feet in under three weeks.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—The White House releases some of George W.[MD] Bush's military records, but they fail to prove he was present for duty.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The first American POWs released from North Vietnam arrive at Travis AFB, Calif. [See tomorrow.]</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Nixon's secret taping system is installed in the White House.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Forty U.S. B-17s intending to firebomb Dresden miss by 90 miles and hit Prague instead. Death toll: 701. Bomb weight per death: 433 lbs.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—On St. Valentine's Day in Chicago, a cop asks Frank "Tight Lips" Gusenberg who shot him. "Nobody," he says, then dies.</p> <p><b>1879</b>—Born into slavery, later escaping, Blanche K. Bruce [R-Miss.] presides over the U.S. Senate.</p> <p><b>1873</b>—Eric Co. Sheriff and future President Grover Cleveland picks up a \$10 fee for hanging a man in Buffalo, N.Y. He botches the job, though: it takes John Gaffney 23 minutes to die.</p> <p><b>1349</b>—A power struggle between gentle factions in Strasbourg results in a pogrom against Jews.</p>	<p><b>2003</b>—It's the largest demonstration in history—up to ten million people, in 600 cities around the world, say "No" to Bush 43's Iraq War.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—After just a little over nine years in-country, quick-thinking Soviets pull out of Afghanistan.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Environmentalists, supporting striking workers, storm Int'l. Paper's Jay, Maine plant 10 days after scabs create a huge chlorine leak.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—On his first day at the Hillsboro, N.H. <i>Messenger</i>, our current editor is told, "Get over to Henniker; last night the cop shop was fire-bombed."</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Nixon to Joint Chiefs: POW's return is "an invaluable opportunity to revise the history of this War."</p> <p><b>1966</b>—In place of Senate hearings on the Vietnam War, CBS shows reruns of "I Love Lucy." Fred Friendly, President of CBS News, quits in disgust.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—"I support [JFK] to the hilt [in Vietnam]," says R. Nixon, "I only hope he will step up the build-up..."</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Allies bomb the 6th c. monastery at Monte Cassino. Nazis had removed its historic treasures to the Vatican in trucks accompanied by monks, but 230 Italian civilians in its cellars are killed by falling rubble.</p> <p><b>1898</b>—The battleship USS <i>Maine</i> explodes and sinks in Havana harbor.</p> <p><b>1798</b>—Congress did nothing after Rep. Matthew Lyon spit tobacco juice in his eye, so Rep. Roger Griswold canes the ex-newspaper editor. Lyon defends himself with fire tongs.</p>
8:23      9:10 	9:20      10:03 	10:12      10:50 	10:59      11:32 	11:42 	12:11      12:22 	12:48      1:01 
1:55      2:52 	2:56      3:47 	3:50      4:35 	4:39      5:18 	5:24      5:57 	6:06      6:33 	6:46      7:08 
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
<p><b>1982</b>—Nancy Reagan says, via an aide, she'll no longer accept "loaned" threads from big name designers because she's "really...tired of people misinterpreting what she was doing."</p> <p><b>1978</b>—The first computer bulletin board goes online in Chicago. Uh-oh.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The <i>Village Voice</i> publishes excerpts from the House-suppressed Pike Report; among other sins, the CIA, the FBI, and the NSA have been illegally spying on U.S. citizens.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—A week after security in Saigon is "tightened," a V.C. bomb in an American movie theater kills three U.S. soldiers and wounds another 50.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—A two-day anti-nuclear march on Washington, D.C. begins.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Fidel Castro is sworn in as Prime Minister of Cuba.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Mildred Harnacke, a Milwaukee-born editor, is guillotined in Berlin for spying for the Soviets.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—Guy Stewart Callendar publishes a scientific paper (drawing in part on the work of F.E. Fowle) showing that mankind's carbon dioxide emissions are warming the planet.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Emma Goldman is busted for lecturing on birth control.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—French President Félix Faure has a fatal stroke while being fêlled in his office in the Élysée Palace.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—The Women's Rights Convention is held at Seneca Falls, N.Y.</p> <p><b>1818</b>—Charles W. Brewster begins his 50-year career as a Portsmouth, N.H. newspaperman.</p>	<p><b>2021</b>—After poisoning U.S. discourse for 37 years, oxygen thief Rush Limbaugh shuts his lying trap.</p> <p><b>2017</b>—President Trump declares the press to be the enemy of the people.</p> <p><b>2015</b>—A study finds that previous tallies of lynchings in the U.S. had under-counted by at least 800.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Harry Whittington apologizes to Dick "Dick" Cheney for having absorbed a face full of his birdshot.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Covert CIA agents grab Abu Omar in Milan, blowing an Italian surveillance program; 23 agents are later convicted of kidnapping.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—"I hate the g_ks," Sen. John McCain tells reporters. "I will hate them as long as I live"—that's 18 years.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—General William Westmoreland drops his libel suit against CBS. Apparently the network was right: he had covered up VC troop strength.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—PFC Robert Preston takes a stolen Huey on a tour of D.C., landing in a hail of bullets on the White House Lawn. Superficially wounded, he smiles and laughs on the way to Walter Reed.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The U.S. Army's top-ranked enlisted man is indicted for conspiring to defraud enlisted men's clubs.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—The Supreme Court rules that confessions obtained by police violence, i.e., relentless whipping with buckled leather belts, are inadmissible; the guilty verdict in question had been won by prosecutor and future Senator John Stennis [D-Miss].</p> <p><b>1862</b>—RIP Henry D. Thoreau.</p>	<p><b>2012</b>—Rep. Bob Morris [R-Ind.] says Girl Scouts use "feminists, lesbians, and Communists" as role models to promote a "homosexual lifestyle."</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Robert Hanssen, a devout Catholic, exhibitionist, patron of strippers, and ex-FBI Special Agent, is arrested for selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then to the Russians.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Jerry Ford accepts the CIA's word: if it breaks the law, it'll confess.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—All of the Chicago 7 are found innocent of conspiring to incite riots; five are found guilty of crossing state lines to incite riots anyway.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—"We are going to win in Vietnam," says RFK in Saigon. "We will remain here until we do win."</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Ike's A.G. OKs a memo saying the CIA need not report criminal activity by its employees.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—A majority of Congressmen are forced onto the wagon: their bootlegger, George Cassidy, aka "The Man in the Green Hat," is busted in a Prohibition Bureau sting.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Oscar Comery, who expected life in prison after confessing he'd poisoned his wife, is hanged in Concord, N.H. The jury changed its mind on learning he'd molested a child, too.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—Pres. W. Wilson watches his first movie, also the first ever shown in the White House: <i>Birth of a Nation</i>.</p> <p><b>1820</b>—"If you have a message you want to send to hell," screams Lavinia Fisher from Charleston, S.C.'s galleys, "give it to me, and I'll carry it!"</p>	<p><b>2009</b>—Outraged that the government might assist mere homeowners, CNBC's Rick Santelli has a fit on the floor of the Chicago Board of Trade. His convulsions spawn a Tea Party.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—"I understand small business growth," says George W.[MD] Bush, "I was one." A business? Or a growth?</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Prosecutors in Passaic County, N.J. drop the bogus case against Rubin "Hurricane" Carter—after he'd been imprisoned for decades.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—After due deliberation—37 years—Congress ratifies a UN treaty outlawing genocide.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Watergate burglar James W. McCord, Jr. admits that "basically, Martha [Mitchell]'s story is true"—she was abducted and drugged to cover up the break-in. Her abductor, Steve King, is later made ambassador to the Czech Republic by Donald Trump.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Protests against the Vietnam War are held in 30 U.S. cities.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The CIA informs the State and Defense departments that South Vietnam is making little progress against the Viet Cong.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Sen. Harry Byrd [D-Va.] says Truman is like Hitler and Stalin—because he supports civil rights.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—In a Burmese mangrove swamp, several hundred Japanese soldiers are killed by crocodiles.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—FDR puts 120,000 Americans into concentration camps.</p> <p><b>1847</b>—Rescuers reach the leftovers from the Donner Party.</p>	<p><b>1950</b>—Joe McCarthy delivers a five-hour, paranoid rant in the U.S. Senate; a four-month inquisition ensues.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—At Iwo Jima, Jacklyn "Jack" Lucas, 17, dives onto one live grenade and pulls another under him. One goes off, one doesn't. He sets off metal detectors until dying at 80.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Hollywood embraces Office of War Information censorship.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—Fritz Kuhn, a German veteran of WWI and naturalized U.S. citizen, leads 22,000 people in a pro-Nazi rally at Madison Square Garden.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—At least 20 German industrialists meet secretly at Reichstag, President H. Göring's official residence and—yes, we'll say it—<i>conspire</i> to raise funds to get Nazis elected.</p> <p><b>1893</b>—After the Reading Railroad fails, the free hand of the self-regulating market reaches for the economy's throat and nearly chokes it to death.</p> <p><b>1815</b>—Almost two months after the Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812, the USS <i>Constitution</i> captures two British sloops off the coast of Portugal.</p> <p><b>1792</b>—The United States Post Office Department is established! Yay!</p> <p><b>1725</b>—Soldiers under Captain John Lovewell kill and scalp 10 Indians in Wakefield, N.H. Later, in Boston, they collect £100 for each one.</p> <p><b>1524</b>—In Germany, Count von Iggleheim is stoned to death by a mob angry at his refusal to let them board a three-story ark he had built to escape a predicted apocalyptic flood.</p>	<p><b>2012</b>—Caught by the Piscataqua's mighty current during construction of the New Memorial Bridge, the tugboat <i>Miss Stacy</i> nearly sinks.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—"Original Dick" Nixon's top goons, John Mitchell [ex-AG!], Bob Haldeman, and John Ehrlichman, each get 2 1/2 years in the slammer for <i>conspiring</i>—yes, there's that C-word again—to do more than will fit here.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—A week after his home was firebombed, assassins murder Malcolm X; his last words: "Brothers! Brothers! This is a house of peace." The FBI knew it was coming but didn't tell the NYPD which didn't care anyway. One assailant, not the killer, is jailed, along with two innocent men.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—The U.S.-backed Nicaraguan National Guard assassinates rebel leader Augusto Sandino. Legend says his head is then delivered to D.C.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—In Arequipa, Peruvian revolutionaries make Pan Am's Byron Rickards the first pilot ever hijacked; 30 years later he's hijacked a second time.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—Witnesses faint and Arizona abandons hanging after "Cheerful Eva" Dugan's accidentally-decapitated head rolls across the floor.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—The U.S. Army airship <i>Roma</i> crashes in Norfolk, Va.; 34 die in the nation's worst air crash to date.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—In N.Y.C., Portland, Maine's Nathaniel Gordon becomes the first and last person hanged under an 1820 law against bringing negroes or mullattos onboard ship so as to enslave them.</p>	<p><b>2018</b>—After jabbing him in the legs and groin for 2.5 hours, Alabama prison officials wheel cancer patient Doyle Hamm out of the death chamber alive.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—A Pentagon document leaks: it says climate change may spell doom.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—The FBI arrests a spy: 32-year CIA officer Aldrich Ames.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Samuel Byck, planning to crash an airliner into the White House, carelessly shoots the pilot before takeoff. He's then shot dead, too.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—<i>The New York Times</i> calls the late Malcolm X "an extraordinary and twisted man [who turned] many true gifts to evil purposes."</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Sam Lovejoy derails a planned nuke plant in Montague, Mass. by downing a tower with a crowbar.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—The Atomic Energy Commission unveils its latest brilliant plan: airplanes powered by nuclear reactors.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—On the House floor, Rep. John Rankin [D-Miss.] calls Rep. Frank Hook [D-Mich.] a Communist, whereupon Hook calls Rankin a "God damned liar." Rankin, 63 and 140 lbs., attempts to punch out Hook, 52 and 195 lbs., to little effect.</p> <p><b>1902</b>—In the Senate Chamber, John McLaurin [D-S.C.] calls Ben Tillman [D-S.C.] a liar, whereupon Tillman belts McLaurin in the jaw.</p> <p><b>1838</b>—Penn. amends its Constitution to take the vote from free Black men.</p> <p><b>1837</b>—In the White House, Andy Jackson honors Washington's Birthday with a 1,400 pound cheese.</p>
7:25      7:44 	8:06      8:20 	8:49      9:00 	9:36      9:45 	10:29      10:35 	11:27      11:32 	12:30 

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— THEODORE ROOSEVELT



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