

The Fortnightly Rant

File Under “Can’t Make It Up”

Quite a fortnight. Under present circumstances, we expect them all to fall somewhere between weird and bizarre on the Spectrum of Strange. Yet—again, due to conditions beyond the normal parameters of reality—nowadays, as events unfold, they don’t just exceed expectations, they nearly defy possibility.

First we learned that the nation’s top national security officials didn’t just text top secret details of an attack on Yemen like a bunch of superannuated frat boys planning a kegger—we never expected any better of them—but they invited a member of the *lügenpresse* to follow along on an open source messaging system about as secure as the one in the cartoon at right.

You have to hand it to Republicans; in show biz lingo, they really commit to the bit.

First they gave the Houthis 40 enhanced opportunities to down U.S. planes, then they shrugged off the incident as no big deal. National Security Advisor Mike Waltz—the prime suspect for having invited Jeffrey Goldberg into the chat—still has the full confidence of the president. Defense Secretary and Randy “Macho Man” Savage understudy Pete Hegseth snarled an obligatory ‘so what’ to the press, saying, “I know exactly what I’m doing.”

The best response, though—which is to say, the worst response—came from the CIA’s Top Gun.

Sen. Jon Ossof: “This was a huge mistake, correct?”

Director John Ratcliffe: “No.”

Jaws across the country were still on the floor when New Hampshire’s own Ditzzy Queen Karoline Leavitt pronounced “case closed.” As far as the administration was concerned, that was that. The only thing missing was Leslie Nielsen, waving his hands, saying, “Nothing to see here. Please disperse.”

Before all existing records of the 2016 presidential campaign get swallowed up by the Smithsonian’s newly-installed Memory Hole—there’s another whole Rant, right there—let us recall that Donald Trump rode his golf cart into the White House to a soundtrack of Sean Hannity endlessly repeating a monotonous word-salad about Hillary Clinton “acid-washing” an email server. Never mind that the Bush II regime had done much the same, to hear the GOP tell it, the appropriate punishment for a Democrat performing this treasonous act would have been drawing and quartering on the White House lawn.

And the fortnight was just getting started.

Last month the GOP slashed SNAP benefits. That was a twofor: Make Kids Hungry Again, and

kick your constituents down on the farm right in the face. “Let them eat something from the food bank,” they said.

This month they cut funding for food banks by \$1 billion. Cats show mice more mercy.

Speaking of the lack of mercy, we have arrived at the [police] state in which people are getting grabbed off the street and carried away. It’s not easy to know who’s doing the grabbing. Some grabbers wear masks, others do not. Those we’ve seen in videos appear to be wearing generic civvies. If this keeps up, we expect to see an increase in old-school kidnapping; why not, if the Feds are out there providing cover?

As for who’s getting grabbed, there can be little doubt; among the faithful followers of the regime, getting grabbed is *prima facie* evidence of guilt. If the regime was serious about this program, one would expect to see deportation numbers soaring. They are not. Trump has yet to meet Biden’s output on that front. Perhaps the true goal of all this grabbery is simply this: solidify the base by appealing to their basest instincts.

If that sounds far-fetched, consider these items from the regime’s to-do list:

The Department of Veterans Affairs is struggling to meet its obligations. Their proposed remedy: cut its budget by \$181 million a year, and fire 83,000 workers—many of whom are veterans.

Some Americans really are struggling, though, so the president is considering the establishment of a “compensation fund” for the “peaceful” and “patriotic” former “hostages” who were jailed for attacking the Capitol on January 6th.

Another group deserving of federally-subsidized relief include the 0.1 percent of Americans whose fortunes top \$28 million. A planned repeal of the estate tax ought to ease their suffering.

We had to wrap up this Rant before the Stable Genius delivered his Liberation Day oration. Fortunately he posted a preview on his own social media app, Bullshit Social. In it he vowed to “penalize Canada for the sale, into our country, of large amounts of Fentanyl, by Tariffing the value of this horrible and deadly drug...”

Yes, because drug smugglers are known to be sticklers for obeying customs regulations.

Could sanity be a zero-sum game? As the cult and its leader lose it, voters in Wisconsin and Florida seem to be getting it. The Republican-gerrymandered Badger State may get a much-needed redistricting. The GOP retained two House seats in deepest-red Florida, but Democrats did shockingly well.

So, as ever, *Nil Desperandum!*



ALL THE WORLD'S A SCIF

GOP Estate Tax Plan—

A \$100 Billion Giveaway for Musk and Trump Heirs

by Eloise Goldsmith

Americans for Tax Fairness has crunched the numbers and found that a Republican push to do away with the federal estate tax—a measure that’s been described as an “aristocracy prevention act”—could yield billions for the families of U.S. President Donald Trump and his billionaire adviser Elon Musk, according to a report from the advocacy group published last week.

Abolishing the estate tax, a tax on the wealth of the richest Americans when they die, could save Musk’s family up to roughly \$132 billion, and could save Trump’s heirs up to around \$2 billion, according to ATF, which made its calculation using recent estimates of each man’s net worth. The top federal estate tax rate is 40 percent.

The group noted that “both the Trump and Musk families have undoubtedly set up elaborate estate-tax-avoidance schemes, as most superwealthy families do. Since we do not know what tax-avoidance schemes they have undertaken, we have calculated the maximum amount that would be due if the estate tax were fully repealed.”

The estate tax has long been in Republicans’ crosshairs.

According to Bloomberg, Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) on March 26th endorsed the estate tax being repealed entirely, placing the repeal of the tax at the center of current negotiations over GOP efforts to approve a multitrillion-dollar tax bill that would extend provisions in Trump’s 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) that primarily benefited the wealthy.

Thune was also among 45 senators who introduced a bill in February that would repeal the federal estate tax.

Trump already did wealthy Americans a favor with the passage of the TCJA, which in effect doubled the estate tax exemption amount, which as of 2025 is \$14 million for individuals and twice that for married couples filing jointly. If this TCJA exemption were to expire, the exemption would drop down to \$7 million per individual, meaning more millionaires would be forced to pay federal estate tax.

“We are in the second Gilded Age. You know, we are seeing the rise of an oligarchy... And yet here we are talking about dismantling the estate tax, the one tax at the federal level that actually slows this concentration of wealth and power.”

According to Daniel Willing, a senior wealth strategist with U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management, of all the aspects of the TCJA expiration, this drop in the estate tax exemption may have the largest impact on wealthy families.

According to ATF, “If the more generous exemption amount is retained instead of being allowed to expire, the Musk and Trump families could each save up to about \$5.6 million in estate taxes.”

Chuck Collins, a director at the progressive organization Institute for Policy Studies, highlighted the stakes of this kind of wealth accumulation in a video from More Perfect Union about the estate tax that was released in early March.

“We are in the second Gilded

Age. You know, we are seeing the rise of an oligarchy... And yet here we are talking about dismantling the estate tax, the one tax at the federal level that actually slows this concentration of wealth and power,” said Collins.

In addition to focusing on the estate tax, ATF’s analysis also highlights that one of the TCJA’s components set to expire is a set of lower tax rates on “ordinary income.”

Musk had an average annual taxable income of roughly \$179 million between 2013 and 2018—and 99 percent of it was “ordinary” income, according to the report, which cites data from ProPublica.

“Assuming he had the same average taxable income in each of the first 10 years of an extension of the Trump law’s lower tax rates (and this may be a conservative assumption, since he’s many times richer now), Musk could save a total of around \$50 million in income taxes,” per ATF.

Based on Trump’s available tax returns, according to ATF, Trump received on average roughly \$10 million a year in wages, taxable interest, ordinary dividends, and taxable pensions and annuities, which ATF deems his “predictable” sources of ordinary income.

“Just considering those four sources of ordinary income, over the first 10 years of an extension of his lower tax rates Trump could save a total of up to roughly \$2.7 million in income taxes,” according to the report.

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

'The Privatizers Are Coming': DeJoy Is Gone, But the U.S. Postal Service Not Safe From Trump and Musk

by Jon Queally

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy officially left office on Monday, March 24th, but defenders of the U.S. Postal Service said the long-awaited departure of its reviled chief administrator does not mean the nation's public mail service is safe from the threat of privatization, which they warn remains the goal of President Donald Trump and right-wing allies like Elon Musk.

"Make no mistake," said American Postal Workers Union president Mark Dimondstein in a statement, "Louis DeJoy was forced out by a presidential administration that is intent on breaking up and selling off the public Postal Service. Reports from last month made clear that the White House has plans for a hostile takeover of the Postal Service."

As Common Dreams reported in February, President Donald Trump was accused of orchestrating an "outrageous, unlawful attack" on the USPS by plotting to terminate all the members of the Board of Governors and putting the agency under his direct control.

Any such attack, Dimondstein said Monday, "is part of the ongoing oligarchs' coup against the vital public services our members and other public servants provide the country. We know that privatized postal services will lead to higher postage

prices and lower service quality for the public. No matter who leads the USPS, it is—and must remain—the People's Postal Service."

With DeJoy's resignation, and until the Board appoints a replacement, Deputy Postmaster General Doug Tulino will now serve as the interim Postmaster General.

In comments Tuesday morning at the National Press Club, part of a roundtable discussion with postal worker union leaders, Dimondstein acknowledged the controversial legacy of DeJoy, but added, "say what you want, it turned out he was not a privatizer," as he reiterated his belief that DeJoy was forced out by Trump, at least in part, to make way for someone more aggressive in that direction.

"The privatizers are coming," Dimondstein warned. "They are coming for you and your constitutional right to postal services."

"This is really a struggle between Wall Street and Main Street," he continued. "That's the only way that we can understand why anyone would want to privatize. A few people would gain more wealth—a few quick dollars—but the real shareholders of the Postal Service, the people of the country, would lose out with higher prices, less service, and of course the workers with less wages, benefits, and rights, which, rather than build strong communi-

ties, weakens our communities."

In his statement Monday, Dimondstein said:

"The law is clear: the Postal Service was created by Congress as an independent agency, designed to be free from shifting political winds and dedicated solely to serving the country. The law is also clear that the Board of Governors, and it alone, is empowered to hire and fire the Postmaster General. Any attempt by this Administration to seize power from the Board of Governors is unlawful and only makes clear their goal of breaking up and selling off the Postal Service to private corporations."

"The APWU calls on the Board of Governors to stand its ground and take its responsibilities seriously. The Board should move as quickly as possible to hire as the next permanent Postmaster General, someone committed to the public service mission of the USPS, who respects the rights of hardworking postal workers, and who will not break up and sell off our public Postal Service."

As part of the organized efforts this week to defend the Postal Service, coordinated actions led by the APWU and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), which represents 295,000 active and retired postal workers, took place nationwide over recent days as unionized carriers and their allies demonstrated outside local post offices

against plans to diminish services or moves toward privatization.

The union warns that the plan put in motion by DeJoy—who said he worked hand-in-hand with Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, to implement changes—would, in addition to massive job losses at the Postal Service:

- Abolish the Postal Regulatory Commission, leaving no independent regulatory authority on pricing and service;
- Raise shipping costs, driving inflation higher for businesses and consumers; and
- Sharply reduce service to rural America, including over 50 million addresses where private carriers often do not deliver.

Dimondstein, citing moves by a "salivating" Wells Fargo bank about the profit potential if parcel service was taken away from the public Postal Service, warned in his remarks on Tuesday, "Elon Musk is not about efficiency—he's about picking your pocket. Turn it over to private profit, laugh all the way to the bank, and the people of this country are left holding the bag."

NALC president Brian Renfroe said DeJoy's departure marks an opportunity for the Board to appoint a new leader—one who "must continue modernizing and investing in USPS' infrastructure while

maintaining quality universal service funded by postage, not taxpayer dollars."

In addition, said Renfroe, the new Postmaster General "must fundamentally believe in the agency as a public service and be committed to guaranteeing the universal service Americans rely on," a clear knock against any privatization efforts.

"We're trying to alert the public, the people of the country, that our postal services are truly in danger," Dimondstein said at a rally in Washington, D.C. on Sunday. "This is not a one-off day; this is the beginning of an ongoing fight."

Jon Queally is managing editor of Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).

Upstanding Citizen Gains Freedom
An upstanding citizen was duly rewarded last Friday for assisting the U.S. House of Representatives in its persecution of Hunter Biden. Jason Galanis had been serving 15 years for securities fraud when he was sprung by Donald "The Don" Trump.

Galanis' freedom came with a gold "Get Out of Jail for Free Card." He had been on the hook for nearly \$162 million in penalties, but that slate has now been wiped clean.



What an unexpected turn of events! Attacks on the republic, from the Republicans, really seem to be ticking people off. It probably doesn't help that, like the proverbial phone calls in horror movies, the attacks are coming from inside the [White] House. Enough of our blather, though—that's always available on tap. Let's hear what the people have to say: "Dethrone Trump - No Kings in America," "America for All - Liberty! - No Tyrants," "Incompetence" - Signal-Gate -- Putting Our Troops At Risk!, "Tesla = SwastiCars," "No Kings," "Trump Wants 1939 Germany - He'll Get 1789 France,"

"Trump: Russia's Employee of the Month," "Hands Off Free Speech - Voting Rights - Childrens' Education," "Stop the Coup Now," "DOGE = Dept. of Grift & Embezzlement," "Where Law Ends, Tyranny Begins," "Resist the Insolent Menaces of Villains In Power," "We Support Federal Workers," "Democracy Not Dictators," "Democracy - Use It Or Lose It," "Woke? Much Better Than Asleep At the Wheel," "Musk - [hand symbol] Off Our Data," "When Law Ends, Tyranny Begins," "Invade Greenland?! Nuts!!!," "Let's Make Democracy Stronger, Not Weaker," "No One Elected Elon,"

"E Pluribus Unum," "It's Time To Stand Up," "I Am [Musk's Face] Stealing From You," "Lies - Chaos - Incompetence," "This Musk Stop," "Our Democracy Was Hacked," "Save Our Democracy - No Autocracy," "The Truth Will Set You Free," "We The People' Not Billionaires," "Stop The Steal," "Dump Trump (Make America Great Again)," "Honk For Democracy," "Hands Off My Vote," "Trump/Musk Cutting the VA, Betraying Our Veterans," "Nation Of Laws, Not Bullies," "Stand For The Rule Of Law," and perhaps our favorite, "Make America Think Again."

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How Musk Sold Out America's Veterans

by David McCall

Bob Kaldahl recalled how the fighter jets revved their engines to a high-pitched shriek before catapulting off the USS *Shangri-La*, producing vibrations so intense that he felt like he had “ants crawling around” in his ears.

Kaldahl performed his duties as a fire control technician without any assigned personal protective equipment and sustained permanent hearing loss while serving aboard the aircraft carrier in the 1950s.

The 93-year-old always bore his hardships proudly, never expecting to see the day when the government turned on patriots like him.

But that's exactly what happened. Billionaire-run-amok Elon Musk declared war on America's heroes, pushing to slash tens of thousands of crucial jobs at the Department of Veterans Affairs and imperiling programs keeping many alive.

Musk, an unelected and unaccountable appendage to the Trump administration, launched a scorched-earth campaign that continues to reduce huge swaths of the federal government to rubble. The VA is just one of Musk's targets, and his attacks on the department come at a time when more and more veterans require care because of ailments contracted in Vietnam, Iraq, and other combat zones.

“He has no business being in there whatsoever,” Kaldahl said of Musk, who never donned a uniform but became the world's richest person by leveraging the opportunities and freedoms afforded him by those who did.

“I served four years to protect our democracy, and then they let somebody like him come in and take over and do the things he's done. It's unconstitutional and unacceptable and disgusting,” added Kaldahl, a former member of the United Steelworkers

(USW) who worked for Erie Mining Company in Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota, after his discharge from the Navy.

In all, the VA intends to fire more than 80,000 workers—many of them veterans themselves—in coming months.

Former service members around the country already feel the repercussions, which include cuts to transportation programs for disabled veterans, reduced telephone support for caregivers, and the postponement or cancellation of suicide prevention trainings.

Other veterans report the cancellation of therapy groups and longer wait times for appointments as well as disruptions to medical studies, including a clinical trial on a new medication with the potential to treat cancers of the mouth and throat. Some facilities eliminated staff members especially trained or certified to perform certain roles, delaying the requisition and delivery of medical supplies.

As always happens amid Musk's ham-handed raids, the cuts at the VA commenced without the slightest foresight or sense. Among many other examples, officials summarily canceled hundreds of contracts with outside providers, only to immediately scale back the reckless decision after realizing they needed the help performing essential work like physician recruitment and burial services.

Kaldahl, who receives hearing aids, eye care, and other services from the VA, has to travel to larger cities, such as Superior, Wisconsin, or Minneapolis, to receive care un-

available at a clinic near his home.

While he doesn't yet know how the cuts to VA might affect him, he said he wants the agency to build service, not roll it back.

“I would like to see more programs locally,” he said, noting the risks involved in traveling to VA facilities hundreds of miles away during Minnesota winters.

Three years ago, the Democrats in Congress passed the PACT Act, which dramatically expanded VA care for veterans who contracted a wide range of cancers and other diseases because of exposure to Agent Orange, burn pits, depleted uranium, and other hazards.

Veterans hailed the law for filling a long-neglected gap. But Musk's cuts now threaten this care just as a growing number of veterans attempt to avail themselves of it.

“If you were exposed, you should get it,” declared Frank Bystrzak, a longtime activist with USW Local 135L in Tonawanda, New York, whose father was one of the first Marines to hit the ground in Vietnam.

Bystrzak praises the Buffalo VA's care for his dad, who has cancer and other ailments. But the facility already seems short-staffed, Bystrzak said, and he worries that cuts in any department there will result in longer wait times for appointments, medication, and other services.

“Doctors are great, but without support staff, they can only do so much,” Bystrzak said. “You can't fly the plane without the mechanics.”

The USW in recent years ramped up support for workers with military backgrounds, establishing Vets of

Steel committees in all local unions and advocating for bills at the state and local levels to support military families.

It's frustrating for Bystrzak, who advocated for this legislation and volunteered for service projects involving veterans, to see the government abandon former service members while others step up to help them.

“They deserve everything they get and more,” Bystrzak said.

Just as galling is the audacity with which Musk, indifferent to the sacrifices and struggles of veterans, wields his chainsaw. He wormed his way into the federal government, mounting his attack from a city that's the headquarters of the armed forces and home to numerous monuments commemorating their selfless service.

Kaldahl recalled the cheers that he and other veterans received while touring the war memorials in Washington several years ago as guests of an organization called the Honor Flight Network. Among other highlights, a welcoming committee greeted the veterans when they landed at the National Airport.

Those people treated him and the other vets like “royalty,” Kaldahl said.

Musk acts like they're cannon fodder.

“I can't understand why the Republicans are willing to let that happen,” Kaldahl said.

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David McCall is the international president of the United Steelworkers Union (USW). This article was produced by the Independent Media Institute.



Our Wandering Photographer has asked us to make something clear: he is not responsible for putting this Tesla salesroom in such close and suggestive proximity to this stop sign. Tesla is unique among U.S. car manufacturers; it is the only one allowed by law to sell its products directly to consumers. We can therefore presume that the responsibility for this marketing faux pas rests ultimately with the CEO. Perhaps he was distracted from this petty task by a more important quest, injecting \$20 million into Wisconsin's Supreme Court election, including two legally-dubious, jumbo-sized checks to donors for \$1 million each. Could that sudden jolt of civic interest in the judicial affairs of the Badger State possibly be motivated by the lawsuit he filed in January, seeking to open dealerships in Milwaukee? Shame on us for even bringing up the question.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

News And Notes

The widow of Chief Justice [Morrison] Waite was robbed of her jewels at the funeral of her husband.

Patrick Hand, an inmate of the Soldier's Home in Togus, Me., drowned himself in the Kennebec on the 5th.

Actor Bob Hilliard has been whipped by a red-headed burlesque actress in New York.

Two watchmen of the Chicago & Alton railroad were shot dead at Chicago on the night of the 3rd

inst., by tramps it is said.

John Howe murdered his wife at Fort Collins, Colo., April 4th, and was hung in the jail yard by a mob about an hour later.

George Johnson was fatally shot while asleep in bed at Stafford Springs, Conn., on the night of the 4th. His wife is under arrest for the crime.

The Boston base ball managers have “bought” Clarkson, last year's pitcher for the Chicago club, off the Chicago managers. The price paid

was \$10,000. Clarkson gets a salary of \$4000 with the Bostons.

The town of St. Albans, Me. voted to appropriate \$6000 for the repairs of highways. In their annual report for 1887, the selectmen say: “This sum was committed to the highway surveyors, and God knows what has become of it.”

By a bridge accident on the Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad last week

Old News

to page six

Beware of Cruise Ships
— a Bar Harbor reader

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote
“There's nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man. True nobility is being superior to your former self.”
— Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961)

“[P]roperty will cost us the earth.”
— Andreas Malm, *How to Blow Up a Pipeline*
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“Good History”? Or True History?

To the Editor:

While listening to the push for the Smithsonian to promote “good American History,” the push to rename military bases after Confederate generals and restoring historical monuments of these same Confederates, I reread some “real” historic documents and thought about what history teaches us today.

I freely confess that some of these words are plagiarized.

Two hundred and forty nine years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. For the last few months we have been engaged in a struggle testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure.

If we are to have military bases and monuments named for and dedicated to Confederate generals, let it not be to honor them, but as a reminder of who and what they were. For the most part they were rich oligarchs who believed that it was a God given right to own a human being if their skin was not white. Let us remember that these were men who tried to destroy our nation so that they could preserve their class, their wealth and their privilege. Let us also remember the destruction and sacrifice that prevented these oligarchs from destroying the nation that the Declaration of Independence had conceived and created.

Today we have our own oligarchs. While not necessarily promoting overt slavery, they seem to be setting out to craft a government that promotes their class and their wealth at the expense of those of us who do not have a billion dollars. Is this really how Elon and Donald want to make America Great?

It is for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Dannen Mannshreck

Barrington, N.H.

Dannen:

If we had magical powers—a common

delusion these days, it seems—we’d use them to impose a little self-awareness on the goon squad that’s running this country off the rails. They go on and on about “liberal snowflakes,” yet they’re blind to their own deep fear of the truth.

We encourage them to embrace it. It can be done. Here, for example, is some of our true history:

This newspaper was founded in 1756 by Daniel Fowle, the 3rd cousin, five times removed, of our current editor. His wife, Lydia, was the daughter of Hugh Hall, a Boston merchant whose considerable wealth was derived in no small part from trafficking enslaved people. From the time of his marriage in 1751, until his death in 1787, Daniel’s printing shop was deeply reliant upon the enslaved labor of an African man called Primus.

Nowadays we abhor the practice of chattel slavery, and rightly so. And yet, we cannot find it in our heart to condemn Daniel entirely.

In the “Monster of Monsters” incident, which saw him thrown without due process of law into Boston’s stone gaol, he emerged—not without irony, we admit—as a defiant upholder of liberty. Throughout his long career as an industrious printer, he was respected for his skill and the quality of his work. And, of course, he founded this, New Hampshire’s first newspaper, and, since 1839, the nation’s oldest. For those things, we honor him.

The further out one goes on the right end of the political spectrum, the less tolerance one finds for ambiguity. Scratch a fascist, and you’ll find fear.

This newspaper, due to its seniority, could be considered a sort of national monument. And here we are, saying that its origin story carries within it a moral taint. Perhaps we should be arrested.

We won’t be hard to find.

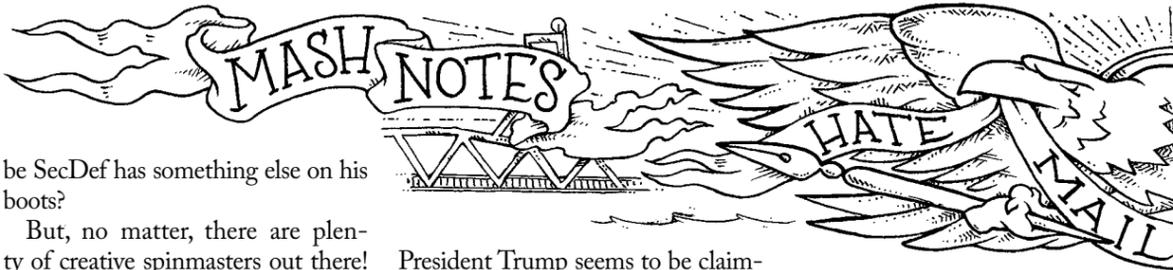
The Editor

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Is That Dust? Or Just BS?

To the Editor:

I have little to add to the many comments regarding the Signal debacle, except that the “dust on boots” phrase that was offered as part of Secretary Hegseth’s credentials as a warrior with valor who also looked good on Fox, is starting to smell a little off. May-



be SecDef has something else on his boots?

But, no matter, there are plenty of creative spinmasters out there! Whenever a reasonable doubt is expressed about the current Administration’s plans, we are reminded that the American people want this. Heck, the election was a “landslide,” and the current president has a “Mandate.” So stop with the questions! And don’t quibble about the greater number of voters who did not vote for DJT (he got 49.8 percent of the popular vote, which is pretty feeble as landslides go). Oh... the Electoral College was decisive... and don’t quibble about the fact that the EC win was very close in quite a few states. If one were conspiracy-minded, one might wonder if any Musk minions were tinkering with the voting equipment in the swing states.

Enough said,
Beth McCarthy
Tamworth, N.H.

Beth:

Definitely getting a whiff of the barn.
The Editor

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Is This The Best They Can Do?

To the Editor:

It is both shocking and unsurprising how the Trump administration is trying to deflect the blame for its own lapse in security to Editor-in-Chief of *The Atlantic*.

The real issue is that the parties to the discussion of the bombing in Yemen were using Signal, an encrypting app used by many Americans. Signal is not intended for government level classified information. All discussions must be via government-approved methods. When confronted by members of the intelligence committees investigating this, the responses have been conflicting. The participants continue to insist nothing classified was mentioned, even though they discussed details of an upcoming, ongoing attack, which could well have endangered our troops. Meanwhile,

President Trump seems to be claiming, “no harm, no foul,” even as he says he learned about this from the news, not his staff.

Furthermore, it appears that at least one participant was out of the country. Participants may not even have been using government-approved devices or facilities, such as a SCIF.

Why were the participants using Signal? In 2023, the Dept. of Defense banned using Signal for certain unclassified information. Signal users can set messages to “disappear” after a specific period of time. It is possible that the app was chosen for that particular attribute. Signal may be more widely used by this administration to circumvent the Federal Records Act than we suspect. This law requires all government communications to be archived for certain periods of time.

We citizens deserve better from this administration.

Lorraine L. Hansen

Rollinsford, N.H.

Lorraine:

At the rate things are going, Hegseth may be out of a job before this paper hits the street. A poll published Monday said 38 percent of Republican voters want him to resign, while only 33 percent want him to stay.

Also on Monday: Hegseth broke the Iron-O-Meter by tweeting, “For far too long, we have allowed standards to slip...” Shockingly, that was not the first line of his resignation letter, but a claim that it’s women in the ranks—not inebriated incompetents—that are lowering our military capacity.
The Editor

====

It’s Time to Fight Like Hell

To the Editor:

I turned in my town election ballot and walked toward the exit when a friend stopped me and asked why I

don’t write letters for the *Gazette* anymore. I told her, “I feel like I’m preaching to the choir.”

Pretty lame excuse for feeling hopeless!

Okay, time to stop whimpering and get creative. In Ukraine, and now in America, spring marks the beginning of “fighting season.” And, according to one pathologically unreliable source, if we don’t fight like hell, we won’t have a country.

Especially true for us Senior Citizens—AKA Vampire Bats—who are responsible for draining the lifeblood of our great nation. In fact, by MAGA and MUSK standards, the most patriotic thing we gerontological freeloaders could do is to take a long walk off a short pier!

Lacking our voluntary willingness to leave the planet early, Washington’s remedy is to rip away our health care coverage, privatize Social Security, and rig the system to steal our generational wealth. Nice!

Isn’t it time for us old dogs to come up with some new tricks?

Rick Littlefield

Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

It’s unfortunate that your return to our pages was apparently dependent upon a lawless campaign of utter destruction unleashed upon every element of our national government that actually served the people, but welcome back just the same. Let’s get to work turning this thing around!
The Editor

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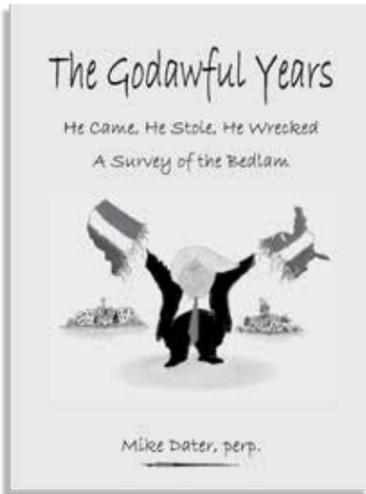
Remember Smoot-Hawley!

To the editor:

In 1930, early in the Great Depression, an isolationist Congress passed the Smoot-Hawley Act. It imposed thousands of new tariffs on imported goods. The intent was to protect do-

You Suffered Through Them...

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a compendium of drawings by Mike Dater most of which first appeared in *The New Hampshire Gazette*
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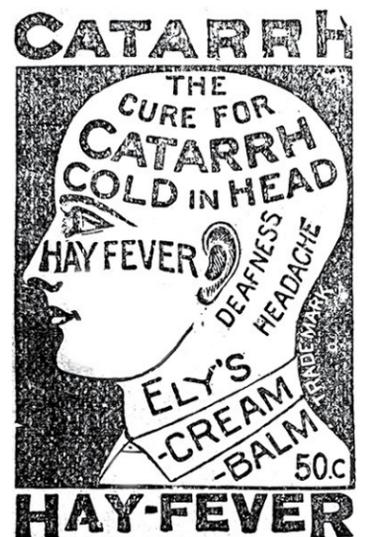
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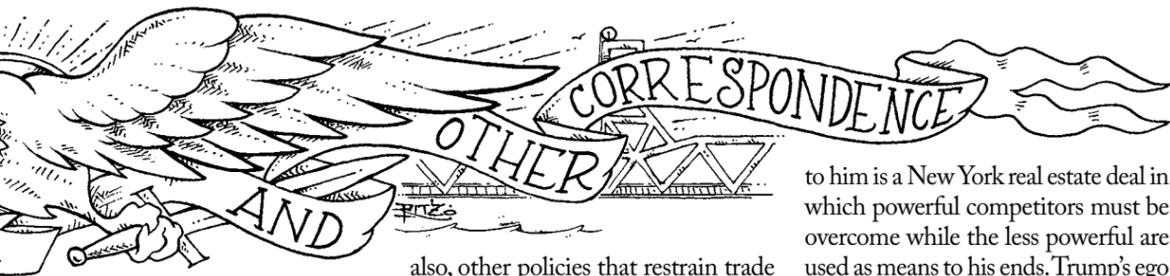
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mestic industry and shelter agricultural and manufacturing jobs from foreign competition. Smoot-Hawley failed on both counts. Trading partners quickly placed retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports and the resulting trade war significantly worsened the Depression, reducing global trade by two-thirds. The tariff disruptions contributed to global economic chaos, increasing international instability which facilitated the rise of Fascism in Europe prior to World War II.

At the end of the war, leaders of the allies met at Bretton Woods, N.H. to discuss the creation of a post-war economic framework that would prevent the chaos that led to World War II. The reduction of excessive tariffs such as those in Smoot-Hawley was an important item for discussion. Consequently, in 1947, a series of meetings began among global trading partners with the goal of reducing tariffs. They were called the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT); five GATT rounds met between 1947 and 1994. The negotiations were remarkably successful. The average tariff in 1947 between trade partners was 22 percent; at the end of the GATT rounds in 1994, it was 5 percent. Tariff levels have stayed low. In 2016, before Trump started his first round of tariff increases, average tariffs for several nations were: U.S.-1.61 percent, EU-1.61 percent, Japan-1.35 percent, Canada-.85 percent, Mexico-4.36 percent and China-3.54 percent. Given this data, it is difficult to understand Trump's justification for levying tariffs on a wide range of goods from virtually all trading partners because the U.S. is getting "ripped off" by them (caution should be taken in interpreting these statistics—they are averages, and tariffs may vary across products and industry sectors within countries;

also, other policies that restrain trade may be present).

The persistent reduction of tariffs over the past eighty years has stimulated trade which, in turn, has led to increased global prosperity. This is an undeniable fact despite glaring deficiencies in the process that have hollowed out the industrial base in the U.S. and increased levels of inequality. However, neither of these outcomes was necessary had enlightened policy guided globalization of trade and both can be remedied without the initiation of a global trade war.

The elimination of trade restraints was achieved through collaborative negotiations among partners who were willing to compromise to achieve integrated, mutually beneficial solutions. Eighty years of economic collaboration have created a network of allies and trusted partners who share not only trade relationships but also cooperate in defense and foreign policy matters. Without these relationships, the U.S. could not have achieved the prosperity and influence that it currently enjoys. Trump's incoherent tariff policy threatens these partnerships and therefore America's status as a global leader.

Trump's imperious perspective on tariffs is reminiscent of Smoot-Hawley. He intends to levy comprehensive tariffs indiscriminately and without discussion or negotiation with trading partners. He has no understanding of the long-term consequences of his actions. Despite claims that he is a master negotiator, Trump lacks the competencies to engage in the complex collaboration necessary to achieve mutually beneficial solutions in a multipolar international context. He is a narcissistic authoritarian who perceives all negotiation as a zero-sum game in which "winning" is the only acceptable solution. Every negotiation

to him is a New York real estate deal in which powerful competitors must be overcome while the less powerful are used as means to his ends. Trump's ego prevents his understanding that, in the international order, collaboration and respect among partners is necessary for supporting U.S. primacy. Bullying and browbeating partners will not "make America rich" when other options are available to erstwhile allies. China and others are eager to fill the void left by Trump's egocentric policies. He is playing checkers on the world stage; we need to beware of competitors who are playing 3-D chess.

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

Robert:

Thanks for this concise view of the interplay of tariffs and trade agreements over nearly a century. As we might have expected, this history suggests that Trump's policies in this regard are profoundly stupid.

We may be way off base here, having no credentials to speak on the matter, but it seems to us there's a factor at play here that hasn't gotten enough attention. What's the problem they're supposedly trying to fix? The collapse of U.S. manufacturing, and the disappearance of all those good-paying jobs.

How did that happen? Big businesses—assisted every step of the way by Republican politicians—shipped those jobs overseas, in pursuit of fatter profits for stockholders and CEOs. Naturally, to get away with this, the same actors had to do everything in their power to gut the unions that had forced those businesses to pay workers well in the first place.

In other words, the god-like "Free Hand of the Market" created the problem it's now allegedly trying to fix. Pardon us for not having faith.

The Editor

====

Who Voted for "Make America Russia"?

To the Editor,

While having dinner with a friend in a local establishment I looked up

at the TV and saw ski-masked jack-booted thugs frog marching shackled, shaven-headed people—yes, people—across a parking lot and into buses, a scene I might have expected in footage from the Nazi Germany era. It's possible to deport people with dignity, but that's a word of which the present administration has no conception.

What else is the present administration doing? Here's a headline from BBC News: "Arlington Cemetery strips content on black and female veterans from website" (among them, Medal of Honor recipients). Why? — To comply with the president's campaign against diversity, equity and inclusion. And then there's this, from the AP: "A week after President Donald Trump turned the White House lawn into a Tesla infomercial for Elon Musk's cars, a second sales pitch by a U.S. official occurred, this time for Tesla stock. 'It will never be this cheap,' U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said Wednesday. 'Buy Tesla.'"

Another word of which the current administration is ignorant, being given over to blatant wholesale corruption and law breaking, is discreet. With a voting bloc that fails to recognize that the scofflaw they so adore has no use for any of them whose wealth isn't measured in the billions (or at least high millions) and a Congress more than half composed of fearful sycophants, the country's only remaining hope is the judiciary. If it can't rein in this bunch of crooked, unethical, scurrilous, narcissistic megalomaniacal oligarchs, the first part of Fiona Hill's observation in *There Is Nothing for You Here*, that "Russia is America's Ghost of Christmas Future, a harbinger of things to come if we can't adjust course and heal our political polarization," might very well be realized.

John Simon
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:

Since the video you describe was shown, a new one has surfaced: people in civilian clothes, some masked, some not, accosting a Tufts grad student with a valid F-1 student visa and shoving her into an unmarked vehicle. Rumeysa Ozturk

is now being held at an ICE facility in Louisiana.

We are awash in corruption, and our institutions are collapsing too fast to keep count. As Mao allegedly said, "There is great chaos under heaven, [hence] the situation is excellent!"

The dire consequences of this administration's lunatic policies have only begun to appear, and already Republican Members of Congress are afraid to face their constituents back home.

What better time for a bold, articulate argument in favor of policies that actually serve the people? Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez are showing how it's done right now.

The Editor

====

MAGA is Literally Sickening

Dear Editor,

During COVID, a high school classmate, Frank, believed MAGA lies that denounced masking and vaccinations, with macho fury. Following Trump's lead, he distrusted medical science and was sure its prevention advice was a hoax. Yep, he got sick, hospitalized, and... he recovered... somewhat. Long COVID continues to sap his energy and mess with his mind.

Frank is one of the lucky MAGA believers who is not among more than 300,000 [1] dead Americans (of 1,136,052 total) [2] whose death could have been prevented had they followed medical experts' advice instead of mendacious political demagogues.

Our whole country benefits from true facts being openly shared. Censoring truth and denying facts doesn't make a health crisis go away, it assures that more of us will get sick and possibly die.

We need truth, unpolluted with lies. Don't let MAGA health policies take away the special sauce that makes America truly great.

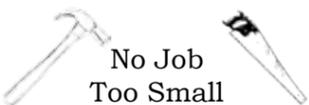
1- Vaccine Preventable Deaths Analysis Study: <https://globalepidemics.org/vaccinations/>

2 - American Deaths from Covid until June, 2023: <https://data.cdc.gov/>

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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from page five

NCHS/Provisional-COVID-19-Death-Counts-by-Age-in-Years-3apk-4u4/about_data

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.
Bruce:
One hopes Frank learned something from his illness, but...
The Editor

The Worst Idea in History?

To the Editor:
I served almost 20 years in the U.S. Military and most of it, was in shame of our despicable leaders in the White House, with the exception of President Reagan's last year, which was my first year on active duty.

I did not care for President Trump in the beginning, but I must confess I think he is turning out to be a Great American President.

EVERY DAY, HE "STEPS UP TO THE PLATE"... GRAND SLAM HOMERUN!

President Trump has eluded to the fact that he would be interested in "Serving a third term" and that there may be a "method" to make that happen.

I know what that method is. On every Presidential ballot, on election day, they list the party candidates as Republican, Democrat, Green and Independent but there is ONE MORE SPACE, called the "WRITE IN CANDIDATE."

IF the AMERICAN PEOPLE decided to "WRITE IN" — "TRUMP/VANCE," President Trump would NOT be running, violating the U.S. Constitutional restriction, but the American People COULD request President Trump serve another term and I think he would humbly accept the honor.

The DNC will sue but the Supreme Court of the United States will rule in favor of the people "REQUESTING" this Great Man, serve another four-year term!

So, let's start today, by coordinating "WRITE IN TRUMP/VANCE" parties and set up "block captains" as I did as a Democrat, but



I left as I could NOT in good conscious vote for Biden/Harris. **START ORGANIZING NOW!**

We'll need flyers, bumper stickers, Red MAGA hats that say... "MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN X3!"

I'm going to write every newspaper in America and we should ALL contact the RNC [Republican National Committee], with money in hand, to START the "WRITE IN TRUMP" Campaign, which should be the most inexpensive campaign in American History!

Join me, Patriots!
Let's "WRITE-IN TRUMP/VANCE 2028!"

I AM SO DAMNED PROUD TO CALL PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP, "MY" AMERICAN PRESIDENT!

"TRUMP/VANCE 2028!"
CTI2 JACQUES PORCHE,
USN Ret.

Las Vegas, Nev.
Jacques:

This is an absurdly bad idea, and you've expressed it poorly.

"Trump has eluded to the fact..." Trump doesn't know what a fact is, perhaps because they so often elude him.

Trump "would humbly accept the honor"? If humility hides somewhere in Trump's character, it is still virginal at the age of 78.

You are right about one thing: "with money in hand" is the only way to get the attention of the RNC.

In the fall of 2023 there were 6,000 newspapers in this country. Five bucks says this letter won't make it into five percent of them. What's our excuse? A profoundly perverse sense of humor.

The Editor

Chief Enabler Roberts

Dear Editor,
Here is the MAGA hypocrisy of the day. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick recently complained

about fraud in Social Security, saying "Fraudsters always make the loudest noise." Mr. Lutnick, you are describing your boss, who is always screaming "Witch hunt."

Here is a thought for the day. Why would Chief Justice Roberts take the time to shelter the President from prosecution for crimes committed during his administration if the President wasn't planning to commit some and the Chief Justice wasn't expecting him to commit some? There would be no need for immunity if both these characters were expecting #47 to run an honest and legal operation, right? John Roberts knew what was coming and he wanted to enable it.

Now we are seeing presidential immunity being extended to cabinet members and White House staff, like those responsible for the "bomb Yemen" group chat war plans leak. This was the plan all along. The Chief Executive and his Chief Justice bootlicker John Roberts want to provide legal cover for any and all misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance, and violent, anti-American behavior committed by anybody who takes on the sacred name of Donald Trump as savior of the world.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah
Kimball,
That's a pretty cynical assessment of the nation's #1 jurist.

Not that we're inclined to defend Roberts—not after what he's done to this country.

You make it sound, though, as if there's some kind of specific scheme afoot, a conspiracy, if you will.

We think it far more likely that this is yet another example of a highly-placed personage, treated for far too long with far too much deference, losing touch with the fact that, in the end, he's just another featherless biped, no better or worse than the rest of us who suffer from his rulings.

Nothing wrong with him that a five year stretch picking potatoes up in "The County" can't correct.

Perhaps we'll regret writing this, once Pam Bondi's jackbooted thugs have dragged us away. We really have no honorable choice, though. This fortnight we still have a free press. If we don't use it when we have it, we don't deserve it.

The Editor

Defend Portsmouth with Your Property Taxes

To the Editor:

With attacks on our democracy, and attempts to dictate to states on issues such as education and health care, we need a plan to protect Portsmouth residents from the overreach coming from Washington and our state government.

We cannot depend on our state government or the national administration to protect our quality of life. We must do it ourselves. Our most powerful tool is the property taxes that we pay. No one, including me, wants to pay more taxes. But I am determined to protect the great life that I enjoy in this city.

To clarify: property taxes are mostly determined by external forces. The value of our homes is determined by market conditions and

Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable Date and Location Change

Due to a conflict with another event by the Portsmouth Democratic Committee THIS MONTH, the monthly Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable will be held Not on a Tuesday but on Wednesday, April 9th, from 6:30 to -8:00 p.m., at a New local restaurant in Portsmouth. We are hoping that the new restaurant will be better suited to have a large group conversation, so please come and try it. Call or contact Peter Somssich for the location.

the attractiveness of Portsmouth as a place to live. This determines the total assessed value of homes and businesses, which the state uses to calculate the tax rate. The other factor that we do control is our city's budget. This includes our school budget, the fire department, the police department, the public works department, county expenses and finally the municipal budget.

Personally, I feel our schools are doing a good job, and would oppose cuts to their budget. This is also the case for our fire department and our police department, which is currently understaffed and needs a 21st century police station. If cuts need to be made, our city budget should be reduced somewhat after experiencing significant increases. Paying my property taxes is my way of defending Portsmouth for myself and future generations.

Peter Somssich
former N.H. State Representative
Portsmouth, N.H.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

twelve persons lost their lives, and twenty others were badly hurt. The bridge had been wrecked by ice.

By the wrecking of a train on the Rutland railroad near Bellows Falls, Vt., April 6th, the engineer and firemen were killed and a number of others hurt.

By a locomotive explosion at Newburgh, N.Y., April 6th, three men were killed.

Missing Links

A Knightsville (Me.) family has moved 67 times in the last eighteen years.

It has been found that the poppy flourishes in Florida, and some are predicting that some day the production of opium will be one of the chief industries of the state.

Gen. Dan Sickles says that the

Congress of 1860-'61 lived on cocktails and fusel-oil animosities, and that whisky really brought about the Rebellion. He adds that "if the French Assembly were to drink some morning one-half the whisky consumed in one day by the Congress of 1860, France would declare war on Germany in 20 minutes."

"Sits the Wind in That Corner"

Captain S. Livingston, late fleet captain of the south Atlantic Squadron, has taken advantage of the law of retirement for naval officers, and been put on the retired list at his own request. This action has removed the necessity for a court of inquiry as to the difficulty between himself and Rear Admiral Braine, in which it is charged that both exchanged opinions of each other that were de-

to next page

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What Anti-Semitism Is Not

by W.D. Ehrhart

No thoughtful person could possibly ever justify or condone what Hamas did in southern Israel on October 7th, 2023. But the level of destruction, misery, death, and inhumanity inflicted upon Gaza and the people of Palestine in the 18 months since then just plain beggars the imagination.

According to the French ambassador to the United Nations, 80 percent of the civilian infrastructure in Gaza has been damaged or destroyed. Every hospital in Gaza has been damaged, and not one is fully functional. Half of them are closed. Famine is widespread, and the entire civilian population has been displaced multiple times.

Humanitarian assistance has been difficult or impossible to deliver, and over 300 humanitarian aid workers have been killed. As of January, the British Broadcasting Corporation reports that 92 percent of all civilian housing has been destroyed. Water and sanitation facilities have been damaged or destroyed. Schools have ceased to function; those that have not been destroyed have become refugee collection points.

Though the UN says that at least a million Palestinian children are in need of mental health support, Save the Children reports that all six of its community mental health centers are closed, along with the only inpatient psychiatric hospital.

India's NDTV reports that as of January, 68 percent of Palestinian farmland has been rendered unusable, along with 88 percent of irrigation systems, orchards, farm

machinery, and barns.

Worst of all, some 50,000 Palestinians have been killed in the past 18 months, including 13,300 children. Another 97,000 have been wounded. And the psychological damage to hundreds of thousands is incalculable.

All this in retaliation for the October 7th attack that killed 1200 Israelis, including 329 soldiers and 58 police officers, along with the 251 hostages Hamas kidnapped, some of whom have died in captivity.

As I said, and I meant it and mean it, nothing good can be said about what Hamas did that day. The history of Palestine and Israel is long and complicated and bitter, and I am not going to try to argue who is right and who is wrong.

But anyone with an ounce of objectivity need only look at the incredibly grotesque imbalance between what Hamas did that day and what Israel has been doing ever since to conclude that the disproportionate response of the Israeli government and the Israeli Defense Forces is simply vindictive revenge. And revenge inflicted mostly not on the people who attacked Israel, but on hundreds of thousands of innocent bystanders who just happen to have been born in the wrong place.

What I am saying here is not antisemitism. I don't care what you say or what you think. Opposing the policies of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli government, and the IDF is not antisemitism. Opposing the mass destruction of a people and a land in response to the unjustifiable and murderous actions of a small proportion of that population is not



Refugees in a camp in Gaza, 1956. Cropped from a photo by Israeli journalist Boris Carmi. From the Pritzker Family National Photography Collection, in the National Library of Israel. Published under CC license 4.0.

antisemitism. Decrying the suffering, misery, and pain inflicted on the people of Palestine is not antisemitism. Supporting the humanity, the dignity, and the right to live in peace for Palestinians (or any other group, for that matter, be they Ukrainians or Uighurs or Rohingyas) is not antisemitism.

To insist that unless I wholeheartedly and uncritically support the policies and actions of the government of Israel, I am antisemitic is simply a form of bullying, an attempt to silence me by intimidation.

I am not going to try to argue that some of my best friends are Jewish, though many of them are. I am not going to argue that many of my Jewish friends are appalled by what the Israeli government and the IDF have been doing in the Occupied Territories and Gaza, though many of them are. I am not even going to argue that I've been enjoying watching Steve Lang playing Samuel in

"The House of David," though I am.

But I am going to argue that opposing the policies of the Israeli government does not mean I hate Jews. Opposing the policies of the Israeli government does not mean I think the state of Israel has no right to exist. Opposing the policies of the Israeli government simply means I don't approve of what the Israeli government is doing in and to Gaza and the West Bank.

I don't approve of the policies of the U.S. government, certainly not since January 20th, but that doesn't mean I hate Americans or think the United States has no right to exist. Opposing a government is simply not the equivalent of opposing a nation or a people or a religion. It's not. Period.

====

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

When Greedy Corporations Want a Stupid Law, They Come to Texas

by Jim Hightower

Texas: What the Hell?

Once again, my state's GOP hierarchy is leading the nation in creative ways to increase corporate power over people's rights. This time, lawmakers are rushing to protect corrupt executives from legal challenges by their own shareholders!

Their law would ban rank-and-file owners of corporate giants from suing their CEOs and other top officials for financial malfeasance. In particular, it's a heavy-handed attempt to prohibit shareholders from suing bosses who lavish shareholder funds on extravagant pay and luxury perks for themselves.

But leave it to Lone Star Republicans to make a bad law worse. Indeed, they say they only want to bar suits by "pesky" small investors—people who own less than three percent of a corporation's stock. But that's a flimflam, since almost no one owns more than three percent of any big corporation. And the few who do are huge Wall Street operators and multibillionaires—and they're not about to sue a fellow-richie for being greedy.

So the Texas law would effectively institutionalize a corrupt, closed-loop protection racket, freeing self-serving executives from internal accountability.

Speaking of corrupt, who wrote this boondoggle? It's sponsored by Dustin Burrows, the top official of the Texas House, but he doesn't write bills—he totes bills written by big campaign donors, corporate lobbyists, and right-wing extremists. In this case, he's working for all three.

Burrows brags that his scam will be a boon for our state, because it'll prompt CEOs everywhere to move their corporations here to take advantage of this law. Sure—corporations up to no good! Who needs 'em? And if they set a precedent in Texas, I guarantee you they'll be pushing it in your state next.

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from previous page

cidedly uncomplimentary and disgraceful. Capt. Breese was on duty at this naval station some years since.

Affairs in Kittery, Maine

Mrs. Ruth Scriggins, a lady nearly eighty years old, broke one of her arms by a fall several days ago. The old lady set it herself, and had it bound up with pasteboard and bandages, but when Dr. Willis of Eliot was called in a day or two later he found that a half-turn had been put in the broken arm, so that the hand turned away from the body. He rectified the error, and the patient is now doing quite as well as could be expected from her advanced years. Sub Rosa.

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York County, Me., Items

Edmire Lingelier, a French woman 102 years old, walked into a furniture store in Biddeford a few days ago, and bought a bedstead.

John C. Woodman of Saco, aged thirty-six, son of Horace Woodman, president of the Biddeford & Saco Gas Co., cut his throat with a jack-knife while in bed on the night of the 3d inst. He was suffering with erysipelas, and it is thought that the deed was committed during temporary insanity. He was unmarried.

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The rebs having got full control of the national government, would like the army also. Senator Daniel of Virginia on the 6th inst. introduced a bill to repeal the statute which provides that no person who served in

the military, naval or civil service of the "so-called Confederate States" shall be appointed to any position in the army of the United States.

New Hampshire Gazette

April 12, 1888

News and Notes

An attempt to evict a farmer on the Des Moines river lands was defeated by armed men, who drove away the marshal and the incoming tenant with shotgun arguments.

At Macon, Miss., April 13th, Thomas Norris, editor of the Democrat, was fatally beaten with an iron bar by Alexander Hudson of the Times, the assault being a cowardly one, from behind. Both are democrats.

Mr. Labouchere, editor of the London Truth, says the prince im-

perial of Russia is weak, mentally and physically—in fact, almost an idiot.

Young Beal, of Clinton, Me., has been indicted for the murder of his father.

An epidemic of measles exists in the Wabash valley in Indiana and Illinois.

A New York World correspondent declares prohibition a failure in Maine, and predicts repeal of the law. He won't live long enough to see it repealed.

New Hampshire Gazette

April 19, 1888

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Our thanks to the Portsmouth Athenaeum, holder of the newspapers from which the items above were excerpted. — The Ed.

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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

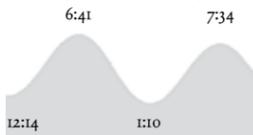
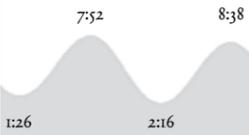
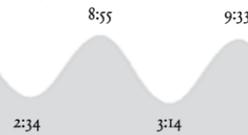
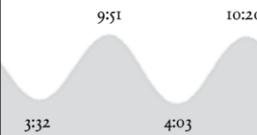
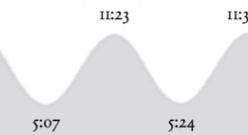
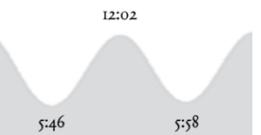
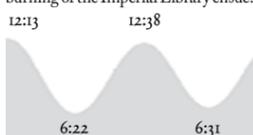
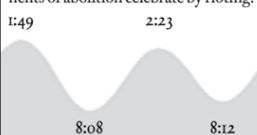
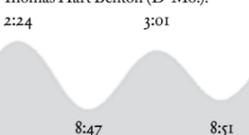
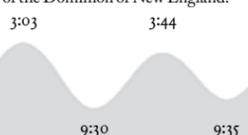
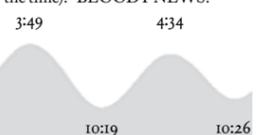
whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

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, APRIL 6	MONDAY, APRIL 7	TUESDAY, APRIL 8	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9	THURSDAY, APRIL 10	FRIDAY, APRIL 11	SATURDAY, APRIL 12
<p>2016—For each of the 29 miners killed in his death trap, coal mine owner Don Blankenship is sentenced to serve 12.5 days in jail.</p> <p>2009—A year before it blows up, BP's Deepwater Horizon gets relief from oppressive federal over-regulation.</p> <p>1992—Donald E. Harding gasps, moans, and makes obscene hand gestures for five minutes before dying in Arizona's gas chamber.</p> <p>1977—"If the president does it," Richard Nixon tells David Frost, "that means it's not illegal."</p> <p>1968—Oakland police shoot it out with the Black Panthers. Bobby Hutton, 18 and unarmed, is killed.</p> <p>1967—Knocked overboard three miles off North Vietnam, U.S. sailor Doug Hegdahl is saved by fishermen. Two years later he's set free, with memorized details of 256 POWs.</p> <p>1967—In Palo Alto, Robert Jones announces a Third Wave Presidential candidate will speak the next day.</p> <p>1954—"The time has come," says JFK, "for the American people to be told the truth about Vietnam."</p> <p>1917—Woodrow Wilson, the peace candidate, declares war on Germany.</p> <p>1909—Matthew Henson, Blackshare-cropper's son, is the first non-Inuit to set foot on the North Pole. Admiral Peary stays in the sled but later takes credit.</p> <p>1712—Twenty-three enslaved Africans revolt in New York, killing nine whites and injuring six others; 21 are eventually convicted and hanged.</p>	<p>2013—A new heel is inducted into the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame: bankrupt blowhard Donald J. Trump.</p> <p>2003—U.S. troops take Baghdad. It is a great victory.</p> <p>2003—SCOTUS reduces the <i>Exxon Valdez</i> settlement by 90% because punitive damages violate Exxon's rights.</p> <p>1990—Once and future Bush appointee John Poindexter is found guilty of multiple Iran/Contra felonies; he later wriggles free on appeal.</p> <p>1972—With a toy grenade and empty pistol, 'Nam vet Richard McCoy, Jr. hijacks a 727, then parachutes out the back with \$500K. McCoy, a National Guard chopper pilot, is arrested days later while searching for himself.</p> <p>1970—California's Governor Reagan announces his highly nuanced position on student demonstrations: "If it takes a bloodbath, let's get it over with."</p> <p>1967—In Palo Alto, Robert Jones tells his students that they've been part of an experiment in fascism, then screens a documentary about Nazis.</p> <p>1966—The U.S. discovers an H-bomb it had lost off the coast of Spain.</p> <p>1926—In Rome, Violet Gibson, 49, the tiny, frail, and deranged daughter of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, shoots Mussolini in the face.</p> <p>1860—Challenged by Rep. Roger Pryor [D-Va.], Rep. John F. Potter [R-Wisc.] proposes dueling with bowie knives; Pryor's seconds decline.</p> <p>1775—"Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel," says Samuel Johnson.</p>	<p>2018—Fox "News" accidentally broadcasts a graphic showing results of a poll: Fox is the least-trusted network.</p> <p>1984—R. Nixon gripes, "It's the media's responsibility to examine the President with a microscope...but when they use a proctoscope, it's going too far."</p> <p>1974—Hank Aaron breaks Ruth's homer record; death threats ensue.</p> <p>1956—USMC recruits are marched into a Parris Island swamp for disciplinary purposes. Six of them drown.</p> <p>1952—With the steel industry adamantly opposing wage increases, Truman orders its nationalization.</p> <p>1947—Frederick von Hayek, Ludwig von Mises, Milton Friedman, et al. issue a manifesto at Mont Pelerin obfuscating their goal: neo-feudalism.</p> <p>1945—Allied planes hit a German ammo train next to a train full of prisoners going to Bergen-Belsen; 100s of survivors are shot trying to escape.</p> <p>1917—At the U.S. Embassy in Bern, future CIA head Allen Dulles gets a call from V.I. Lenin begging for an immediate meeting. Dulles, who has a date with buxom Swedish twins, puts him off. Lenin boards a train to Petrograd and starts a Revolution.</p> <p>1885—U.S. troops invade Panama, "to defend our national interests."</p> <p>1826—To uphold their honor, Sec. of State Henry Clay and Sen. John Randolph [D-R-Va.] shoot at each other.</p> <p>217—As he pisses against a wall, Emperor Caracalla is stabbed to death by a disgruntled Roman soldier.</p>	<p>2018—Other networks report that the FBI raided the office of President Trump's lawyer; Fox reports that pandas—a non-native species, let's recall—are aggressive and sex-crazed.</p> <p>2006—"Scooter" Libby says "W" OK'd leaks of secret CIA intel.</p> <p>1967—"We appeal to North Vietnam," says a veteran-bought ad in the <i>N.Y. Times</i>, "if they really want peace, to stop bombing the United States—or else get the hell out of Vietnam!"</p> <p>1961—The two top planners of the Bay of Pigs invasion, now eight days off, tell their boss Dick Bissell that it is bound to fail. He says do it anyway.</p> <p>1948—Violating a recently-signed peace pact, Zionists attack Deir Yassin and massacre up to 140 Palestinians.</p> <p>1927—In Massachusetts, death sentences issued against Nicolas Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are upheld. Judge Webster Thayer, during their trial, called them "anarchist bastards."</p> <p>1923—The Supreme Court says a minimum wage would violate women's rights to negotiate their own terms with employers. Yes, you read that right, the Court just decided it wrong.</p> <p>1906—American Pentecostalism first erupts at William Seymour's Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles.</p> <p>1892—In a Wyoming cabin, shot at by cattle barons' 22 hired guns, Nate Champion writes a note to his pals. When the cabin's torched, he comes out shooting and dies from 28 slugs.</p> <p>1865—Lee surrenders to Grant.</p>	<p>2018—Goldman Sachs warns clients of a downside to gene therapy: there is no cash flow from a cured patient.</p> <p>2017—The State Street Saloon burns.</p> <p>2005—Huge mobs of Iraqis mark the 2nd anniversary of Saddam Hussein's fall, shouting "No, No to Satan!" and demanding that U.S. troops leave.</p> <p>1972—Crooked financier Robert Vesco slips \$200,000 to Nixon's re-election campaign; Attorney General John Mitchell then cuts him slack.</p> <p>1970—Dick "Dick" Nixon's lawyers backdate a deed giving his papers to the National Archives so he can illegally claim a tax deduction.</p> <p>1963—Lee Harvey Oswald takes a shot at U.S. Army General Edwin Walker because he's leader of a "fascist organization." Fact check: True.</p> <p>1963—The USS <i>Thresher</i> implodes 220 miles east of Boston killing 16 officers, 96 sailors, and 17 civilians.</p> <p>1947—Actors Guild head Ronald Reagan rats out members to HUAC.</p> <p>1945—Doctors at Oak Ridge inject Ebb Cade, a Black car wreck victim, with plutonium to see what happens.</p> <p>1928—Illinois holds the "Pineapple Primary," named for the 62 bombings which preceded the balloting.</p> <p>1919—Deceived by a colonel being blackmailed by a general, Emiliano Zapata is ambushed. His killers are cheated of half of their bounty.</p> <p>1865—Rioters in Portsmouth destroy the office of Joshua Foster's Copperhead newspaper <i>The States and Union</i>.</p>	<p>2011—Pres. B. Obama mocks birther Donald Trump at the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Uh-oh....</p> <p>2006—Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney's first pitch at the Nationals' home opener draws jeers and catcalls.</p> <p>2002—Venezuelan generals replace elected President Hugo Chavez with CIA-approved Pedro Carmona.</p> <p>1985—Reagan, it's said, will lay a wreath at Bitburg, where American and German soldiers lie buried. Nope—that's Waffen SS-only.</p> <p>1968—Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968 into law.</p> <p>1966—Set out as bait at Xa Cam My by the CO of the Big Red One, Charlie Co., 2/16th Inf., 134 strong, is ambushed. Relief plans go awry, friendly fire happens; 36 KIA, 71 WIA.</p> <p>1955—Chiang Kai-shek, the GOP's pet warlord, bombs an airliner. Target Zhou Enlai is not on board, though.</p> <p>1951—President Truman fires General MacArthur for insubordination.</p> <p>1950—A nuclear weapon's high explosives go off when a B-29 crashes near Albuquerque. Luckily no fissile core had been installed.</p> <p>1938—Richard Whitney, President of the New York Stock Exchange, gets five to 10 for larceny.</p> <p>1913—President Wilson orders federal agencies to segregate by race.</p> <p>1862—An errant balloon takes Portsmouth's own Gen. Fitz John Porter over Confederate lines, then back to safety during the Siege of Yorktown.</p>	<p>2007—#43's minions say official emails about fired U.S. Attorneys, sent from RNC servers, are now "lost."</p> <p>2001—Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney files his 2000 return; 14% of his adjusted gross came from Halliburton.</p> <p>1937—Sixty thousand U.S. students demonstrate against war.</p> <p>1933—In Oakland, brothers George and William Besler test fly a Travel Air biplane powered by a Doble steam engine; nearly silent, it works fine.</p> <p>1927—Shanghai's Green Gang begins slaughtering as many as 10,000 Communists on orders from Chiang Kai-shek—famous hero of our GOP.</p> <p>1888—When D.C. cops raid his soirée, William Dorsey Swann, born into slavery, becomes the first recorded female impersonator ever arrested.</p> <p>1867—William Bullock, inventor of the revolutionary web-fed rotary press, dies of complications after his legs is crushed in one such marvel.</p> <p>1864—At Ft. Pillow, Tenn., hundreds of surrendered Union soldiers—a few white, but mostly Black—are slaughtered by rebels under Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, future Klan Grand Wizard.</p> <p>1862—Union spies steal <i>The General</i>, a Confederate locomotive, in Georgia and head north. Conductor William A. Fuller, on foot, on a handcar, and finally in another locomotive, chases down and retrieves <i>The General</i>.</p> <p>1782—American militia troops massacre 100 neutral, Christian Indians of the Delaware Nation.</p>
<p>6:41 7:34</p>  <p>12:14 1:10</p>	<p>7:52 8:38</p>  <p>1:26 2:16</p>	<p>8:55 9:33</p>  <p>2:34 3:14</p>	<p>9:51 10:20</p>  <p>3:32 4:03</p>	<p>10:39 11:01</p>  <p>4:22 4:46</p>	<p>11:23 11:39</p>  <p>5:07 5:24</p>	<p>12:02</p>  <p>5:46 5:58</p>
SUNDAY, APRIL 13	MONDAY, APRIL 14	TUESDAY, APRIL 15	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16	THURSDAY, APRIL 17	FRIDAY, APRIL 18	SATURDAY, APRIL 19
<p>2012—GOP presidential candidate Newt Gingrich, in St. Louis to address the NRA, visits the zoo. It's Friday the 13th; a penguin bites him.</p> <p>2002—Venezuelans overrule the generals and their CIA advisors; Hugo Chavez is restored to the Presidency.</p> <p>1989—A Senate investigation reveals that the State Dept. paid more than \$806,000 to narcotic traffickers who were supplying Nicaraguan Contras, contravening the will of Congress.</p> <p>1953—CIA boss Allen Dulles says it's MKUltra time: start washing brains.</p> <p>1919—British troops following orders from Col. R.E.H. Dyer massacre at least 379 unarmed Indian men women and children at Amritsar, India.</p> <p>1917—Prescient President W. Wilson establishes the Committee on Public Information, 67 years prior to 1984.</p> <p>1901—French anarchist Clement Duval, after 14 years on Devil's Island, begins his 20th escape attempt. This time he makes it to New York City. He lives to be 85 and inspires <i>Papillon</i>.</p> <p>1873—Easter Sunday, Grant Parish, La.: the White League and the Klan kill 280 African-Americans in the Colfax Massacre.</p> <p>1788—A medical student waving a disembodied human arm out the window of New York Hospital scares a child who then squeals to his Papa.</p> <p>1204—The Fourth Crusade ends victoriously: Christians take Constantinople. Murder, rape, looting, and the burning of the Imperial Library ensue.</p>	<p>2006—Six retired generals sign an Op-Ed calling on Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to resign.</p> <p>2004—Attorney General John Ashcroft blames Bill Clinton for terrorist attacks that took place seven months after Clinton left office.</p> <p>1999—Dan Quayle throws his cute little propeller beanie into the ring.</p> <p>1994—Over Iraq, U.S. fighter jets shoot down two U.S. helicopters.</p> <p>1988—An Iranian mine nearly sinks the missile frigate USS <i>Roberts</i>.</p> <p>1975—Idaho's Bunker Hill Mining Co. says all female workers at its smelter must get sterilized to keep their jobs.</p> <p>1945—A new high-tech head floods U-1206 on its 1st patrol. Commander K.A. Schlitt scuttles the boat; four crewmen die, the rest are captured.</p> <p>1939—John Steinbeck's <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> is published.</p> <p>1935—A windstorm carries away vast amounts of Great Plains topsoil.</p> <p>1865—J.W. Booth shoots A. Lincoln.</p> <p>1861—Cannons salute the lowering flag at Fort Sumter. One explodes, giving Private Daniel Hough the honor of being the Civil War's first casualty.</p> <p>1860—The first Pony Express rider arrives in San Francisco.</p> <p>1788—A mob, led by the widower of a snatched and dissected woman, ransacks New York Hospital.</p> <p>1772—The County Sheriff tells South Weare, N.H. sawmill owners he's there to collect fines for their theft of the King's trees. They beat him up.</p>	<p>2024—D.J. Trump becomes the first U.S. president charged with 34 felonies to fall asleep during his own trial.</p> <p>2015—Doug Hughes, a USPS mail-carrier, lands a gyrocopter on the Capitol lawn to deliver 535 letters to Congress: "Overturn <i>Citizens United</i>."</p> <p>2015—Texan and safari guide Ian Gibson is crushed to death in Zimbabwe by the elephant he was stalking.</p> <p>2003—George W.[MD] Bush installs Gen. Jay Garner to administer Iraq "until an Iraqi government can be formed." He lasts less than a month.</p> <p>1994—Dick "Dick" Cheney explains on C-SPAN why G.H.[H.]W. Bush didn't topple Saddam: that would have created a "quagmire" in Iraq.</p> <p>1974—Press lord William Randolph Hearst's gun-totin' granddaughter Patty helps the Symbionese Liberation Army rob a San Francisco bank.</p> <p>1970—Rep. Gerald Ford: "Impeach Justice William O. Douglas."</p> <p>1961—The CIA bombs and strafes Cuban airfields with falsely-marked American B-26s.</p> <p>1953—Two grunts become the last U.S. ground troops killed by an enemy air strike: a bomb dropped by a North Korean flying a Russian Po-2 biplane.</p> <p>1788—Five thousand rioters storm a N.Y.C. jail to attack grave-robbing doctors. The militia restores order by firing on the mob, killing eight.</p> <p>1532—Richard Roose, a cook accused of poisoning a bishop, is boiled to death to satisfy English justice.</p>	<p>2008—"Thank you, your holiness," George W.[MD] Bush says to Pope Benedict. "Awesome speech."</p> <p>1992—Afghanistan's commie President Najibullah resigns, making way for a more enlightened government.</p> <p>1992—The House Ethics Committee—no laughing, please—releases the names of 303 check-kiting Reps.</p> <p>1969—Reverend Billy Graham advises Nixon: bomb North Vietnam's dikes; estimated casualties: 1 million.</p> <p>1963—Martin Luther King, Jr., writes "Letter From Birmingham Jail," defending civil disobedience.</p> <p>1954—"There is no reason why French forces should not remain in Indo-China and win," says Richard Nixon, three weeks before the Viet Minh overrun Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p>1953—Ike says militarism hangs humanity "from a cross of iron."</p> <p>1951—Hiroshima survivor Shigeki Tanaka wins the Boston Marathon.</p> <p>1951—Use nuke waste to create an "Atomic Death Belt" across Korea, says Rep. Albert Gore [D-Tenn.].</p> <p>1947—The fertilizer-laden SS <i>Grandcamp</i> explodes in Texas City, Texas; 581 die in the 3-kiloton blast.</p> <p>1862—Lincoln emancipates the enslaved in the District of Columbia, and pays reparations to the oppressors.</p> <p>1848—In Washington, D.C., 77 Blacks board the <i>Pearl</i> to flee north. Ill winds and a betrayal foil the largest escape attempt in U.S. history. Opponents of abolition celebrate by rioting.</p>	<p>2013—A fertilizer plant located next to a middle school in West, Texas, unsuspected since 1985, explodes. Fifteen are killed, mostly volunteer firemen, 250 others are injured.</p> <p>2002—G.W.[MD] Bush flip-flops again, vowing to rebuild Afghanistan.</p> <p>1986—Peace is declared between the Netherlands and the Isles of Scilly, ending a bloodless 335-year war.</p> <p>1986—Channeling his inner Nixon, Reagan pulls a limited hangout: yes, the Contra allies smuggled coke.</p> <p>1970—<i>Apollo 13</i> makes it home.</p> <p>1967—"The defeat of the Communist forces in South Vietnam is inevitable," says ex-Veep Richard Nixon. "The only question is, how soon?"</p> <p>1966—Timothy Leary is busted for pot possession by G. Gordon Liddy.</p> <p>1965—In New York City, 25,000 march against the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1961—The CIA escorts 1,511 Cuban exiles to the Bay of Pigs for slaughter.</p> <p>1959—In Times Square, 22 weirdos are arrested for declining to participate in an air-raid drill.</p> <p>1954—Affable old Ike threatens to nuke Red China.</p> <p>1935—Sun Myung Moon has a revelation: Jesus Christ asks him to complete His mission.</p> <p>1905—SCOTUS: the amendment giving rights to slaves denies states the right to limit the length of work days.</p> <p>1850—In the U.S. Senate, Henry S. Foote (D-Miss.) pulls a pistol on Thomas Hart Benton (D-Mo.).</p>	<p>2002—A U.S. F-16 pilot on "go pills" drops a 500-pounder: Four are KIA, eight are WIA in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry regiment.</p> <p>1986—"When you meet...President [Reagan]," says Henry Kissinger, "you ask yourself, 'How did it ever occur to anybody that he should be Governor, much less President?'"</p> <p>1985—President Ronald Reagan says Waffen SS troops buried at Bitburg were "victims, just as surely as the victims in the concentration camps."</p> <p>1977—The federal frame-up of Leonard Peltier succeeds.</p> <p>1974—As Professor Irwin Corey accepts Thomas Pynchon's National Book Award for <i>Gravity's Rainbow</i>, a streaker dashes across the stage.</p> <p>1968—The Army admits that nerve gas from Dugway Proving Ground killed 6,400 Idaho sheep.</p> <p>1942—Eighty men in 16 B-25s, led by Jimmy Doolittle, take off from the USS <i>Hornet</i>, bomb Tokyo, and ditch their planes in China; 90 percent survive.</p> <p>1930—The BBC newscast reports "there is no news," then plays music.</p> <p>1906—San Francisco gets shook up.</p> <p>1891—The Toledo Express hits a mail train in Kipton, Ohio; eight die because a watch was four minutes off.</p> <p>1844—Believers in William Miller's Doomsday prediction are disappointed—for the second time.</p> <p>1689—A mob of Bostonians overthrow Sir Edmund Andros, Governor of the Dominion of New England.</p>	<p>2004—NORAD reveals it once ran a training exercise based on a hijacked airliner crashing into a building.</p> <p>1995—A Right Wing "militiaman" murders 168 souls in Oklahoma City.</p> <p>1993—For the good of the children—who end up among the 80 dead anyway—the FBI attacks David Koresh's Waco, Texas compound.</p> <p>1989—The USS <i>Iowa's</i> Gun Turret Two explodes, killing 47. First the Navy blames an innocent sailor, then, disregarding ancient powder, malfunctioning equipment, and unauthorized experiments, says it's stumped.</p> <p>1971—President Nixon, recipient of a \$200K pledge from ITT—which is being prosecuted for anti-trust violations—tells Deputy A.G. Kleindienst "The ITT thing—stay the hell out of it. Is that clear? That's an order."</p> <p>1971—Officials at Arlington National Cemetery turn away Gold Star Mothers and Vietnam veterans.</p> <p>1951—"Dugout Doug" MacArthur tells Congress, "Old soldiers never die." That's a job for the young 'uns.</p> <p>1948—Costa Rica disbands its army.</p> <p>1939—Due diligence now done, Connecticut OKs the Bill of Rights.</p> <p>1861—Pvt. Luther C. Ladd becomes the first Union soldier killed in action in the Civil War; 17, he's from N.H.</p> <p>1775—Minutemen and British soldiers battle in Lexington and Concord. The <i>N.H. Gazette</i> reports two days later, under the headline (rare at the time): "BLOODY NEWS."</p>
<p>6:22 6:31</p>  <p>12:13 12:38</p>	<p>12:45 1:13</p>  <p>6:57 7:03</p>	<p>1:16 1:47</p>  <p>7:32 7:36</p>	<p>1:49 2:23</p>  <p>8:08 8:12</p>	<p>2:24 3:01</p>  <p>8:47 8:51</p>	<p>3:03 3:44</p>  <p>9:30 9:35</p>	<p>3:49 4:34</p>  <p>10:19 10:26</p>

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