

The Fortnightly Rant

100 Down, 1,359 To Go

The first 100 days of this thing we're all experiencing came to an end on Tuesday. Let's look on the bright side. At least we won't have to go through *them* again.

Well, so much for the good news. Unless the Giant Meteor comes along to bless us with an intervention, we have another 1,359 days of this—for the sake of propriety, let's just call it 'this'—to wade through.

Some of our readers, battered by recent events, may not feel they're up to grappling with what they have good reason to suspect will follow herein. For them we've prepared the following one-paragraph summary:

Grover Norquist's fever dream has become our national waking nightmare: Elon Musk and his chain saw have hacked off Uncle Sam's arms and legs, and Donald Trump is drowning his bleeding torso in William Howard Taft's jumbo-sized bathtub. Meanwhile Congress stands by, denying that it's happening.

Before proceeding with the sordid details we shall exert our privilege, as the nation's only news organization to have been reporting on the nation's founding as it was happening, to offer our opinion: this is a hell of a state for a nation to be in as it prepares to celebrate its Semisesquicentennial.

Unless, of course, that's actually the plan: just delete the government as we have known it, some time before July 4th, 2026 even gets here.

Frankly, we've got a bad feeling about this coming June 14th.

As our readers are well aware, that is Flag Day. It will also be Donald Trump's 79th birthday. And—as if that conjunction were not disquieting enough in itself—it will be the 250th Birthday of the U.S. Army.

Famously, or infamously, Commander-in-Chief Bone Spur has not had any particularly close association with the U.S. Army. According to an April 6th report in the *Washington City Paper*, that could change on Flag Day:

"According to a D.C. source with knowledge of the plan that's still being developed, Trump has commandeered Saturday, June 14—the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army and, as it happens, Trump's 79th birthday—for his military parade. It would stretch almost four miles from the Pentagon in Arlington to the White House, according to the source, who stressed that local officials are just learning of it."

We're not saying that this year's Flag Day festivities are sure to include Trump ordering Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to fortify the White House with a ring of 3rd Infantry tanks, but nobody expected January 6th, either.

We can be sure of this: if Hegseth

backs a Trump autogolpe, he's going to look fabulous on the ramparts. Less so, perhaps, than if he'd been able to spend the full \$40,000 he asked for to spruce up his powder room in the Pentagon, but there's a war on.

Such sacrifices must be made to offset unexpected losses. For example, on Monday, the Pentagon suddenly found itself short one \$67 million aircraft.

Here's what we know about this loss. The USS *Truman* had just been tootling along, minding its own business, which happens to be bombing Houthis rebels in Yemen, along with whoever else is unfortunate enough to be in their general vicinity. It's grim work, but necessary. The Houthis are hindering the oil industry, which is doing God's work: heating up the atmosphere until the global climate becomes so unstable that it renders Earth uninhabitable. See Revelations for details.

On Monday, the Houthis took a potshot at our \$4.5 billion aircraft carrier. Somehow, they got close enough to their target to force the captain of the *Truman* to make a sudden evasive maneuver. During that maneuver, an F/A-18 Super Hornet being towed in the hangar bay rolled off the deck. Losing a \$67 million aircraft is never a good thing, but let's keep this thing in perspective. Since March 31st, the rebels have shot down seven Reaper drones, which cost \$30 million each.

What we don't know is whether the Houthis just got lucky, or if they were operating on intelligence gleaned from Secretary "Loose Lips" Hegseth's unsecured personal cell phone. Given his history, we wouldn't rule that out.

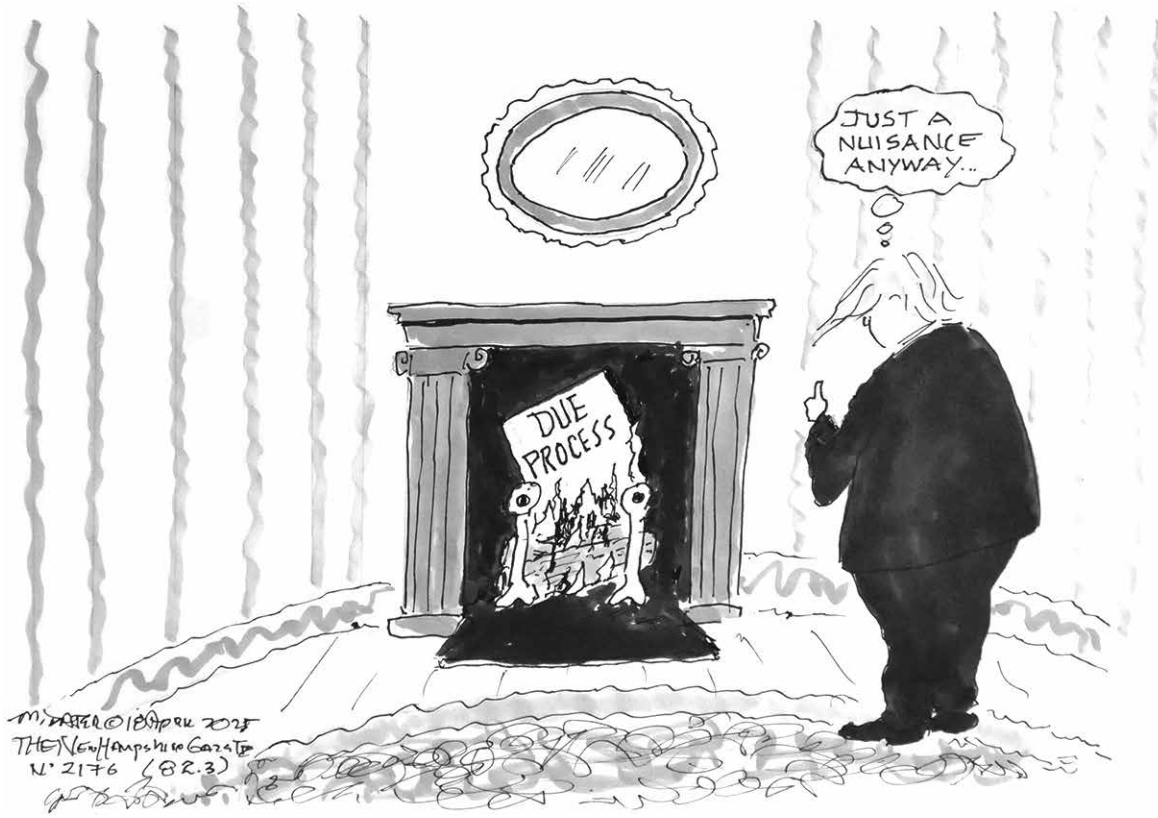
If House Speaker Mike Johnson has his way, though, we'll never know. The same day that Hornet took a dive into the Red Sea, Johnson blocked House members from filing "resolutions of inquiry." That will prevent any meddling Democrat from launching an investigation into Hegseth's habit of idly gossiping about upcoming bombing missions. There's no need to worry about

Republicans, of course. Such an idea would never occur to them.

Today it seems unlikely that Trump will actually roll tanks down Pennsylvania Avenue on June 14th. That is six weeks off, though.

On Wednesday, the first-quarter GDP was announced. It fell at an annual rate of 0.3 percent. And that slide started *before* the Michaelangelo of the Art of the Deal stuck a Louisville Slugger into the spokes of his tricycle.

Once the supply chain shocks from this tariff war kick in, Trump may decide to call out the tanks in self-defense.



Trump Aid Cuts 'Are a Human-Made Disaster' for Millions

"We... have never seen anything like this massive disruption to global health and humanitarian programs." — Doctors Without Borders

by Brett Wilkins

As the Trump administration, spearheaded by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, dramatically slashes U.S. humanitarian assistance, the international medical charity Doctors Without Borders warned on April 24th that the cuts are already "having devastating consequences for people who rely upon aid" across the Global South.

"The U.S. has long been the leading supporter of global health and humanitarian programs, responsible for around 40 percent of all related funding," Doctors Without Borders, known by its French acronym MSF, said in a statement. "These U.S. investments have helped improve the health and well-being of communities around the globe—and totaled less than one percent of the annual federal budget."

"It's shocking to see the U.S. abandon its leadership role in advancing global health and humanitarian efforts."

However, with the Trump administration slashing funding for U.S. Agency for International Development

(USAID) contracts by 90 percent, including for programs that fed and provided healthcare for millions of people and fought diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS, MSF USA CEO Avril Benoit said there will be "more preventable deaths and untold suffering around the world."

"These sudden cuts by the Trump administration are a human-made disaster for the millions of people struggling to survive amid wars, disease outbreaks, and other emergencies," Benoit warned. "We are an emergency response organization, but we have never seen anything like this massive disruption to global health and humanitarian programs."

"The risks are catastrophic, especially since people who rely on foreign assistance are already among the most vulnerable in the world," she added.

Although MSF received no U.S. government funding, the group noted that "we work closely with other health and humanitarian organizations to deliver vital services, and many of our activities involve programs that have been disrupted due to funding cuts."

"It will be much more difficult

and costly to provide care when so many ministries of health have been affected globally and there are fewer community partners overall," the group said. "We will also be facing fewer places to refer patients for specialized services, as well as shortages and stockouts due to hamstrung supply chains."

"It's shocking to see the U.S. abandon its leadership role in advancing global health and humanitarian efforts," Benoit said. "U.S. assistance has been a lifeline for millions of people... We urge the administration and Congress to maintain commitments to support critical global health and humanitarian aid."

The MSF warning comes after the United Nations World Food Program said earlier this month that the Trump cuts to lifesaving aid programs "could amount to a death sentence for millions of people facing extreme hunger and starvation."

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

Shocking Irreverence

The *New York Tribune* says: "Ex-Congressman Frank Jones of New Hampshire, the big beer brewer, who has charge of President Cleveland's interests in that part of New England, was in New York recently, having come from a visit to the president in Washington. He had evidently talked with the occupant of the White House on the subject of the tariff, for he was full of free trade talk and denunciation of the 'nincompoops' who occupy seats in Congress. ... he went on to denounce the trusts in which so many

of his fellow-democrats are interested and which contributed so heavily to Cleveland's campaign fund four years ago."

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George Martin, a miner, who murdered a deputy marshal in Warren, Ala., May 1st, was hung by a mob and filled full of bullets.

Mrs. W.A. Estey of Newtonville, Mass., wife of the railroad editor of the *Boston Herald*, was killed by the [train] cars in Newton on the evening of May 2nd.

A newly appointed country postmaster in Texas did not send off any

mail for some time, and when written to by an official, replied that he was waiting for the mail bag to get full before sending it to the train.

General, Editor Duel to the Death
General Wirt Adams and John H. Martin, prominent citizens of Jackson, Miss., met on the street May 1st, and shot each other dead. A witness to the tragedy says, "General Adams accosted Martin, saying, 'You rascal, I have stood enough from you.' Martin replied, 'If you don't like it'—

DOJ Attacks 'Fundamental Fabric' of Democracy by Gutting Voting Rights Unit

"The upheaval and loss of experience will leave the division unable to enforce the nation's civil rights laws," said one voting rights advocate.

by Jake Johnson

U.S. President Donald J. Trump's Justice Department has reportedly gutted the leadership of the agency's voting rights unit and ordered attorneys to drop all active cases, the latest signal that the administration is hellbent on undercutting civil rights protections and abandoning federal enforcement of key election laws.

The *Guardian* reported Monday that Trump appointees at the Department of Justice "have removed all of the senior civil servants working as managers in the department's Voting Section," reassigning most of them to a DOJ office that handles employee complaints.

"Political appointees have also instructed career employees to dismiss all of their active cases without meeting with them and offering a rationale—a significant break with the department's practices and norms," *The Guardian* added.

Angelina Clapp, advocacy manager for election protection at Issue One, said in a statement Monday that "our democracy must be accessible for all eligible voters to partici-

pate in and make their voices heard, but these recent moves by President Trump's appointees at the Justice Department take us further away from those goals."

"This decision to dismiss all active cases threatens to erode public trust in the very department tasked with protecting Americans' freedom to vote and sends the message that the rule of law is not being upheld," said Clapp. "These actions are part of a broader trend of the second Trump administration dismantling and interfering with federal agencies dedicated to protecting our elections and democracy."

"In the end," Clapp added, "all Americans will suffer as a result of decisions like these because taken together, they undermine the fundamental fabric of our democracy—the idea that the government should be by, of, and for the people."

The DOJ's Voting Section is housed within the department's Civil Rights Division, which is now led by Harmeet Dhillon, a lawyer who aided Trump's unsuccessful bid to overturn his 2020 election loss. Dhillon, who is not a civil rights

attorney, was confirmed by the Republican-controlled Senate in a largely party-line vote earlier this month.

Since her confirmation, she has moved quickly to do Trump's bidding at the department, prompting a mass exodus of lawyers from the Civil Rights Division. CNN reported Monday that roughly 70 percent of division staffers are "expected to accept a second offer to federal workers that allows them to resign from their positions and be paid through September."

Joyce Vance, a former U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, wrote Monday that "when the career people, the experts at civil and criminal enforcement in this area, are removed from their positions, there is no one there to protect us."

"And as we've learned from Trump's deportations to El Salvador, when due process is denied to one person, we are all at risk," Vance added. "The news from the Justice Department tonight, on the eve of Trump's 100th day in office, is deep-

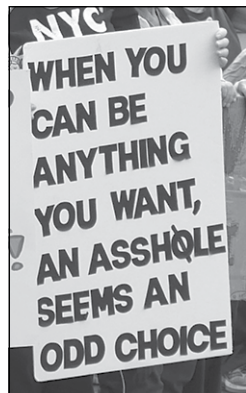
ly disturbing."

The departures come after Dhillon issued a series of internal memos indicating, as NBC News put it, "a 180-degree shift in the direction of the department from its original mission: enforcing laws that prohibit discrimination in hiring, housing, and voting rights."

One unnamed Civil Rights Division lawyer who recently left DOJ told NBC News that "if regular Americans think that this administration is going to protect their rights, they're just wrong."

The progressive advocacy group Common Cause noted Tuesday that the DOJ's Voting Section "enforces the federal laws protecting the right to vote, including the Voting Rights Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, the National Voter Registration Act, the Help America Vote Act, and the Civil Rights Act."

Omar Nouredin, Common Cause's senior vice president for policy and litigation, said Monday that "the Trump administration's gutting of the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division is doing profound



The signs seen here were among those spotted in Market Square on Saturday, April 19th.



and lasting damage to the protection of voting rights in the United States."

"The removal and reassignment of the section's leadership and the dismissal of cases are themselves attacks on the voting rights of every American," said Nouredin. "Attorney General Pam Bondi's systematic removal of career attorneys and staff is not confined to the voting section—it extends to the entire Civil Rights Division. The upheaval and loss of experience will leave the division unable to enforce the nation's civil rights laws."

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Saturday, April 19th, was the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord. On that fateful day so long ago, one thing was made clear: the citizenry—disgusted by the arbitrary misuse of power under an unaccountable monarchy—would put up with it no longer.



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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page one

and simultaneously with the remark he drew a pistol and fired. Martin was the editor of the *New Mississippian*, and was a brilliant and promising young man. General Adams was sixty-nine years old, and postmaster of Jackson. He was a prominent officer in the confederate army.

[Note: Martin had rebuked Adams for appearing as a character witness in the trial of Colonel Jones S. Hamilton, "who was ultimately acquitted for killing Roderick D. Gambrell, another newspaper editor and ally of Martin's, in a street duel... Adams firing three times and Martin six. Both died almost immediately..." Gambrell had been shot by Hamilton for "publishing

allegations of corrupt business practices Hamilton was engaged in with the state of Mississippi." — Wikipedia.]

Freaks of the Storm

Wind-rolled snowballs are often seen on the Dakota and Wyoming prairies. Sometimes millions upon millions of the balls are in sight at one time. Many are of the size of an orange, some as big as a cannon ball, while others reach the proportions of the prize pumpkin of the county fair. These freaks of the storm leave a person under the fanciful impression that great armies of school boys have been battling over the snowy space. — *New York Star*.



The Age of Overwork

Insanity on the Increase
 — *Wrecked Nervous Organisms* —
 A Doctor's Warning

I urge that, to be successful, our life work must be done with our own special aim and ambition. But when I pick up an essay that advises more ambition, and more toil, I say the writer is an idiot. ...

I am all out of patience with finely worded essays that urge young men to more work. We are now overworked and are working ourselves out of all reason. Insanity is on the increase. Cerebral troubles are our most serious ills. Our finely built nervous

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'Flagrantly Enabling Insider Trading' – Trump White House Reportedly Tips Off Wall St on Trade Talks

by Jake Johnson

Officials inside U.S. President Donald Trump's White House have reportedly tipped off Wall Street executives about a potentially imminent trade agreement with India, a move that one watchdog group described as further evidence that the administration is "flagrantly enabling insider trading."

Fox Business correspondent Charles Gasparino reported Thurs-

day that unnamed "people inside the Trump White House are alerting Wall Street execs they are nearing an agreement in principle on trade with India." Gasparino cited "senior Wall Street execs" with ties to the Trump White House.

It's not clear what kind of information Trump administration officials provided Wall Street executives or how the information differs from publicly available reporting and White House comments on the U.S.-India trade talks, which have thus far been scant on specific details about the timing or provisions of a potential deal.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, a former hedge fund manager, told reporters Wednesday that the Trump administration was "very close" to a bilateral trade agreement with India, one of the United States' largest trading partners.

The report of behind-the-scenes communications between the Trump White House and Wall Street executives on a matter that could substantially move financial markets drew immediate alarm.

Emily Peterson-Cassin, corporate power director at the Demand Progress Education Fund, said Thursday that "while we all look at

our retirement accounts with alternating relief and horror, Wall Street execs are getting a direct heads-up from the White House about news that could earn them billions on the stock market."

"The White House is flagrantly enabling insider trading and is continuing their long history of embracing Wall Street while throwing everyday Americans to the wolves," said Peterson-Cassin. "These tip-offs also serve as a corrupt shakedown scheme to lure powerful CEOs into Trump's orbit to beg for their own special carve-outs. It is crystal clear that the president doesn't care about

fighting for Main Street and just wears economic populism like one of his ill-fitting suits."

Earlier this month, Trump himself sparked insider trading concerns by writing on his social media platform that it was a "great time to buy" stocks shortly before announcing a partial 90-day tariff pause, which sent equities surging.

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Peter Happny, Portsmouth's happily hammering blacksmith, has banged out a full-length portrait of the current occupant of a certain unit of public housing. Standing about as tall as its subject, and looking at least as bright, "Ode to the Odious One, and his Mindless Minions," as it's called, is instantly recognizable: inexplicable orange hair, dead eyes, an open mouth, a long red tie, and a bird-brain on his shoulder wearing a Tesla ball cap. His belt carries a Bitcoin wallet and a dangling "Get Out Of Jail Free" card—don't leave the White House without it. Lining up to pucker up in the vicinity of his posterior: J.D. Vance and a flock of sheep—a delegation from Congress.

GOP Wants \$27 Billion for Trump's Golden Dome 'Fantasy' While Working to Gut Working-Class Safety Net

by Eloise Goldsmith

As Republicans in Congress push forward with a sweeping tax and spending plan that could be paid for in part by deep cuts to Medicaid and to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the GOP plans to add a defense package to that bill which will include "an initial \$27 billion boost" for the Golden Dome desired by U.S. President Donald, according to April 25th reporting from Reuters.

Trump has said he wants an "Iron Dome for America"—something akin to Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile defense. In a speech earlier this year he referred to it as a "Golden Dome."

Experts who spoke to NPR re-

cently said that building a Golden Dome would be more complicated than Israel's Iron Dome for multiple reasons. Dylan Spaulding, a senior scientist with the Union of Concerned Scientists, earlier this week called the Golden Dome idea a "complete fantasy."

According to Reuters, which cited "a document" and a congressional aide, the \$27 billion would be a part of a \$150 billion defense package Republicans plan to introduce. "It will be part of Trump's sweeping tax cut bill, which will cut taxes by about \$5 trillion and add approximately \$5.7 trillion to the federal government's debt over the next decade," per the outlet. The measure, if passed, will also fund the construction of 14 warships and increase homeland se-

curity spending.

"The \$27 billion investment in Golden Dome will fund the building of more missile interceptors and the purchase of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) antiballistic missile batteries, according to the congressional aide. THAAD is made by Lockheed Martin," the defense contractor, Reuters reported.

According to reporting from the outlet last week, billionaire "Elon Musk's SpaceX and two partners have emerged as front-runners to win a crucial part of the Golden Dome program that would track incoming missiles."

One observer wrote on social media: "Golden Dome missile defense shield? WTF. \$27 billion for a gold-

en defense dome, yet Republicans want to cut Medicaid and Social Security. Vote accordingly in 2026."

"More than 180 companies are interested, but Musk's Space X just so happens to be the 'front-runner' for the contracts," wrote Rep. Greg Casar (D-Texas), reacting to earlier reporting from Reuters about Musk's potential involvement in the project. "Shut this corrupt deal down. No cuts to Medicaid and Social Security to pay for more Musk contracts."

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

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organisms are being wrecked. ...

— M. Maurice, M.D., in *Globe-Democrat*

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Local Affairs

May You Live Long and Prosper
Congratulations to our genial neighbor the *Chronicle*, on its considerably enlarged and improved appearance this morning. The heartiest wishes of the *Times* for its success, and may its future be as full of sunshine as had been the day on which it made its bow to the public in enlarged form.

As the republican organ of Portsmouth, it fully merits the growth it has attained. — *Times*.

One of the pleasantest indications of prosperity hereabouts, is the enlargement of the *Chronicle* this morning by the addition of an extra column and appropriate length. We hope our neighbor will be crowded to the full capacity of the added room until he is at a loss to know what to do with the overflow. — *Penny Post*.

Bad Work

Young Man Stabbed
Tuesday morning about nine o'clock,

as Mr. Bernard Johnson was standing beside a building on Water street, Daniel Stevens of Newcastle, assistant keeper of Whale's-back light, came along the street and without receiving any provocation or giving any warning struck Johnson in the right breast with a knife, inflicting a very painful and possibly fatal wound. Stevens was arrested and locked up, after considerable resistance, the officer making the arrest having to use his club. The assailant was formerly in the navy, and at one time master-at-arms in the U.S.S. *Lancaster*; he was drunk at the time

he made the assault, which is said to have been entirely unprovoked. Johnson was formerly for some time a paper carrier for Moses brothers, the news dealers in Congress block, and has the reputation of being an inoffensive young man.

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In a memorial to Congress asking confirmation of the right of way across the military reservation at Fort McClary granted in a license from the secretary of war, the York

Old News

to page six

Beware of Cruise Ships
— a Bar Harbor reader

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"It seems like with this administration there's a new world order every single day. It's like wback-a-mole."
— U.S. District Court Judge Jeffrey S. White

"In the land of the free, nothing's free."
— Russell Banks, *Continental Drift*
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Genocide. Genocide. Genocide.

To the Editor:

Three words about Gaza haunt my mind: GENOCIDE. GENOCIDE. GENOCIDE.

Who has supported Israel unconditionally? In 2021, it was Biden, Harris, Blinken, Austin, and Sullivan, and in 2025, it is Trump, Vance, Rubio, Hegseth, and Waltz. All are most certainly war criminals.

According to the media source Mondoweiss, Israelis have now dropped more explosives in Gaza than fell on London, Dresden, and Hamburg combined during the Second World War. The respected British Lancet organization reports that hundreds of thousands of Gazans have most likely been killed.

California Dr. Feroze Sidhwa, a general trauma and critical care surgeon, traveled to Gaza in 2024 and most recently in March of 2025, wherein he stated there is no longer any serious health care system in Gaza. Moreover, he saw mass starvation occurring as he believes that 10,000 human beings have already starved to death, mostly small children and babies.

Pope Francis' final speech: "The growing threat of anti-Semitism throughout the world is worrisome. Yet, at the same time, I think of the people of Gaza... where the terrible conflict continues to cause death and destruction and to create a dramatic and deplorable humanitarian situation." (*Jewish Chronicle Weekly*)

The Pope previously had commented on Israel's attacks on Gaza's population. "Yesterday, children were bombed. This is cruelty. This is not war. I wanted to say this because it touches the heart." (*www.reuters*) Truth.

Will Thomas
N.H. Veterans for Peace
Auburn, N.H.

Will:
Truth indeed.

"Where, oh where," the pearl-clutchers ask, "is the bipartisanship of yore?"
It's somewhere over Gaza, dropping U.S.-made bombs on starving men, women, and children.

The Editor

Are We a Dictatorship Yet?

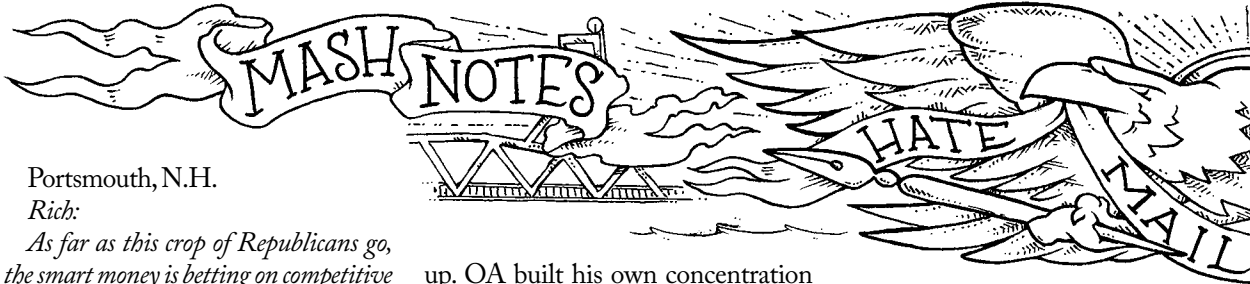
Dear Editor:

On March 18, 2025 I wrote the following in a Letter to the Editor: "The United States is facing its greatest constitutional crisis in history. It is only a matter of time before Trump defies not only the orders of lower federal judges but the Supreme Court itself. When that happens there will be no legal or other consequences for him. Trump cannot be indicted or prosecuted while in office and the Supreme Court has given him total immunity for any crimes committed as part of his "official acts." And even if the Supreme Court tells him that an action is illegal and not an "official act," he will simply ignore them with no consequences. "The Republican Congress will do nothing to rein in Trump with impeachment by the House and conviction by the Senate. As a result, the checks and balances that our founders wrote into the Constitution to protect against a dictator will no longer apply to Trump. There will no longer be three equal and separate branches of government in America, the Supreme Court and the Legislative Branch have relegated their Constitutional power to the Executive Branch. Trump and his Cabinet will be the sole possessors of limitless power."

Well, Mr. Trump has now defied and ignored an order by the Supreme Court and, as admitted by the Trump Administration, mistakenly and illegally sent immigrant Kilmer Abrego Garcia to a prison in El Salvador. Mr. Trump is now even floating the idea of sending American citizens to El Salvador. When a reporter asked, "You mentioned that you're open to deporting individuals that aren't foreign aliens to El Salvador. Does that include, potentially, U.S. citizens?" Trump replied, "I'm all for it."

If in fact, as I predicted in March, the Supreme Court and the Republican Congress do nothing to enforce the Constitution and the rule of law we will have officially become a dictatorship. Now we will see if those who took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic honor their oath or bow to a dictator.

Rich DiPentima



Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

As far as this crop of Republicans go, the smart money is betting on competitive displays of submission.

The Editor

The Fake and the Original

Dear Editor,

"[F]rom almost the moment Adolf Hitler took office as chancellor of Germany, tariffs were at the top of his government's economic agenda."

That's the opening line to an article published online today (April 20th) in *The Atlantic*, by author Timothy W. Ryback, titled "Hitler's Terrible Tariffs." Whoa! Ryback goes on to explain why Der Fuhrer, quoting words almost identical to those coming these days from the pursed lips of our own homegrown dictator, felt it necessary to start a trade war with Germany's biggest European trading partners less than two weeks into his Chancellorship. The parallels Ryback writes about should put to rest any doubts of those skeptical of reincarnation that Herr Drumpf is AH come back to haunt the good old U. S. of A.

But the malevolent soul of Original Adolf had been tinkered with a bit in the years between death and rebirth. Where Original Adolf, OA for short, had a spine of steel and an intelligence and eviwness unmatched by anyone else at the time, our New Adolf, actually Fake Adolf, or FA, possesses DNA that favors stupidity, incompetence, a fatal narcissism, and, let's be honest, outright weakness. OA laughed in the face of those who warned that his tariffs would destroy the German economy, and stood firm. FA folded like a cheap suit two days into his "trade war," whining and wishing the Chinese would call to make a deal. OA took it to the Russians, a blunder to be sure, but aggressive nonetheless. FA takes it from the Russians, fawning and slobbering like a 13 year-old at his first sock hop, whenever Vlad shows

up. OA built his own concentration camps. FA takes the easy way out and leases his. OA did his time in prison. FA, if he ever gets there, wouldn't make it past the first week. OA knew when the time was up, and did himself in. FA doesn't have the guts to even think about that.

For those who still maintain that using the terms "Nazi" and "fascist" are way over the top and nowhere near where we are at the moment, I humbly submit the above as counterpoint. Well, OK, maybe Nazi-Light, then.

John C. Ficor
Richmond, Va.

John:

Unlike our reigning Chief Executive, we have not spent a lifetime studying Der Fuhrer's career for tips on how to get ahead. From what we have read, though, we'd dispute your assessment of his intelligence. He fell for an awful lot of hoovey about racial superiority—with dire results—and let Doctor Theodor Morrell, a quack, shoot him up with speedballs.

OA and FA are clearly indistinguishable, though, when it comes to believing they're smarter than their generals.

This Guy doesn't need to steal any infamy from That Guy. He's godawful enough, all on his own.

The Editor

The Only Thing We Have to Fear...

To the Editor:

"We are all afraid. ... And I'll tell you, I'm oftentimes very anxious myself about using my voice because retaliation is real."

Thank you Senator Lisa Murkowski! And, thank you Janet Mills. Thanks to anyone in the public arena with enough intestinal fortitude to put their fear in a box, stow it away, and push back.

At the same time, no thanks to the legions of the Congressional Gutless who fear falling off the gravy train

more than losing the democracy they were sworn to protect.

While N.H. is represented in Washington by Democrats, it should not discourage us from bombing their out-of-district Republican colleagues with phone calls, letters, email, texts—anything to boost numbers (and pressure). But, hold the bone-crushing negativity! Instead, acknowledge the collective fear and encourage them to get off their butts and box it up.

Keep in mind that most politicians become uneasy when voters are angry enough to contact their office in numbers. The numbers matter! Besides, it's something you and I can do right now, today.

While we're waiting.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

This is spot on. Congress has been so comfortable for so long, it's freaking out now that everything is on the line. Those rare little embers of courage need to be nurtured.

The Editor

What's So Great About Being a Pariah?

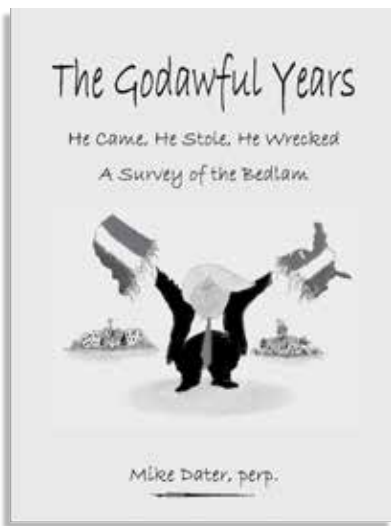
To the Editor:

In January, when soybeans were selling at a little over \$10 a bushel, China was willing to pay 25 cents more for U.S. beans than beans from Brazil. Now China is paying \$1.15 more for beans from Brazil than for beans from the U.S. According to reporting in the *Financial Times* U.S. agricultural shipments to China sank 54 percent in January compared to the previous year.

China is turning more towards Brazil for soybeans, corn, beef, and poultry, and away from the U.S. Argentina is also profiting from Trump's trade war with China. Europe is turning away from U.S. agriculture towards Brazil, too. Our farmers spent years devel-

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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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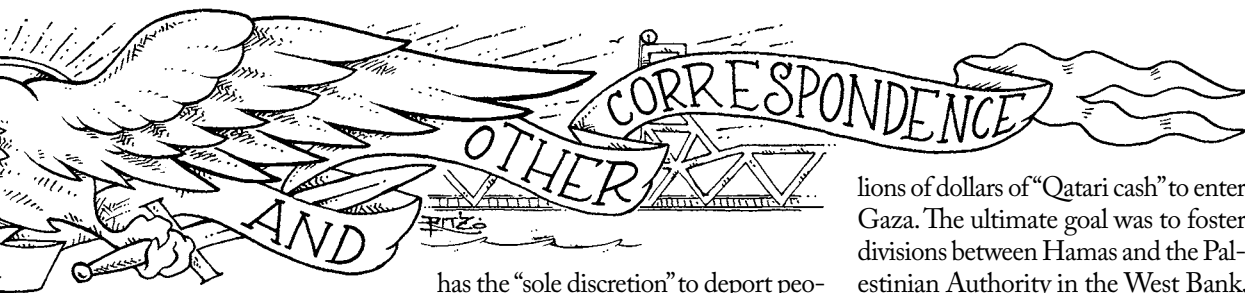
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The Uselessness of Words

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the Occupied Territories,
and throughout the world

How does one respond to such destruction with a poem? Can poetry outweigh a 2,000-pound Mark-84 bomb, save the life of a single wounded child, put an end to the hatred and madness and inhumanity of those who do the butchery? Might just as well be pissing up a rope as thinking poetry can matter where it really counts there among the dead and dying, armless, legless, homeless, starving, families shattered, orphaned children, misery without hope of ever ending.

And here I sit in safety half a world away. My tax dollars buying bombs my government supplies to those who do the killing. How can one be silent in the face of such ignoble cruelty? How can one just turn away as if it wasn't happening, as if I weren't responsible, as if I didn't care.

I suppose I could refuse to pay my taxes, get myself arrested doing civil disobedience in front of Independence Hall, write letters to my representatives in Congress. But we've done all that and more for more than half a century and yet the killing just goes on and on.

One finds it hard, indeed impossible, to dodge concluding that humanity is, taken on the whole, just inhumane, stark raving mad, beyond redemption.

I'd like to think I'm wrong, but this poem is all the evidence I have to offer.

— W.D. Ehrhart

has the “sole discretion” to deport people under law.

We have the constitutional protections of free speech under the First Amendment and the right to due process under the Fourteenth Amendment. Because deportation proceedings are civil in nature, there is no right to counsel.

Under the Secretary of State’s interpretation of the law, even if you are afforded due process, you have no defense, because you can not prove what you will or will not believe or say sometime in the future. Apparently, only the Secretary can predict the future. Your constitutional right to due process becomes meaningless.

As the current administration rushes to deport millions of immigrants it claims are serious offenders, the likelihood of “mistakes” will grow, including “mistakes” about citizenship. Governor Ayotte, a former prosecutor, now has N.H. authorities assisting ICE with deportations. How safe are N.H. residents?

Lorraine L. Hansen
Rollinsford, N.H.

Lorraine:

Our policy has long been that a certain amount of paranoia is a healthy thing. With Ayotte now in office, it's probably time for a booster shot.

The Editor

====

Why Has Bibi Backed Hamas?

To the Editor:

On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists committed horrific crimes against humanity in Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking 250 hostages.

And on October 8, 2023, *The Times of Israel* published an article titled, “For years, Netanyahu propped up Hamas. Now it’s blown up in our faces.”

The article explains how Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu bolstered Hamas, even allowing mil-

lions of dollars of “Qatari cash” to enter Gaza. The ultimate goal was to foster divisions between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, thus thwarting the development of a Palestinian state.

Israeli historian Adam Raz asserts that, since he was first elected prime minister in 1996, “Netanyahu has been working hard to strengthen Hamas.”

Raz explains that, in 2009, Netanyahu ordered the Israeli military to stop its cooperation with the Palestinian Authority security forces in their fight against Hamas. Furthermore, according to Raz, when PA President Mahmoud Abbas stopped transferring money to Gaza in 2018, “Netanyahu saved Hamas by allowing in suitcases full of cash from Qatar.”

When he served in the U.S. Senate, Secretary of State Marco Rubio introduced the “Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad International Terrorism Support Prevention Act of 2024.” At that time, Rubio stated:

“The barbaric terrorist attacks against Israel on October 7th by Hamas savages, reaffirms the importance of sanctioning the group’s enablers and the governments who provide material support to these terrorists.”

In a morally consistent world, at the very minimum, Benjamin Netanyahu would be deemed a persona non grata and forbidden entry into the United States. In such a world, the numerous standing ovations Netanyahu received when he addressed a joint session of Congress last July would be considered acts of shame.

I continue to be amazed by how ideology and selective perception can blind us to truth.

Terry Hansen
Milwaukee, Wisc.

Terry:

Thank you for making this incredible-but-true point. Calling our policy towards Israel and Palestine morally inconsistent is on a par with suggesting that

the Pacific Ocean may be damp.

The Editor

====

The Biggest Perp Walked

Dear Editor,

On January 6th, 2021, 1,270 riotous insurrectionists tried to stop Congress from certifying the president’s election. Each rioter received a due pro-

cess fair trial under the law, in which valid evidence was presented, and each had the opportunity to defend themselves. Each convicted rioter was judged guilty by a jury of peers. Only the ringleader of the anti-democracy

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

oping a reputation as a reliable source for goods and now their customers are deciding to drop them to show their displeasure at the behavior of our government. Once their business is lost it may take years, even decades to regain it. The same is true for other parts of our economy.

Canadians and Europeans are cancelling vacations here and boycotting our products. Trump is not making America great. He is making America a pariah state.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:

This just in: hints are flying about that suggest His Majesty the Burger King in the White Castle may deign to grant compensation to U.S. “farmers” suffering under his tariffs. Whaddya bet that relief ends up going to big-ag corporations, who will then use those tax dollars to buy up distressed family farms?

Republicans never let the crises they create go to waste—and they always consume every part of the carcass.

The Editor

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Marco Rubio and his Ouija Board

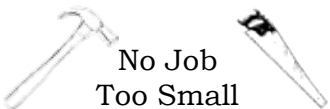
To the Editor:

Do you know what you might say in the future?

Do you know what you might think in the future?

Marco Rubio does. He claims he can use what one might say or think in the future as a basis to deport someone from the country. According to NBC News, Rubio presented a memo justifying the deportation of Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia graduate student who helped lead protests against the war in Gaza last year. In the memo, Secretary Rubio stated that while Khalil’s “past, current or expected beliefs, statements, or associations that are otherwise lawful,” the Secretary

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from page five

rebellion, the leader who told them to “fight like hell,” escaped trial and conviction. His lawyers masterfully played every “due process” trick in the book.

Then, on January 20, 2025, the insurrection leader, reelected President, pardoned the convicted rioters.

Now, trump [sic] is invoking the ancient Alien Enemies Act of 1798, and Insurrection Act of 1807, to deport alleged “enemies” without any due process as required by law.

That one anti-democracy perpetrator, the traitor who evaded judgment, should be forced to stand trial now. If convicted, he should be deported to El Salvador.

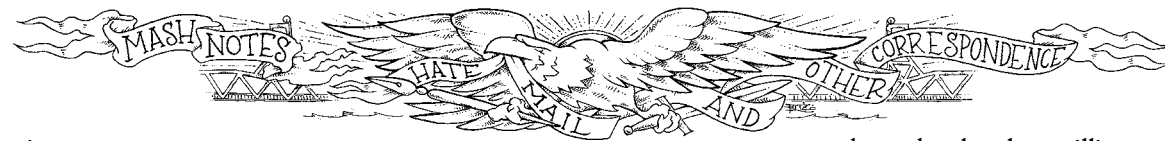
Sincerely,
Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:
El Salvador? He wouldn't last any longer than Whitey Bulger at Hazelton. Only Leavenworth will do for us, and the longer, the better.

The Editor

He Finds So Many Ways To Be So Wrong
To the Editor:

I did not intend to write another letter about Trump's shambolic tariffs, but each week brings more news about the chaos and destruction of his on-again, off-again policies. His inarticulate ramblings show that he has no well-thought-out tariff strategy, and his beliefs have no validity in either recent history or economic



science.

Trump has proclaimed and suspended for 90 days an extensive list of Draconian “reciprocal” tariffs on several countries. These tariffs are based on trade deficits between those countries and the U.S. He claims that countries that export more to the U.S. than they import are practicing unfair trade and his tariffs will rebalance the system. This is a fallacy. The fact is that imbalances are a natural result of international trade. According to the *New York Times*, last year the U.S. ran trade surpluses with 116 countries and trade deficits with 114 although the value of the deficits substantially exceeded the surpluses. Trade balances are generally the result of a country's unique resources and stage of economic and technological development rather than any attempt to “cheat” a trading partner. No country will have a trade surplus with all countries—the attempt to do so is a “beggar thy neighbor” policy called Mercantilism, an idea that has long been discredited. The fact is that free and fair trade between nations helps all countries prosper and improves relations between partners. Imposing large tariffs on all countries based solely on trade deficits is a mistake that will lead to the destruction of not only beneficial economic relationships but also

threaten alliances crucial to maintaining security.

Targeted tariffs may be appropriate in cases when countries engage in unfair trade or to preserve industries that are vital to national security. For the U.S., an argument can be made that the manufacture of cutting-edge computer chips and a healthy steel industry should be supported for security purposes. Trump's current tariff policy will not develop these industries. They must be supported by a national strategy that may include limited tariffs that are supported by specific policies that incentivize growth and investment. In other words, there must be a national strategy that identifies critical industries and provides a comprehensive plan for their development.

Despite the 90-day moratorium on reciprocal tariffs, Trump's chaotic tariff policy is damaging the economy. Wall Street investors have clearly shown their dismay, many fearing that a recession will result from Trump's policies. The

stock market has lost trillions of dollars since the announcement of the tariffs, a decline reminiscent of the COVID epidemic or the 2008 Great Recession. This has been accompanied by a sell-off of both U.S. treasury debt and the dollar. This is unusual because when the stock market declines, investors usually seek safety in Treasury bonds



which are considered an extremely safe investment. The sell-off of U.S. treasury debt and the dollar may indicate that global investors are losing confidence in American investments due to Trump's erratic behavior. As the price of

Treasuries fall, their interest rate (yield) rises which bodes ill for the American economy. The national debt is financed through the sale of Treasury bills; therefore, as their yield rises so does the cost of servicing the national debt threatening the debt crisis that several economists have been predicting. Moreover, the interest rates of virtually all consumer loans are based on the yield of the 10-year Treasury note. If the sell-off of Treasury debt continues, the cost of mortgages, car loans and credit cards will increase, adding

to the financial burden on the middle and working classes caused by price increases caused by the Trump tariffs.

Trump claims to be creating a new global economic order that will “make America rich.” Instead, he is pursuing a destructive economic policy that is bringing privation to the middle and working classes. He is also alienating long standing allies whose relationships have enhanced America's economic growth and provided a bulwark against authoritarian rivals. He has no long-term strategy that will benefit American prosperity or security. Instead, he is only concerned with wielding power for his own self-aggrandizement.

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

Robert:

It's been said that war is God's way of teaching Americans geography. Trump may finally teach us something about economics. By the time we learn, we'll all be standing in breadlines.

The Editor

The Leftist Marching Band Checks In
At the ripe old age of 21, the Leftist Marching Band is doing the responsible, adult thing, and taking steps to make it easy for people to find them. People are welcome to join in many ways—as players, or twirlers, or sign holders, or gig helpers. Just look for the spiffy round sticker, shown on this page, featuring the band's web address, leftistmarchingband.org.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

Harbor & Beach railroad managers say: “That the construction and maintenance of said railroad will be of great benefit to said fort and all persons who may occupy it.” As the government has no guns worth the name to arm the fort with, and it would be worth nothing as a fortification even if armed, the only real value the railroad could ever be to the occupants of the fort would be

to enable them to get away quickly should an enemy come too near with a real cannon.

Gloucester roughs broke up a Salvation Army parade one evening last week.

Ingenious Invention for Drugstores

In order to avoid errors in dispensing poisons, an ingenious inventor a few years ago constructed a patent shelf upon which all the bottles containing poisons were to be placed. It is made of two metallic plates... cre-

ates an electric current, and an alarm bell is rung. ... This was called the “poison bell.” They were introduced into drug stores all over the country, but they never became popular because of a peculiar trait in all customers. ... ever afterward the customer would feel rather chary about taking the prescription. ... Hence the “poison bell” fell into disuse.

One other superstition, I might say, that customers have is the prevailing idea that medicines of a green color are poison. Several harmless compounds will produce a green color, but customers are invariably suspicious of them. — C. Falk in *Globe-Democrat*.

New Hampshire Gazette

May 10, 1888

Nathaniel Hatch, a New York broker, in escaping from the house of a jealous husband, fell and was killed.

Alice Hoyle, sister of Lilla Hoyle, who was murdered at Webster, Mass., has made a confession. She says Lilla was drugged and then chloroformed by her uncle, Dixon R. Cowie, and then taken away in a carriage and murdered. Also that

Thomas B. McQuaid was Lilla's paramour, while she (Alice) was in love with him, and thought if she kept silent about the crime he would marry her. They seem to be a mighty tough lot all around.

A railroad collision near Fountain, Colo., on the 14th inst., exploded a car of powder, killing ten men and wounding many others.

Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt of New York is said to have twenty-seven carriages for her own use.

“This firing on the streets at an hour when children were on their way to school, in range of the shots, is to be deplored.” This is not a funny paragraph by a newspaper humorist, but an entirely serious observation by a reporter describing a shooting affray in the town of Madison, Fla.

During the Knights of Labor fair at Wolfeboro holden April 10th, 11th, and 12th a young man from Furber's Corner, who was sick with the mumps and measles, mingled among the crowd every night, and now the measles and mumps are spreading all round over that section. It is said that two men and one

woman have died from the effects of the diseases, and if the young man could be found they would make warm work for him up there. — *Dover Democrat*.

Reunion of Murderers

Sixteen of Quantrell's old band of guerillas held a reunion at Blue Springs, Mo., May 11th. When the roll was called it was learned that but seventeen more of the infamous band than those present are living, among them being the noted thief Frank James. Mrs. Caroline Quantrell, mother of the savage ruffian, and now a resident of Canal Dover, Ohio, was present and answered for her son. The men spoke of their bloody murders and fiendish crimes without the slightest hesitancy, and as some particularly atrocious plot was unravelled by a good narrator, a voice would break in with a correction or a corroboration, ever anxious to be counted as one of the raiders. W.H. Gregg of Independence, Mo., the first lieutenant of the gang, was the highest officer present, and aided in many reminiscences. The war was waged

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How Vouchers Will Destroy Public Education

by Mark Fernald

The founders of the State of New Hampshire believed education to be so important, they wrote it into our constitution in 1784:

“Knowledge and learning... being essential to the preservation of a free government... it shall be the duty of the legislators... to cherish the public schools.”

Four years earlier, John Adams had written similar language into the Massachusetts constitution.

Adams believed education was so important that “no expense for this purpose would be thought extravagant.”

He also wrote: “The Whole People must take upon themselves the Education of the Whole People and must be willing to bear the expences of it. There should not be a district one Mile Square without a school in it, not founded by a Charitable individual but maintained at the expence of the People themselves.”

John Adams and the founders of New Hampshire understood that in order for us to be self-governing people—a radical proposition in 1784—the entire population has to be educated, so that we can be informed about the issues of the day, question candidates, and make choices about our future.

Our public schools live up to this ideal. All school-aged children are

welcome, and all receive the same services, regardless of race, creed or economic status. School buses ensure that all children are able to get to school.

The voucher system advocated by New Hampshire Republicans is a dagger aimed at the heart of public education—and therefore, at the heart of our democracy—by creating a system that disfavors our public schools.

The public schools are subject to minimum standards set by the state; they must provide special education services; they must accept all comers; they are free; and they administer standardized tests each year in grades 3 through 8.

Schools taking the voucher money have no such requirements. There are no rules, no accountability, and they are free to reject students who are difficult or expensive to educate.

Vouchers are touted as a way for non-wealthy children to attend private school, but the lion's share of voucher money is going to families who were already sending their children to private school.

With new money being offered for private school education, you can be sure the market will respond. New private schools will open, and existing private schools will expand, to take advantage of the free state money.

And therein lies the danger.

Public school enrollment will decline, as middle class families choose the voucher money. As families leave the public schools, support will dwindle at the polls, and school budgets will be cut, causing more middle class families to leave the public schools.

Over time, vouchers will create a two-tiered system of education. Poorly-funded public schools will

“The Whole People must take upon themselves the Education of the Whole People and must be willing to bear the expences of it. There should not be a district one Mile Square without a school in it, not founded by a Charitable individual but maintained at the expence of the People themselves.” — John Adams

serve a separate and unequal class of students who cannot afford to pay the portion of private school tuition not covered by the voucher, or who need special education services, or who have been rejected by private schools.

The voucher system leads us to a Darwinian outcome, where those with talent and money are given a subsidy to go to private school, while those who are less fortunate get second class.

Republicans say that competi-

tion among schools is a good thing. Competition can be a good thing—but only if the playing field is fair, and everyone plays by the same rules.

The Republican voucher plan creates a “playing field” with a pitch approximately equal to the deck of the Titanic as it slipped below the waves.

Fair competition would require any school taking voucher money to meet the minimum standards for public schools, provide special education services, administer the same standardized tests as public schools, and accept all applicants in a non-selective lottery system.

With a level playing field, we would realize the extraordinary role our public schools play in what John Adams called the “Education of the Whole People”—because we would find very few private schools willing to take the voucher money if they have to play by the same rules as public schools.

The amount of money flowing to voucher schools would nearly disappear—and our schools would continue to achieve John Adams' vision of a public school system that educates all children, regardless of race, creed, or economic circumstances.

====

Mark Fernald is a former State Senator, and a former Democratic candidate for Governor. He can be reached at mark@markferald.com.

Trump Backs Rip-Off Credit Card Fees. Are We Great Yet?

by Jim Hightower

Top officials of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau erupted in cheers this month.

How odd. The cheers were for a federal court that had just ruled in favor of letting big banks gouge us with exorbitant fees when we're late making a credit card payment. Bizarrely, agency officials joined jubilant bank executives in declaring, “This is a win for consumers.”

Huh? The court's blatantly plutocratic ruling lets financial giants slap us credit card customers with punitive fees of \$32 or more for every late payment. The court is legalizing their consumer robbery, allowing credit card lenders to pluck an extra \$10 billion a year in excess fees from our pockets. Adding to their shame, the profiteering bankers will mainly squeeze this windfall from low-paid working families who're living paycheck to paycheck, having to rely on credit to make ends meet.

So why in hell are the government's consumer protectors cheering this? Because these officials are no longer “ours,”

but corporate operatives installed by Trump's brigade of billionaires. The supreme goal of their autocratic government is to further empower the rich over the rest of us.

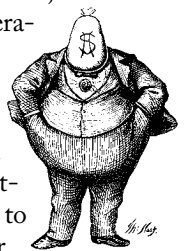
Indeed, displacing consumer protectors with agents who'll protect corporations from consumers was an explicit goal of Project 2025. That extremist manifesto was co-authored by Russell Vought, a fanatical right-wing politico from the Christian Nationalist cult. What's he doing now? Trump has put Vought in charge of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Thus, a national agency meant to help average consumers have a bit more of a fighting chance against financial greed has been perverted by Trump into just another tool helping moneyed elites rip off working families. How great does that make America?

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from previous page

over in all its bloody fury and fiendish cruelty, and all the grizzly-haired old men rivalled each other in their awful stories. This is the first reunion of the brutal outlaws of over twenty years ago that has taken place since Quantrell's death in... 1865.

It is calculated that the pope's jubilee presents are worth \$20,000,000.

In Death Not Divided

Mrs. Mary G. Otis, wife of Harrison G. Otis, died at her home, No. 5 Jackson street, Christian Shore, on Monday afternoon, May 7th, at ten minutes past five o'clock; and on Tuesday afternoon, May 8th, her husband passed away at the same hour. They were each about seventy-three years old.

The Dover Democrat of the 7th inst. says: “Saturday afternoon two boys who were digging near the dump came across a large piece of round iron looking something like a cannon ball. They proposed to get a few cents from its sale as old iron, and carried it to a junk shop where they rolled it across the floor to be weighed. The dealer was surprised

when he picked up a loaded shell of some twenty-five pounds, with cap and ready to be fired. It was after that handled very carefully, and is now on exhibition. How it came where it was found is a mystery.”

Court News

Charles McLaughlin, for assault on Officer Stott, was held in \$200 for the grand jury; jail in default of sureties. The defendant was a hard looking citizen when brought into court,—what could be seen of him, that is, the officer's club having apparently been used with considerable effect, causing the concealment of much of the prisoner's face to be an improvement in his personal appearance. We believe this McLaughlin was the man who some time ago “served time” for an assault on Mr. Joseph B. White, then a police officer, from the effects of which assault Mr. White was hauled up for a week or more.

Charles Snowman, (good time for a snow man to come around now—no fear of his being asked to shovel snow off a sidewalk,) drunk, sixty days at Brentwood, costs \$6.90.

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Base Ball

The Portsmouths were practicing at the Plains on Friday. ...

The clerk of the weather either has a spite against the Portsmouth ball club and its managers, or else he is shockingly careless in his manner of serving out rain. ...

The Penny Post of Tuesday says encouragingly: “A look at the base ball grounds at the south end today, discloses tufts of grass here and there sticking above the water of the lake.” ...

It was rumored on Sunday that a boat race had been arranged for Tuesday, to take place on the ball grounds, and be followed by a swimming match between the champions of the north and south ends. The rumor was entirely unfounded, not even the preliminaries have been arranged.

Forrest Waterhouse of Kennebunk has been held for the grand jury of York county on a queer charge. Etta Waterhouse, a pretty school teacher of Kennebunk, and a sister to Forrest, had at one time a suitor named Stillman G. Thompson, whom she afterward

discarded. Immediately afterward Etta commenced receiving obscene letters, and obscene and slanderous statements concerning her would be found on the blackboards in her school room and other places. Thompson was convicted of being their author, solely on the ground of the handwriting being considered his; and he is now out under bonds, pending the decision of the law court on his appeal. Since his conviction Thompson has been receiving the abusive and obscene letters, and it is now charged that Forrest Waterhouse, mainly on whose evidence it was that Thompson was convicted, was himself the author of the whole lot of trash.

[Note: Forrest Waterhouse (1855 – 1934) and his sister Henrietta (1858 – 1918), are buried in adjoining lots in the Waterhouse plot on Thompson Road in Arundel, Maine.]

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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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