

## The Fortnightly Rant

### Going, Going...?

It's true. It's all true. A police state is being built before our eyes. Peaceful people are being shot dead on the streets. The highest ranking\* guy in the Executive Branch has sent a squad of his own private cops, formerly known as the FBI, to Fulton County, Georgia, to confiscate 700 boxes of damning evidence†—ballots, voter rolls, and tabulator tapes. The pattern is clear: seize power and end our democratic experiment—perversely, on the 250th Anniversary of its birth.

Yet, we are buoyantly optimistic. What could explain such a paradoxical state of mind? Perhaps the item in question has finally been lost. Hear us out, though: while many things are terrible, and the big picture is getting uglier by the day, some things—mighty important things—are at least looking clearer.

Will good prevail over evil? Who knows. At this point, that would be an interesting and unexpected plot twist. We're pretty sure, though, that giving up won't help the situation.

It is essential, these days, to keep in mind that we all now live in a world created by the Man of Many Shirts, Stephen K. Bannon. Call it The Flooded Zone, where hitherto unbelievable events are happening constantly, so that everything ends up being crammed down Orwell's Memory Hole.

Let's defy Bannon and follow a few persistent bread crumbs.

During a 2020 Presidential Debate, the Republican candidate, among other odd utterances, was heard to say, "Proud Boys, stand back and stand by." A few months later, the Proud Boys reported for duty—on January 6th. They, along with thousands of other like-minded supporters of the guy who lost the election, tried to overthrow the government.

Thanks to the Olympian ineptitude of Democratic lawmakers and bureaucrats—Merrick Garland taking home the gold in this round—the ringleader of this failed coup escaped prosecution, was renominated by his party, and, through a tragic series of unfortunate events, got a second chance to stink up the joint.

Nowadays, one doesn't hear so much about masked, armed goons appearing in groups to intimidate people under the Proud Boys banner. Instead, the masked, armed goons appearing in groups to intimidate people occasionally shoot them now, wearing vests labeled ICE. The Department of Homeland Security [DHS] has bulked up considerably in just four

months, luring 12,000 new recruits by lowering standards, reducing vetting, cutting training by more than half, and giving out \$50,000 bonuses.

Of course, one must be careful when using such a rapid intake process. Perhaps that's why DHS Secretary Kristi Noem recently appeared on television behind a podium bearing the Nazi-adjacent slogan, "One of Ours, All of Yours"—to discourage any "weak sisters" who may not have the *streugut* it takes to keep *der Heimat sicher*. No one doubts, of course, that Noem is the perfect candidate to oversee such a task—or do anything else. Who else among us could actually shoot their own 14-month old puppy?

On the same day Noem's ICE agents shot and killed VA nurse Alex Pretti, Pam Bondi, Attorney General—and, apparently, successor to Roy Cohn as Head Fixer for The Big Guy—wrote a letter to Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. In yet another break with precedent, this letter was not pasted up using letters and words cut from newspaper headlines. It did lay out the terms and conditions which must be met before Meal Team Six would be withdrawn from his state. The message was clear: hand over Minnesota's voter rolls and maybe we'll reel in the brownshirts.

Given the way things have gone lately, and the direction in which they appear to be headed, there's only one prudent course left for a civic-minded person. That's to assume that boss man's plan is to ignore the law, deploy armed goons in provocative ways, and beat, arrest, and kill citizens who dare to protest. From now until November, it'll just be rinse and repeat, in the hope that this will somehow stave off disaster in the Congressional election. As Noem's Gravy Seals are drawing blood in the streets, backroom lawyers will be stirring up a noxious mix of legalistic lies aimed at proving the 2020 election was rigged.

Every ordinary mortal has his or her own wants and desires. They can only stand in awe, though, of this rabid insatiability. Where could it come from? Greed and fear, we imagine. Forty-Seven—a number that will live in infamy—has pocketed literally billions of dollars since January. And he has to know that if the rule of law ever wakes from its coma, he'll be living in public housing—albeit, less luxurious—for the rest of his days.

Thanks to Hollywood, one would expect the mastermind behind such a grandiose scheme to be suave, cultured, urbane—and slowly stroking the head of a fluffy white cat.

In the case of Grand Theft Nation, we get none of the above. Any self-respecting cat would run howling from the room.



### 'Corruption on a Breathtaking Level':

## Report Details Massive Foreign Investment in Trump Crypto Firm

by Brad Reed

A bombshell Saturday report from the *Wall Street Journal* revealed that a member of the Abu Dhabi royal family secretly backed a massive \$500 million investment into the Trump family's cryptocurrency venture months before the Trump administration gave the United Arab Emirates access to highly sensitive artificial intelligence chip technology.

According to the *Journal's* sources, lieutenants of Abu Dhabi royal Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan signed a deal in early 2025 to buy a 49 percent stake in World Liberty Financial, the startup founded by members of the Trump family and the family of Trump Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff.

Documents reviewed by the *Journal* showed that the buyers in the deal agreed to "pay half up front, steering \$187 million to Trump family entities," while "at least \$31 million was also slated to flow to entities affiliated with" the Witkoff family.

Weeks after green lighting the investment into the Trump crypto venture, Tahnoon met directly with President Donald Trump and

Witkoff in the White House, where he reportedly expressed interest in working with the U.S. on AI-related technology.

Two months after this, the *Journal* noted, "the administration committed to give the tiny Gulf monarchy access to around 500,000 of the most advanced AI chips a year—enough to build one of the world's biggest AI data center clusters."

Tahnoon in the past had tried to get U.S. officials to give the UAE access to the chips, but was rebuffed on concerns that the cutting-edge technology could be passed along to top U.S. geopolitical rival China, wrote the *Journal*.

Many observers expressed shock at the *Journal's* report, with some critics saying that it showed Trump and his associates were engaging in a criminal bribery scheme.

"This was a bribe," wrote Melanie D'Arrigo, executive director of the Campaign for New York Health, in a social media post. "UAE royals gave the Trump family \$500 million, and Trump, in his presidential capacity, gave them access to tightly guarded American AI chips. The most powerful person on the planet, also happens to be the most shamelessly corrupt."

Jesse Eisinger, reporter and editor at ProPublica, argued that the Abu Dhabi investment into the Trump crypto firm "should rank among the greatest U.S. scandals ever."

Democratic strategist David Axelrod also said that the scope of the Trump crypto investment scandal was historic in nature.

"In any other time or presidency, this story... would be an earthquake of a scandal," he wrote. "The size, scope and implications of it are unprecedented and mind-boggling."

Tommy Vietor, co-host of "Pod Save America," struggled to wrap his head around the scale of corruption on display.

"How do you add up the cost of corruption this massive?" he wondered. "It's not just that Trump is selling advanced AI tech to the highest bidder, national security be damned. It's that he's tapped that doofus Steve Witkoff as an international emissary so his son Zach Witkoff can mop up bribes."

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## BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

Senator [Charles W.] Jones [Democrat] of Florida has been absent from his seat in the senate chambers throughout the session thus far, and it is said he is in a western city laying desperate siege [sic] to the affections of a lady who up to this time declines to be captured. The lady who is the object of Senator Jones' attentions is a Miss [Clotilde] Palms, now about thirty years of age, and only daughter of Francis Palms, the richest man in Michigan, and a well-known pine baron. It is said the senator has never met Miss Palms in private. [Jones

never returned to the Senate. He died in a Michigan insane asylum in 1897.]

• At Madisonville, Ky., Mrs. Beals, a farmer's wife, told her husband that James Brackett, a young farm hand, had tried to kiss her. Brackett called her a liar, and both men drew pistols. Brackett fired first, missed his aim and was shot dead.

• Edward E. Carlton, the husband of Mrs. Etta M. Carlton, who was brutally murdered in her house at Watertown, Mass., in March, 1883, died in Texas a few weeks ago from injuries received by falling from a

railroad train. Carlton hung around Boston for a year after his wife's murder, until he succeeded in collecting a \$5,000 insurance on her life. He was able to prove that he had no hand in the actual killing of his wife, but there are probably not many persons who regard him as innocent of the crime.

• The debate upon the bill for the restoration of Gen. Fitz John Porter to his former rank in the army began

\* According to reports from multiple sources, he really is awfully rank. Never having been within sniffing distance, we cannot definitively confirm this.

† How is this evidence damning? It proves the absence of a crime, thereby making it necessary to fabricate one.

## U.S. Military Helping Trump to Build Massive Network of 'Concentration Camps,' Navy Contract Reveals

The Department of Homeland Security is using a repurposed \$55 billion Navy contract to convert warehouses into makeshift jails and plan sprawling tent cities in remote areas.

by Stephen Prager

In the wake of immigration agents' killings of three U.S. citizens within a matter of weeks, the Department of Homeland Security is quietly moving forward with a plan to expand its capacity for mass detention by using a military contract to create what Pablo Manríquez, the author of the immigration news site *Migrant Insider* calls "a nationwide 'ghost network' of concentration camps."

On Sunday, Manríquez reported that "a massive Navy contract vehicle, once valued at \$10 billion, has ballooned to a staggering \$55 billion ceiling to expedite President Donald Trump's 'mass deportation' agenda."

It is the expansion of a contract first reported on in October by CNN, which found that DHS was "funneling \$10 billion through the Navy to help facilitate the construction of a sprawling network of migrant detention centers across the U.S. in an arrangement aimed at getting the centers built faster, according to sources and federal contracting documents."

The report describes the money as being allocated for "new detention centers," which "are likely to be primarily soft-sided tents and may or

may not be built on existing Navy installations, according to the sources familiar with the initiative. DHS has often leaned on soft-sided facilities to manage influxes of migrants."

According to a source familiar with the project, "the goal is for the facilities to house as many as 10,000 people each, and are expected to be built in Louisiana, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Utah, and Kansas."

Now Manríquez reports that the project has just gotten much bigger after a Navy grant was repurposed weeks ago. It was authorized through the Worldwide Expeditionary Multiple Award Contract (WEXMAC), a flexible purchasing system that the government uses to quickly move military equipment to dangerous and remote parts of the world.

The contract states that the money is being repurposed for "TITUS," an abbreviation for "Territorial Integrity of the United States." While it's not unusual for Navy contracts to be used for expenditures aimed at protecting the nation, Manríquez warned that such a staggering movement of funds for domestic detention points to something ominous.

"This \$45 billion increase, published just weeks ago, converts the U.S. into a 'geographic region' for

expeditionary military-style detention," he wrote. "It signals a massive, long-term escalation in the government's capacity to pay for detention and deportation logistics. In the world of federal contracting, it is the difference between a temporary surge and a permanent infrastructure."

He says the use of the military funding mechanism is meant to disburse funds quickly, without the typical bidding war among contractors, which would typically create a period of public scrutiny. Using the Navy contract means that new projects can be created with "task orders," which can be turned around almost immediately, when "specific dates and locations are identified" by DHS.

"It means the infrastructure is currently a 'ghost' network that can be materialized anywhere in the U.S. the moment a site is picked," Manríquez wrote.

Amid its push to deport one million people each year, the White House has said it needs to dramatically increase the scale of its detention apparatus to add more beds for those who are arrested. But Manríquez said documents suggest "this isn't just about bed space; it's about the rapid deployment of self-contained cities."

In addition to tent cities capable of housing thousands, contract line items include facilities meant for sustained living—including closed

tents likely for medical treatment and industrial-sized grills for food preparation.

They also include expenditures on "Force Protection" equipment, like earth-filled defensive barriers, 8-foot-high CONEX box walls, and "Weather Resistant" guard shacks.

Eric Feigl-Ding, an epidemiologist and health economist, said the contract's provision of materials meant to deal with medical needs and death was "extra chilling." According to the report, "services extend to 'Medical Waste Management,' with specific protocols for biohazard incinerators."

The new reporting from *Migrant Insider* comes on the heels of a report last week from Bloomberg that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has used some of the \$45 billion to purchase warehouses in nearly two dozen remote communities, each meant to house thousands of detainees, which it said "could be the largest expansion of such detention capacity in U.S. history." The plans have been met with backlash from locals, even in the largely Republican-leaning areas where they are being constructed:

"This month, demonstrators protested warehouse conversions in New Hampshire, Utah, Texas and Georgia after the *Washington Post* published an earlier version of the conversion plan.

"In mid-January, a planned tour for contractors of a potential warehouse site in San Antonio was canceled after protesters showed up the same day, according to a person familiar with the scheduled visit.

"In Salt Lake City, the Ritchie Group, a local family business that owns the warehouse ICE identified as a future 'mega center' jail, said it had 'no plans to sell or lease the property in question to the federal government' after protesters showed up at their offices to pressure them."

On January 20, Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) joined hundreds of protesters outside a warehouse in Hagerstown, Maryland, that was set to be converted into a facility that will hold 1,500 people.

The senator called the construction of it and other detention facilities "one of the most obscene, one of the most inhumane, one of the most illegal operations being carried out by this Trump administration."

Reports of a new influx of funding from the Navy come as Democrats in Congress face pressure to block tens of billions in new funding for DHS and ICE during budget negotiations.

"If Congress does nothing, DHS will continue to thrive," Manríquez said. "With three more years pre-funded, plus a U.S. Navy as a benefactor, Secretary Kristi Noem—or any potential successor—has the legal and financial runway to keep the business of creating ICE concentration camps overnight in American communities running long after any news cycle fades."

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Oh, dear. It appears that someone has created a sticker using what surely must be an unauthorized likeness of our universally-beloved Chief Executive wearing clown makeup, encircled by flamboyant lettering spelling out something in a foreign language which we suspect may be an unflattering epithet, and slapped it onto the backside of a traffic sign. Yet more evidence, as if it were needed, of an appalling decline in public civility. If only someone could explain to us the source of this calamitous trend.

### BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page one

in the national house of representatives on Thursday, and Representative [Martin Alonzo] Haynes of his state made a speech in its support.

- Near Little Rock, Ark., Ben Holmes, a married man, was shot by Cecil Thompson. Holmes had been courting Thompson's stepdaughter, to which Thompson objected, and in a quarrel which ensued Holmes was killed.

- Governor Squire, of Washington territory, has proclaimed martial law, and United States troops have been ordered to Seattle to protect the Chinamen from the mob.

- Fred Stevens and wife, of Great Falls, were arrested in Dover on the 8th inst. for being drunk on the street, and assessed \$8.76 each, fine

and costs, which they paid. Nice pair.

- United States Marshal Ireland, of Salt Lake City, Utah, has offered a reward of \$500 for the capture of the notorious Mormon, George [Quayle] Cannon. [Cannon was Utah's non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives from 1873 until 1882, when the Edmunds Act made polygamy a felony. Cannon, who had six wives, went underground for a time, and later served six months in the Utah penitentiary.]

- W.H. Purdy, a lad of ten years, who ran away from his home in New York city four years ago, is one of the several heirs to an estate of \$2,500,000 left by a maternal relative. His father would like to find him.

- At West Carmington, Ohio, on the morning of Feb. 14th, a liquor sa-

loon kept by one Hawley was blown up with dynamite. The people of the village have been at war with Hawley for some time.

- George Q. Cannon, a leading apostle of the Mormon church, who has been in hiding from the United States officers for over a year, was arrested in Winnemucca, Nev., Feb. 13th. He is regarded as the chief man of the Mormon church in its defiance of the national law.

- Two boys from Great Falls are serving a thirty-days sentence for riding on the train between Great Falls and Rollinsford without paying their fare.

*The New Hampshire Gazette*  
February 18, 1886

- Twenty-five men narrowly escaped

to next page

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## Noem Sending Body Cameras to DHS Agents in Minnesota 'Surveillance Is Not Accountability'

by Jessica Corbett

As the Hennepin County medical examiner on Monday classified Alex Pretti's death as a homicide, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said members of her department who are on the ground in Minnesota will be issued body-worn cameras—a development that came amid a congressional funding fight and was met with mixed reactions.

President Donald Trump and Noem this year have sent thousands of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agents to the Twin Cities, where they have fatally shot Pretti and Renee Good, both U.S. citizens acting as legal observers. Noem announced on social media Monday that she met with the heads of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

"Effective immediately we are deploying body cameras to every officer in the field in Minneapolis. As funding is available, the body camera program will be expanded nationwide. We will rapidly acquire and deploy body cameras to DHS law enforcement across the country. The most transparent administration in American history," the department chief wrote, also thanking the president. [sic]

Noem revealed the move as Congress was in the process of reopening the government after a weekend shutdown. The package would give federal lawmakers until mid-February to sort out a battle over DHS funding. Democrats have fought for policies to rein in the department since ICE officer Jonathan Ross

killed Good last month, and demands have mounted since Border Patrol agent Jesus Ochoa and Customs and Border Protection officer Raymundo Gutierrez killed Pretti.

Responding to the secretary on social media, House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) said, "The funding is there, and every officer operating in our communities should be wearing a body camera."

"However, this alone won't be enough for Homeland Security to regain public trust or to ensure full transparency and accountability. Secretary Noem must be removed from office," DeLauro added. There have been growing calls to impeach her.

Pointing to extra money that ICE got in the budget package that congressional Republicans and Trump forced through last summer, Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) said: "You got \$75 billion in the Big Bad Betrayal bill. You've got funding 'available' right now. And... release the Pretti bodycam footage NOW."

Congressman Don Beyer (D-Va.) also took to social media to call for releasing the bodycam footage from the Pretti shooting and stressed that funding is already available:

As the Associated Press reported:

Homeland Security has said that at least four Customs and Border Protection officers on the scene when Pretti was shot were wearing body cameras. The body camera footage from Pretti's shooting has not been made public.

The department has not responded to repeated questions about whether any of the ICE officers on the scene of the killing of Renee

Good earlier in January were wearing the cameras.

Bystander footage of the Minneapolis shootings has circulated widely and fueled global demands for ending Trump's "Operation Metro Surge" in Minnesota as well as arresting and prosecuting the agents who shot and killed both legal observers.

Some Americans and a growing number of Democratic lawmakers are also calling to abolish ICE. Author Chantal James declared Monday: "We didn't say bodycams on ICE. Their murders are already on video. We said no more ICE."

Critics of the administration cast doubt on whether adding more bodycams to the mix will reduce violence by DHS. Campaign for New York Health executive director Melanie D'Arrigo said that immigration agents "murdered two people on video since the beginning of the year, and the Trump administration still lied about what happened and tried to justify it. I don't think cameras are the solution."

Todd Schulte, president of FWD.us, a policy organization focused on harmful criminal justice and immigration systems, shared an image emphasizing that "surveillance is not accountability" and a fact sheet about body cameras his group put out last month.

"In the wake of the killing of Michael Brown in 2013, policymakers and police departments held

### A Public Informational Talk:

## "ICE and Our Constitutional Rights"

The Seacoast Friends Preserving Democracy are announcing the first in a series of informational talks about Constitutional Rights, Democracy, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Affordability, and more. The first talk will take place on Thursday, February 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hilton Garden Room at the Portsmouth Public Library. Buzz Scherr, Portsmouth Police Commissioner and Portsmouth State Representative, will present his talk "ICE and Our Constitutional Rights."

Scherr is a semi-retired law professor who worked as a public defender in New Hampshire for thirteen years before becoming a law professor at UNH Law. He served for seven years on the national board of directors of the ACLU and as chair of the board of directors of the ACLU-NH for seven years. As Chair of the Portsmouth Police



up body-worn cameras as the path forward. Editorial boards joined the chorus," the fact sheet states. "Over a decade later, with 80% of large police departments in the U.S. now having acquired body-worn cameras, it's safe to say body-worn cameras have not delivered on their lofty promise."

"The evidence that body-worn cameras reduce use of force is mixed, at best," and "footage≠transparency or accountability," the document details. Additionally, "contrary to their stated purpose, body-worn cameras are actually thriving as tools to surveil and prosecute civilians."

After a masked federal immigra-

tion agent told a legal observer in Maine that she was being put in a database for purported "domestic terrorists," independent journalist Ken Klippenstein reported last week that federal agencies are using multiple watchlists to track and categorize U.S. citizens—especially activists, protesters, and other critics of law enforcement.

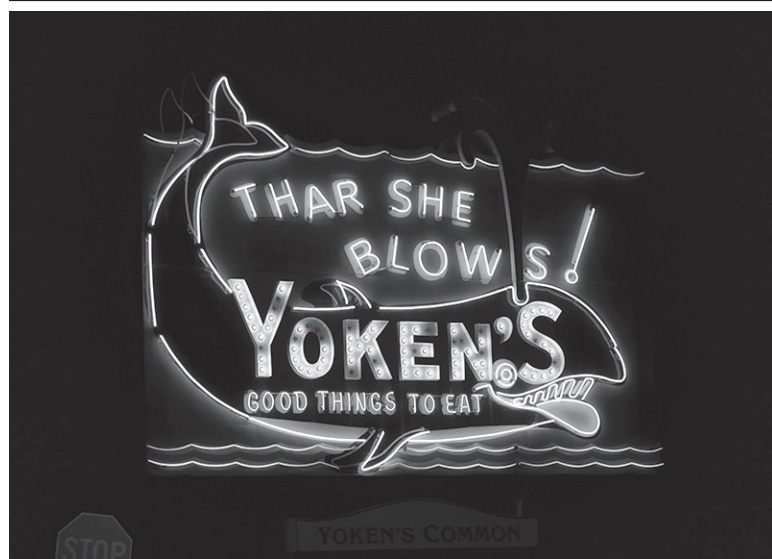
Jessica Corbett is a senior editor and staff writer for Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).

## BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from previous page

death by the blowing down of an ice-house building at Boothbay, Me. • During the discussion in the house on the Fitz John Porter bill, Mr. Swineburne of New York, through his clerk, stated that jealousy was one of the fine arts taught at West Point. • The great McCormick reaper works at Chicago have closed down, and 1,400 employes [sic] have begun a siege of enforced idleness. Mr. McCormick declined to discharge his non-union men at the demand of the union men, and closed the works. • It has been ascertained that 45,000 people died in Montreal from small-pox during the recent scourge. • During a recent municipal election in Philadelphia a gang of democratic roughs, armed with knives and re-

to page seven



Alas, poor Yoken's... Where be your illumined spume?

**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**

"Thanks to impermanence, anything is possible."

— Thich Nhat Hanh

"Never let your mind write a check that your body isn't prepared to cash."

— Red Green's grandfather

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**Beware of Cruise Ships**

— a Bar Harbor reader

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**Yay! More Hate Mail!**

Dear Yo-Yo's [sic]:

I just thought I'd write you to check if you are aware that to reproduce a magazine cover w/o that magazine's permission is illegal, and that if, on top of everything else, that cover is a BOGUS one you are REALLY in trouble?

Sincerely,

Mr. Bernardo Figuerado  
Gonic, N.H.

Dear Mr. Bernardo:

Once again we are overcome with gratitude: the Bard of Gonic deigns to enlighten us once again. It's an honor and a thrill. Unfortunately our joy is tainted by the necessity of informing you that you are once—no, make that twice—again wrong.

The First Amendment gives us the right to free speech in general. Furthermore, 17 U.S.C. § 107 gives us the right to "fair use" of copyrighted material "for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting... is not an infringement of copyright."

You are right about one thing, though. We are, in fact, "REALLY in trouble." Like Ahab lashed to the mast of the Pequod, our fate is indivisible from the nation's—and one need only read the headlines to see how dire that is. Spoiler alert: Ahab drowned.

We have high hopes, though, that the sources of our troubles may, beginning as soon as this November, find themselves on their way to disempowerment and eventual comeuppance.

The Editor

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**Annual Car Inspections?**

To the Editor:

The purpose of our N.H. car inspection system is safety—it is not a question of whether we should have an inspection system, but what kind of inspection system. It needs updating, not tossing out. I believe the newly proposed system includes a three-year grace period for new cars where no inspections are necessary. Sounds very reasonable. Other such changes should be discussed.

An inspection that checks the wheels, steering, ability to brake, lights, car fluids—seems vital. I'm sure there are other things a competent mechan-

ic could add to the list. We do not want cars out there that can't stop or can't see you or otherwise put others in danger from problems that a safety inspection could have foreseen.

If some kind of compromise is needed, let's go the route of improving the system, not dumping it. I'd rather we didn't live in the unsafe clunker capital of the U.S.

Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

You'll get no argument from us. You left out the emissions test, though. Considering the ongoing crusade to encourage environmental degradation in pursuit of looney libertarian ideals, we can't help but wonder if dropping that may have been the real goal behind this move. Cynical? Ask Lily Tomlin's writer, Jane Wagner: "No matter how cynical you become, it's never enough to keep up."

The Editor

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**Guns on Campus, Then and Now**

Dear Editor:

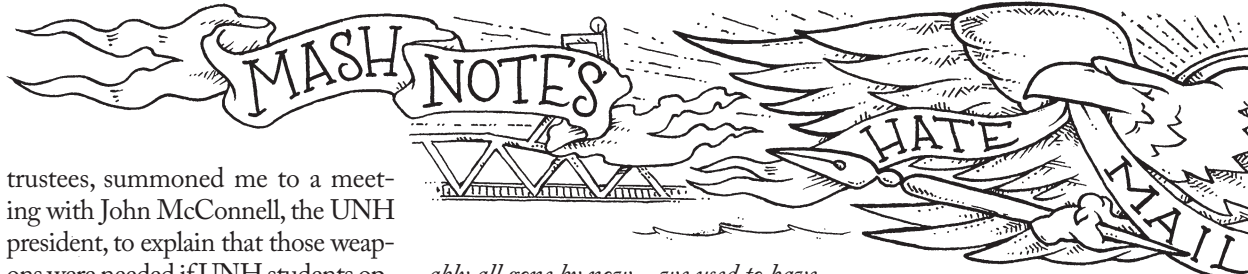
By now, most of your readers are aware of N.H. House Bill 1793 "prohibiting public colleges and universities from regulating the possession and carrying of firearms and non-lethal weapons on campus" in the Granite State.

It should be no surprise that some UNH and local officials have opposed this bill, but let's look back to 1969 when I represented the UNH English Department on the faculty senate and was a member of that slumbering body's faculty welfare committee.

Other than my lonely voice, that committee, and the rest of the faculty senate, had no objection to allowing the campus police from being armed with free war surplus M1 rifles, the standard combat rifle of the U.S. military in WWII and the Korean War.

Knowing the hostility of some campus police officers toward students opposed to the war in Vietnam, I objected to arming them with semi-automatic weapons that could fire eight rounds as fast as the trigger could be pulled for each round.

After I spoke to this issue at a campus rally, Mildred McAfee Horton, the president of the UNH board of



trustees, summoned me to a meeting with John McConnell, the UNH president, to explain that those weapons were needed if UNH students opposed to the war in Vietnam tried to occupy Thompson Hall.

A year later, after M1s were used to kill and maim students at Kent State by poorly trained National Guardsmen, John McConnell apologized and admitted I was right to oppose arming the campus police with combat weapons.

Now let me travel back to 1952 when I joined the Junior ROTC at West Phoenix High School. We drilled with M1 rifles that had firing pins, but none of us thought to bring live rounds to campus in order to shoot our fellow students or teachers.

For four years, like some other cadets, I often walked or biked across campus with my own .22 caliber rifle in plain view to use the ROTC rifle range below the stadium in order to earn more NRA marksmanship medals. No one objected or felt threatened.

And some days, I brought my .22 target pistol to the range in my book bag.

The day I turned seventeen, I joined the Arizona National Guard, which allowed me to purchase an M1 rifle from the government, something not then available to most citizens not in the armed services or reserves.

That was then, this is now. We know private firearms need to be kept off all campuses.

Julian Smith  
Durham, N.H.

Julian:

A minor quibble: you didn't actually have to join the Guard to get a murder machine from the gummint—and you still don't.

In 1903, about the time the U.S. Army adopted the bolt-action, .30-06 Springfield as its standard service rifle, Congress started a program for civilian marksmanship training. After WWI, vast numbers of war surplus Springfields were made available to the public through the 501(c)3 non-profit Civilian Marksmanship Program.

Civilians could just pay their dues to the CMP, get a little training, and cough up the dough. The Springfields are prob-

ably all gone by now—we used to have one, back in our mis-spent youth.

Post WWII, Garands became the hot item. Incredibly enough, this program is still in effect. Garands cost anywhere from \$900 to \$1,900, depending on condition and availability. Of course, since the M-16 became "America's Rifle™", only the most retro gun nuts want a clunky old ten-pound Garand.

The Editor

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**When Truth Dies, Democracy Follows**

To the Editor:

Jack Smith, the former special counsel who oversaw the investigation into President Donald Trump's attempts to overturn the 2020 election, recently testified publicly for the first time before the House Judiciary Committee.

Committee member Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) warned: "Mr. Smith... Republicans are trying to rewrite history... Perhaps the Chairman could muster the courage to call the four witnesses who I see... standing behind you, Mr. Smith. The four police officers who risked everything, life and limb... to protect the Republican members on the dais."

Former D.C. police officer Michael Fanone was one of those protectors present in the hearing room. On January 6, 2021, Daniel Rodriguez repeatedly drove a stun gun into Fanone's skull, causing him to lose consciousness and suffer a heart attack. Rodriguez was sentenced to over 12 years in prison. The judge called him "a one-man army of hate."

After issuing his blanket pardon of Rodriguez and his fellow cop-beaters, President Trump claimed these violent felons did not attack anyone, and that, in fact, they were the ones who had been attacked. He further stated that pardoning them was "a great thing for humanity."

Timothy Snyder, author of *On Tyranny*, argues that democracy cannot exist without history because it depends on citizens who can recognize patterns from the past, accept responsibility for what their nation has done, and choose better paths for the future.

Today, we are watching the Trump administration distort the facts surrounding the fatal shootings of Minneapolis residents Renée Good and Alex Pretti by ICE and U.S. Border Patrol agents. This revisionism isn't just cynical—it's dangerous. When politicians deny what happened in plain sight, they erode the public's ability to tell truth from propaganda.

And when the truth is lost, so is our capacity to hold power to account.

Terry Hansen  
Grafton, Wisc.

Terry:

This country has always had a two-tiered justice system. For evidence of this, one need look no further than the term, "white collar crime."

Boost food from a store because you're starving and you could end up on a path to the penitentiary.

The secret to a successful criminal career in the U.S. of A. has always been, "Think Big." If you're an entry-level crook, start by looting a Savings & Loan—but wait... Belay that, that entire category of worthy and useful financial institutions is but a historical footnote, thanks to a bunch of bums back in the 80's, few of whom ever did any time. Still, the principle holds. Always steal at least enough to afford better legal talent than the citizenry—which, let's remember, is almost sure to be your eventual victim—has on its side.

While it is not yet as picturesque as the one onscreen in "Les Misérables," our system of justice for the rich and injustice for the poor may be getting competitive, thanks to the inception of a third tier: those who are politically exempt from prosecution.

At the top, of course, is the Supreme Court's Golden Boy—or Golden Calf—uniquely empowered to pre-emptively exonerate the worst criminals one might imagine. Eat your heart out, Victor Hugo.

The Editor

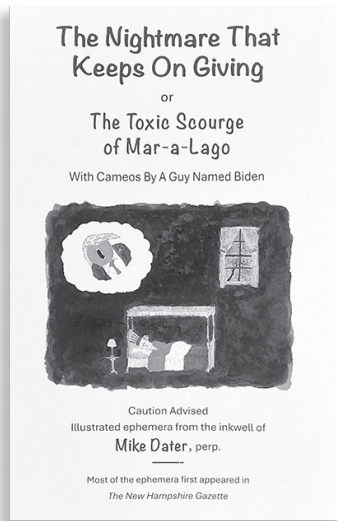
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**It's a Fair Comparison**

To the editor;

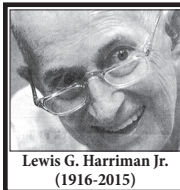
During Trump's first term some liberal pundits recommended that

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his critics avoid comparing him to Hitler or calling his supporters Nazis. They claimed that doing so would be inflammatory and divisive, making dialogue more difficult. The dialogue never came and now in his second term, the actions of Trump and his MAGA allies have made comparisons to Nazi fascists all too relevant. The recent activities of ICE in Minnesota serve as an example.

The ostensible reason for ICE's presence in Minnesota is to enforce Trump's immigration policy and apprehend dangerous illegal immigrants. ICE, however, has acted more like an occupying army than a police force. Their alleged "targeted enforcement" has randomly snatched brown-skinned individuals off the street including housewives, teenagers, and toddlers, denying due process even when their victims are American citizens. ICE agents have violently entered homes without judicial warrants in clear violation of the Constitution. ICE has persistently ignored judicial orders restricting their activities, giving a clear signal that they consider themselves above the law. When their belligerent and brutal enforcement has been opposed by ordinary citizens pursuing their first amendment rights to protest, ICE agents have reacted aggressively, throwing many to the ground, using pepper spray and tear gas at close range, and firing non-lethal weapons at non-threatening protesters. Citizen observers have been dragged out of their cars and threatened with arrest. ICE officials have demonized demonstrators, describing them as "domestic terrorists" without cause or evidence. Their overly militant responses have resulted in the needless deaths of two protesters. When trying to justify the shootings, Border Patrol Commander Greg Bovino complained that calling agents names such as the "Gestapo" created a hostile atmosphere that induces violence. Bovino, however, has conflated cause and effect.

ICE tactics are reminiscent of Hit-

ler's use of the S.A. (Sturmabteilung) and Gestapo in Weimar Germany. The S.A. was a paramilitary force used by the Nazi Party to engage in violent confrontations with political and other internal opponents. In 1933, after Hitler became Chancellor, it was incorporated into the Weimar government, but its purpose stayed the same—to instigate conflict and chaos with perceived enemies who could be portrayed as existential enemies to public order. After S.A. leadership fell out of favor with Hitler, the S.A. was replaced by the Gestapo, a subsidiary of the S.S. (Schutzstaffel). The Gestapo's purpose was to remove legal and social guardrails that safeguarded free expression and political opposition. After the suspension of civil liberties in 1933, they began the process of dismantling opposing political parties as well as any other source of dissent. Hitler used the Gestapo to bypass the legal system using tactics such as arresting those found innocent in court and sending them to concentration camps (sound familiar?). They arrested perceived enemies without warrants or judicial review. Hitler did not use the S.A. and Gestapo to enforce legitimately constituted laws. They existed solely to enforce his will and eliminate resistance to his ascension to power. ICE serves a similar purpose for Trump as indicated by his disdain for due process, civil rights and judicial constraint. The idea that ICE is being used as an instrument to implement an immigration policy designed to deport the "worst of the worst" is propaganda for his MAGA minions. ICE is a coercive instrument of Trump's will, to be used as an instrument of coercion and retribution on political enemies. ICE has been used primarily in states with Democratic governors who have been demonized by Trump and MAGA sycophants as "radical leftists" and supporters of domestic terrorism. Thus, Minnesota Governor Waltz and Minneapolis Mayor Frey are threatened with a DOJ investigation, accused of impeding ICE investigations and instigating violence.

Meanwhile, Republican states Texas and Florida which have vastly more undocumented immigrants have escaped ICE campaigns. The ultimate purpose of ICE tactics is not just to enforce immigration law; it is to instill fear and sow chaos to discredit Democratic leadership and set up a pretext for a Trumpian takeover. Billions of dollars have been lavished on ICE in this year's budget, apparently with the purpose of establishing a private army for Trump. We are on the road toward authoritarian rule. The time to stop it is now.

Robert D. Russell, PhD  
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:  
"The time to stop it is now." Couldn't agree more. And who's to do the stopping? In this instance, the buck seems to stop at the bottom. We do it, somehow. We are, most of us, good people. Together, we have a vast reservoir of power to resist. They can't arrest us all.

The Editor

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### The Rule of Law Matters

Dear Editor:

Out with the old, in with the new: time for reflection, perhaps resolve, certainly time to separate fact from fiction, truth from lies. Lord Chesterfield: "Lies and perfidy are the refuge of fools and cowards."

A rather jarring beginning to 2026, watching innocent citizens murdered on the streets of their own city by masked thugs vaguely resembling police officers, under the ultimate direction of the President of the United States, whose chief duty it is to protect the Constitution and enforce the laws made by Congress, an obligation he is under oath to perform.

It seems those Americans receiving the brunt of the fault for the chaos and turmoil occurring in America are (unjustifiably) Blue State governors, mayors and citizens.

Reflecting on the last election, it was not Left-leaning voters who supported the president who incited an armed mob to attack our Capitol, kill and injure its defenders with the clear intent to overturn an election he knew he'd lost, thus preventing the peaceful transfer of power.

Neither did the Left support the president who stole highly classified documents (knowledge of which could cause grave harm to our nation), and then refuse to return them.

Nor did the Left promote the president who pardoned more than 1,500 insurrectionists whose actions on January 6th led to deaths or injury to scores of defenders of the Capitol, protecting the Vice President, and Congress.

Nor does the Left champion a president who brags about assaulting women and was, in fact, found civilly liable of sexual abuse and defamation.

No, it's the Right, and it's this president, in collusion with the Supreme Court and Republicans in Congress who are responsible for chaos, unrest and national turmoil, including the cold-blooded murder of innocent American citizens exercising their constitutional right (perhaps duty) to resist tyranny.

Neither are news organizations obliged to print letters that express opinions put forward as "evidence," notions that have been proven false time and time again.

A writer may opine the political Left is responsible for all the chaos and disorder in America, that's his right, but printing fabrications dressed up as truth is a venture credible journalists should try to avoid.

Trump's Administration claims to enforce our laws but, as countless writers have observed, what Trump alleges is not law enforcement, it's authoritarianism wrapped in a flag, shielded by lies and enabled by everyone who supports Trump or remains silent.

Trump continually violates the Constitution and disregards checks and balances (without which) transparency and accountability are lost. Exhibiting nothing but contempt for the rule of law, the Trump Administration is the political and moral equivalent of a crime family that lies to cover up its malfeasance.

As made unquestionably plain by the English philosopher, John Locke, in 1689, "Where-ever law ends, tyranny begins." By granting Donald Trump immunity for his many crimes (placing him above the law), the Rob-

erts Court (with the approval of the Republican Congress) opened the door to tyranny. Donald Trump had simply to walk through it.

David L. Snell  
Franklin, N.C.

David:  
Dire, but accurate. Nothing more needs to be said.

The Editor

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### Taxing Bicycles And My Patience

To the editors:

A bill, HB1703, currently pending in the New Hampshire House would impose a \$50 annual registration fee on every bicycle, including e-bikes. HB1703 is bad for N.H. and its residents.

HB1703 would generate revenue by taxing residents and visitors who bicycle in N.H. It does not project the amount of revenue it would raise, does not protect the collected funds so that they would only be used for "bicycling infrastructure," and, tellingly, does not even begin to define what "bicycling infrastructure" is.

HB1703 would discourage cycling in N.H. for residents who look to find healthy ways to exercise. HB1703 would discourage tourism that focuses on bicycling. HB1703 would put an undue burden on residents who rely on bicycles as their primary transportation. HB1703 would hit families who bicycle with undue taxes, as each bike the family owns would be taxed—four bikes = \$200 *each year*. HB1703 would especially hurt those residents who have no means of even knowing that they are supposed to pay a \$50 tax to retain their right to bicycle in N.H., and when caught in non-compliance, would tax them even further—\$150: \$100 fine plus the \$50 registration tax.

HB1703 is clearly legislation designed to merely raise revenue that will end up in the general fund, and may then be used to fund tax breaks for big corporations, and not funding public education as the N.H. Constitution requires.

What sort of person would propose such a disgusting piece of legislation for New Hampshire and its residents,

to next page

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from page five

and how did such a person ever get elected to the N.H. House?

I strongly oppose HB1703 for all the above reasons, and I hope HB1703 never sees its way to a vote in the legislature.

Paul Cully  
Dover, N.H.

Paul:

*We share your disgust. This proposed legislation plumbs new depths of gratuitous stupidity. Doing the wrong thing, for the wrong reason—or for no reason at all—at the expense of people doing the right thing. It's the N.H. GOP's "New Hampshire Advantage" in action: give to the haves, take from the have-nots.*

The Editor

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### N.H. House Committee to Citizens: "We're Not Listening"

To the Editor:

On January 29 2026, members of the N.H. House Legislative Administration Committee voted to suppress the voices of N.H. citizens by finding HB 1114, regarding documentation and preservation of public comments, "Inexpedient to Legislate." Thank you to the three members of the Committee who supported the bill.

There were 501 comments posted online in support of the bill, one opposed, one neutral. Six N.H. legislators testified in favor of the bill, including five Democrats and one Republican. There was no in-person or written testimony in opposition to the bill presented at the public hearing. Concerns expressed by opposed committee members at the Executive Session were trivial and inconsequential, and could have been easily resolved by minor amendments.

Many of the people who posted online support for HB 1114 told compelling stories of demanding work schedules, disabilities, age related challenges, family caregiver responsibilities, and other issues that prevented them from traveling to Concord to testify on a bill. They stated that remote, online testimo-



ny is the only realistic option that they have to participate in the legislative process. The members of the Committee who voted to kill this bill have made it perfectly clear that they don't give a damn about these citizens.

This is discriminatory and it is a violation of the sacred constitutional right of N.H. citizens to participate in the legislative process. The lawmakers who voted against this bill will be held accountable. November is just 10 months away.

Jean Slepian  
Stoddard N.H.

Jean:

*This, from a committee controlled by the party that's always complaining about being governed by some snooty "elite."*

The Editor

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### "Paging Doctor Mengele..."

Dear Editor:

In another striking assault on public health, Dr. Kirk Milhoan, the new head of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) who was recently appointed by Secretary RFK, Jr. has recommended that both measles and polio vaccines be voluntary and not required for children to attend school.

Dr. Milhoan, a pediatrician, stated that the risk of polio is not the same as in previous years because our sanitation is improved, and that should be considered against the risk of taking the vaccine. Sorry, Doctor, but we already know the risks. The risks of getting a serious complication from the polio vaccine are miniscule compared to the consequences of potentially contracting polio.

Among people who contract polio, the risk of developing the paralytic form ranges between 1 in 200 cases, to 1 in 3,000 cases, depending on the virus type. The risk of a serious reaction from the Oral Polio Vaccine is 1 in 2.4 million. From the Inactivated vaccine, the risk is 1 in one million. (Philadelphia Chil-

den's Hospital).

Dr. Milhoan also suggested that deaths from the current measles outbreaks, "would be helpful for understanding disease risk." He stated, "What we're going to have is a real-world experience of when unvaccinated people get measles. What is the new incidence of hospitalization? What's the incidence of death?"

This is akin to proposing a biological experiment on children to see how many unvaccinated children need hospitalization and how many will die.



Unfortunately, we do not need this type of unethical and immoral experimentation on children to know how many will die or need hospitalization. We have enough data from those years before we had the vaccine to completely understand the horror.

Unfortunately, this is not the only unethical child experiment planned by Mr. Kennedy. He has proposed a study in the poor West African nation of Guinea-Bissau to test his own Hepatitis B theories. The study would divide 14,000 newborns into two groups. Half would receive the Hepatitis B vaccine at birth as recommended, the other half at six weeks. They would then study the rate of Hepatitis B in the two groups. (*Scientific American*, January

15, 2026.) Such a study would never be permitted in the U.S. because of the enormous ethical and moral violations. They want to use children as guinea pigs to test their theories regarding vaccines. These sick proposals by Mr. Kennedy and Dr. Milhoan remind me of the shameful Tuskegee syphilis study many years ago.

Rich DiPentima, RN, MPH  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

*We suppose we should be grateful, one year into Trump 2.0, that we're still able to feel outraged.*

The Editor

====

### The Cell Phone as a Defensive Weapon

To the Editor:

Minneapolis residents Renée Good and Alex Pretti were fatally shot by ICE and U.S. Border Patrol agents. President Donald Trump called Pretti an "agitator and, perhaps, insurrectionist." Without evidence, White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller labeled him a "domestic terrorist" and a "would-be assassin."

Notably, a frame-by-frame analysis by CNN shows that shots 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 were all fired while Pretti lay incapacitated on his back.

George Orwell, author of the dystopian novel 1984, observed that "atrocities are believed in or disbelieved in solely on grounds of political predilection. Everyone believes

in the atrocities of the enemy and disbelieves in those of his own side, without ever bothering to examine the evidence."

In fact, Trump's Department of Justice filed a motion challenging a judge's order that barred the destruction of evidence in the Pretti case.

I strongly encourage watching the 2025 documentary "2+2=5." The film explores Orwell's life and applies his ideas to recent events like actions by the Trump administration, Gaza, immigration, and the treatment of the Rohingya in Myanmar. His insights are timeless.

It's crucial to recognize that selective memories of aggression have long been used to justify state violence. We owe a debt of thanks to those who document, protest, and refuse to look away. Without them, the truth of what happened to Alex Pretti and Renée Good might never have come to light.

Terry Hansen  
Grafton, Wisc.

Terry:

*It may be that, come January of 2027, we non-members of the Cult of Trump may finally get a little help from the U.S. Congress in the struggle to save this country.*

*We'd be fools to wait around for that, though. And if we have any hope of ever seeing that help arrive, we're going to have to fight like hell from now through Election Day.*

*Orwell wrote, "To see what is in front of one's nose needs a constant struggle." Getting someone to believe it takes a cell phone.*

The Editor

## Another Letter From Rawand

by W.D. Ehrhart

Regular readers may remember that I have written several previous essays based on letters I have received from Rawand Gawad abu Ghanem, a Palestinian mother of two young children living in Gaza.

What is happening in Gaza has largely been sidelined from the news by the so-called "cease fire," and by the recent attention-getting events involving flagrant acts of war against Venezuela (culminating, for now, in the kidnapping of a sitting head of state), the murders of Renée Good and Alex Pretti by masked and heavily armed ICE thugs, threats to take possession of Greenland by force if necessary, and yet more saber-rattling at Iran.

But the genocide continues in Gaza, and the pogroms continue in the West Bank, and today I received another letter from Rawand dated January 7th, 2026. Here is what she wrote:

*My Dear Friend,*

*What is the meaning of 'displaced' in your country? I am not waiting for an answer because your answer will not satisfy me. Do not send me your answers. Unless you are here, you do not have them. You don't live my life, so you are not forced to live a life that doesn't fit you. You don't take one hard breath after another just to keep going.*

*You haven't stopped smiling because sorrow lodges in your chest. You haven't stopped playing with your children because you have no more strength to play. You are not forced to be cold and stay cold because you don't have enough blankets or clothes and the tent meant to keep you warm has blown away in the heavy winds.*

*You do not walk along what is left of your streets, nor are you forced to go buy something under bombs. You don't stay awake all night hoping to protect your family from drowning. You don't take the food out of your mouth to feed your hungry children.*

*You don't hear your child crying for apples or fish to eat. You don't hear him ask again and again for a piece of chocolate or pomegranate juice when you don't have the money or it is not in the market. You don't hear your belly's voice groaning day and night because your city is rich in vegetables and fruits and your world is eating itself full, and we are empty.*

*You don't feel this thirst or know that the only way to be*

*full is to drink polluted or salt water. There is no sweet or clean water in Gaza. If I dream, it is of myself and my children drinking cup after cup of clean, sweet water and shouting with surprise as it runs down our faces.*

*When your child asks for education to learn, you don't see that the schools have been crushed, the classrooms turned to rubble and the books to ash. You don't see your children's future end before it starts.*

*You don't hug your children tightly at night so when the bombers come, you can die together.*

*Despite these hard breaths I am taking now, I will not quit. If I must, I will teach my children their numbers using my hands, and teach them their letters on scraps of cardboard. I will be strong for my family as long as I can hear the Gaza Sea strong beside me.*

*Your friend,*

*Rawand*

What am I supposed to add to this? That I'm ashamed my government—financed by my tax dollars—is paying for the bombs the Israeli Defense Forces are dropping on her family? That I'm disgusted my country has been supporting the oppression of Palestinians and an apartheid regime created by Israel for at least the past three-quarters of a century? That I wish with all my heart I could do something to alleviate Rawand's, her children's, and her husband's suffering?

A lot of good any of that does her. The only thing I can actually do for her is to give her a platform from which to speak for herself. Indeed, this piece carries my byline, but should really read: "by Rawand Gawad abu Ghanem with W.D. Ehrhart."

Meanwhile, my own fear—insignificant compared to her fears—is that one day I will get the news that she—or her husband or one of her children—has been killed by bombs, or horribly maimed, or died of disease. Our mutual friend, the playwright Naomi Wallace, tells me that her older son, six-year-old Yamen, is sick—again—from drinking polluted water.

And though you would never know it these days from mainstream media in the U.S., the misery and suffering and dying in the so-called "Holy Land" (the most grotesque misnomer I've ever heard) just goes on and on and on.

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## Iran in the Crosshairs

by W.D. Ehrhart

So after waging open warfare against Venezuela for months, obliterating a village in Nigeria, and bombing Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and Somalia, our intrepid president, in his quest for the Nobel Peace Prize, is making noises about invading Greenland—Greenland, for cryin' in a bucket!—Cuba, and maybe Mexico.

Perhaps most ironic of all, he's threatening to attack Iran in defense of Iranian civilians being murdered by the repressive ayatollahs for taking to the streets in protest of tyranny. Given what's been happening in this country—think Senator Mark Kelly, Renee Nicole Good, Tim Walz and Jacob Frey, just for starters—there's something laughable about the MAGAPrez coming to the defense of political dissidents and dissenters.

But in fact, it's no laughing matter. Moreover, I wonder how many Americans have any idea how Iran came to be what it is today. Let's take a look:

Back in 1925, an Iranian army general staged a coup d'état, overthrew the government, and took power. A docile Iranian parliament subsequently proclaimed him "shah," which means "king," though he rather preferred to be referred to as "shahanshah" or "king of kings," even if he had only about as much royal blood in him as I do.

However, he was kicked out by

the British and Russians during World War II because they thought he was a bit too fond of Adolph Hitler. They replaced him with his more malleable son, whom we know as Shah Reza Pahlavi, and who ruled Iran until the Islamic Revolution overthrew him in 1979.

But here's where it starts to get interesting. In the early 1950s, in what was almost certainly the only free and fair democratic election ever held in Iran, Mohammad Mossadegh was elected prime minister. Among other cockamamie ideas Mossadegh had was the one where he thought that Iranian oil should benefit the people of Iran, not the owners and stockholders of the British-owned Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (now BP) along with U.S. companies Esso (now Exxon), Texaco, SoCal (now Chevron), Gulf, and Mobil. So he nationalized Iranian oil.

This would never do, of course, so the Brits and Americans engineered the overthrow of Mossadegh, and the Shah was left to rule in the style of a "Sun King" monarch answerable to no one so long as he didn't upset the U.S. (British influence in the Middle East rapidly atrophying through the 1950s).

But over the next three decades, Shah Reza's rule became ever more repressive, his behavior ever more extravagant and megalomaniacal, his SAVAK secret police coming to rival Adolph Hitler's Gestapo in its savagery and brutality. And here's

where it gets even more interesting:

It turns out that my father-in-law, an anthropology professor who spent most of his career at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, was a Middle Eastern specialist. He was, in fact, teaching and doing research in Iran just before the collapse of the shah's regime. Iranian colleagues of his begged him to get the United States to withdraw its support from the shah. When he left Iran, they even gave him letters urging a change in U.S. policy that they begged him to deliver to the U.S. State Department. As if the U.S. government was going to listen to some university academic (at least one not named Henry Kissinger).

These Iranian academics and professors argued that if the U.S. didn't support more moderate advocates of democracy in Iran, the hardcore radical Islamists would end up taking control of the country. And of course, that is exactly what happened. The U.S. continued to support the shah to the bitter end, the more moderate dissidents and advocates of democracy were arrested, tortured, and murdered, and the Ayatollahs took over.

All of this was a long time ago, but we Americans and—far more importantly and tragically—the Iranian people are still living with the consequences of the illegal overthrow by the United States government of the democratically elected

premier of Iran back in 1953. And all because Mossadegh had the audacity to think that the natural resources of Iran ought to belong to and benefit the people of Iran.

And if the Iranian government has been hostile to the U.S. ever since 1979, is that any surprise? I mean seriously, given U.S. attitudes and policies with regard to Iran, and what the U.S. has done and not done for the people of Iran since 1979, let alone since 1953, what would any reasonable person expect?

And if our "peace president" resorts to violent military action to come to the aid of the Iranian people, I wonder how that will work out. Will it teach those ayatollahs a lesson? And what will be the long-term consequences?

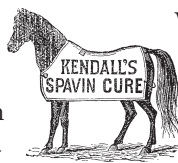
As for deposing other countries' heads of state, our track record on that is actually pretty bad. Iran is just one example. One might also look at how that worked out in Guatemala in 1954, in Vietnam in 1963, in Cambodia in 1970, in Afghanistan in 2001, in Iraq in 2003.

How forcible regime change by the U.S. military will work out in Venezuela in 2026 remains to be seen. Anybody wanna take a guess?

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

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## Why Do We Let Profiteers Control Granny's End-of-Life Care?

by Jim Hightower

There are industries that occasionally do something rotten. And there are industries like Big Oil, Big Pharma, and Big Tobacco—that persistently do rotten things.

Then there is the nursing home industry—where rottenness has become a core business principle. The end-of-life "experience" can be rotten enough on its own, with an assortment of natural indignities bedeviling us, and good nursing homes help gentle this time. In the past couple of decades, though, an entirely unnatural force has come to dominate the delivery of aged care: Profiteering corporate chains and Wall Street speculators.

The very fact that this essential and sensitive social function, which ought to be the domain of health professionals and charitable enterprises, is now called an "industry" reflects a total perversion of its purpose. Some 70 percent of nursing homes are now corporate operations run by absentee executives who have no experience in nursing homes and who're guided by the market imperative of maximizing investor profits. They constantly demand "efficiencies" from their facilities, which invariably means reducing the number of nurses, which invariably reduces care, which means more injuries, illness... and deaths. As one nursing expert rightly says, "It's criminal."

But it's not against the law, since the industry's lobbying front—a major donor to congressional campaigns—effectively writes the laws, which allows corporate hustlers to provide only one nurse on duty, no matter how many patients are in the facility. A humane nurse-staffing requirement has been proposed, but the profiteering "industry" furiously opposes it... and Congress is dutifully bowing to industry profits. After all, granny doesn't make campaign donations.

To help push for sanity and humanity, contact *TheConsumerVoice.org*.

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*Populist author, public speaker, and radio commentator Jim Hightower writes "The Hightower Lowdown," a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America's ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at HightowerLowdown.org.*

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## BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

volvers, demanded the surrender of the ballot boxes in one ward, but the boxes were saved by the assistance of the police.

- The two daughters of President [James] McCosh, of Princeton college, are great pedestrians, and in the habit of walking from Princeton to Trenton and back, a distance of twenty miles, when they have any shopping to do. [According to Google Maps, the distance between Princeton and Trenton is more like 30 miles.]

- Chagrined at the receipt of a comic valentine, a druggist of Newark, N.J., drank poison from one of his own bottles.

- A Montreal despatch of Feb. 17th said: "Judge Yates of Peoria, Ill., who acted as curator to a rich widow of the place, and who, after having squandered her fortune of over \$1,000,000, absconded and deserted his wife and family, has, together with a young woman named Cameron, whom it is alleged he has ruined, and who fled with him, been traced to this city. The woman is still here, but Yates disappeared a few days ago, having, it is thought, discovered the presence of several American detectives in the city."
- Mrs. Sarah Davidson of Lower

Boulder, Cal., shot a bear, and with the bounty received for it she paid for a sewing machine.

- Andrew J. and Alfred S. Bebout, editors and managers of the Toledo *Sunday Democrat*, have been arrested for sending obscene matter through the postoffice.

- Miss Grace Hendricks, a niece of the late vice-president [Thomas A. Hendricks], and one of the belles of the town of Arita, Iowa, on Friday, publicly whipped with a cowhide H.L. Brown, a leading citizen, for slandering her.

- While four men in Great Falls were putting a piano in a house, on the 19th inst., their four coats being hung on a fence, five tramps went by, and stole the coats. The workmen chased the thieves and after a hard fight lodged four of them in the jail.

- Two of the salvation army warriors, named Priest and White, were arrested, and fined \$5 each in the Great Falls police court, some months ago, for parading and beating a drum in a compact part of the town. They appealed to the supreme

court. Last week at Dover they came into court and admitted the offense, but under the bill of rights claimed they had a right to worship God according to their own beliefs and methods, and believed the law unconstitutional. The court declined to review the sentence. The respondents will bring the case before the full bench at the law term, as they say the result is of vast importance to the salvationists of the country.

- The Fitz John Porter bill was passed by the house on the 18th inst., by a vote of 171 to 113. Representative [Martin Alonzo] Haynes

of New Hampshire voted yes, and Representative [Jacob Harold] Gallinger nay.

*The New Hampshire Gazette*  
February 25, 1886

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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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
<p><b>2020</b>—Given a choice between a second term for Trump or “a giant meteor [striking] the earth, extinguishing all human life,” a poll says 62% of N.H. Democrats would prefer the meteor.</p> <p><b>2015</b>—Another two feet of snow fall on Portsmouth. It's five feet deep now.</p> <p><b>1996</b>—The Telecommunications Act gives corporations airwaves worth \$70 billion, eliminates ownership limits, deregulates cable rates, and protects licenses against citizen complaints.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—State Troopers fire on Black protesters in Orangeburg, S.C., killing three and wounding 27.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—For taking down a sign about Jim Crow laws in a Bessemer, Ala. bus, honorably discharged former Marine Timothy Hood is shot by a streetcar conductor. The Police Chief arrests Hood, then shoots him dead. The Coroner calls it “justifiable homicide.”</p> <p><b>1942</b>—HUAC recommends concentration camps for some Americans.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—Nevada becomes the first state to kill someone in a gas chamber: Gee Jon, a hit man for the Hop Sing Tong.</p> <p><b>1923</b>—Coal dust explodes in Stag Canyon No. 1 mine in Dawson, N.M.; 123 die. Many of them were orphaned in 1913 when coal dust exploded in Stag Canyon No. 2, killing 263.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—Free speech is banned in a 49-block area of San Diego. The instigator: press baron and 1st Amendment beneficiary Harrison Gray Otis. Five thousand people, many of them Wobblies, show up to protest.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—A Pentagon report concludes that Douglas Feith's policy office inappropriately manipulated intelligence on Iraq. Punished? Hell, no.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—The USS <i>Greeneville</i>, demonstrating an emergency ballast-blowing maneuver for 16 “Distinguished Visitors” onboard, half with Texas oil and Bush connections, sinks a Japanese high-school fishery training ship off Hawaii, killing five adult crew and four high-school students.</p> <p><b>1995</b>—Mexico cancels peace talks with the Zapatistas at the behest of the U.S.'s Chase Manhattan Bank.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush denies ever having used the term “voodoo economics.” NBC obligingly plays him the tape.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Ted Bundy gets married and is sentenced to die. In Florida, of course.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Satchel Paige becomes the first Negro League player inducted into the Hall of Fame.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—“I have here in my hand,” says Sen. Joe McCarthy, “the names of 205 men that were known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist Party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping the policy of the State Department.” Years later he admits he held a laundry list.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—HMS <i>Venturer</i>, submerged, torpedoed and sinks U-864, also submerged, off the coast of Norway.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Suffragists burn W. Wilson in effigy in front of the White House.</p> <p><b>1737</b>—Happy B-day, Thomas Paine.</p>	<p><b>2014</b>—Donald J. Trump tells Fox “News,” “When the economy crashes, when the country goes to total hell, and everything is a disaster, then you'll have riots to go back to where we used to be, when we were great.”</p> <p><b>2010</b>—Innovative tax protester Joe Stack flies a fuel-laden Piper into the IRS Field Office in Austin, Texas, killing another person, injuring 13, and causing damage in the millions.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—The G.W.[MD] Bush Administration touts plastic sheeting and duct tape as a first line of defense.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Westmoreland, in Vietnam, puts in a request for tactical nukes.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—HMAS <i>Melbourne</i> cuts HMAS <i>Voyager</i> in half. <i>Voyager</i> sinks; 82 die. It's the first of two friendly ships <i>Melbourne</i> is destined to sink.</p> <p><b>1937</b>—SCOTUS nixes Huey Long's attempt to silence tax newspapers.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—A mural for which they paid Diego Rivera \$21,000 is destroyed by order of the Rockefellers because it includes a depiction of Vladimir Lenin.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Off Sumatra, Dutch planes bomb the Dutch ship <i>De Zeven Provinciën</i>, killing 23 mutineers.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—At the Power's gold mine in Arizona's Galiuro Mountains, a four-man posse seeking two draft-dodgers ends up 3/4th dead. The Power brothers get out of Florence Prison in 1960.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—Five Bloomsbury Groupers, disguised as Abyssinian royalty, trick Royal Navy officers into giving them a tour of HMS <i>Dreadnaught</i>.</p>	<p><b>2017</b>—The U.S. President and the Japanese Prime Minister confer and read classified documents about a North Korean missile launch while surrounded by diners at Mar-a-Lago.</p> <p><b>2014</b>—An FEC report confirms what his mom and sis said: U.S. Rep. Frank Guinta lied, that \$355,000 wasn't his.</p> <p><b>2013</b>—KRTV in Great Falls, Montana reports alarming news: “the bodies of the dead are rising from their graves and attacking the living.”</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Dick “Dick” Cheney becomes the second sitting Vice President to shoot a man when he “peppers” his pal Harry Whittington in the face.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—“I'd like to thank my family for loving me and taking care of me,” says Johnny Frank Garrett (IQ under 70), as Texas prepares to poison him, “and the rest of the world can kiss my ass.”</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Nelson Mandela is released from prison after 27 years.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—RIP Sylvia Plath.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—The CIA creates a “Domestic Operations Division.” What could possibly go wrong?</p> <p><b>1937</b>—The Great Flint, Mich. Sit-Down Strike ends in victory for the workers. Good times start to roll.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—The Mexican government nationalizes all church property.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Emma Goldman is arrested for the crime of telling women how birth control works.</p> <p><b>1861</b>—The House of Representatives unanimously resolves that it will do nothing about slavery in any state.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—<i>USA Today</i> reports that former top Texas Air National Guard officers say files were “cleansed” to protect George W.[MD] Bush.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—N.H. Senators Gregg and Smith notwithstanding, the Senate finds President Clinton not guilty.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—SS <i>Marine Electric</i>, a rusted, beat-up hulk whose lying owners faked inspections, sinks off Virginia; three survive from a crew of 34.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The New World Liberation Front bombs Hearst Castle.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—LBJ puts the kibosh on Westy's plan to nuke the NVA.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Bill Lancaster, 29 years after he vanished, is discovered in the Sahara, mummified alongside his biplane.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Sixty antiwar protesters burn draft cards in New York City.</p> <p><b>1946</b>—Black combat vet Isaac Woodard gets his honorable discharge and boards a bus in Georgia. Before he can get to N.C., he's beaten and blinded by white cops in Aiken, S.C.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—A huge mob in Bisbee, Ariz. herds 1,200 members of the IWW into boxcars to be shipped off and dumped in the New Mexico desert.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—Marines and sailors from the USS <i>Portsmouth</i> quell a riot in Honolulu, thus helping to assure the election of a pro-American King.</p> <p><b>1839</b>—The Aroostook War between Maine and New Brunswick begins.</p> <p><b>1793</b>—President George Washington protects his own “property” by signing the heinous Fugitive Slave Act.</p>	<p><b>2021</b>—Republican Senators vote 43-7 against impeaching a traitor.</p> <p><b>2013</b>—After Antonin Scalia goes to his final judgment, Mitch McConnell declares part of the Constitution void.</p> <p><b>2008</b>—The Senate tells the CIA to cool it with the waterboarding.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—An Al-Qaeda tape calls George W.[MD] Bush a drunken gambler.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—A super-accurate, laser-guided U.S. bomb kills some 400 Iraqi civilians in a bunker in Baghdad.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Radicalized by anti-Semite Henry Ford, decorated WW II vet and anti-tax crank Gordon Kahl and son Yorje Von Kahl murder two U.S. Marshals and wound three other lawmen in a shootout near Medina, N.D.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Hexane gas illegally discharged from a Purina plant fills the Louisville, Ky. sewer system. A spark from a car causes two miles of sewer lines to explode. Purina denies liability.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Five soldiers are busted at Ft. Jackson, S.C.; they prayed for death.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—The National Student Association admits that over 15 years it's received \$3 million from the CIA.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—The crew of a burning B-36 jettisons its Mark IV A-bomb and bails out. With no plutonium core, it merely scatters 100 lbs. of uranium when it explodes over British Columbia. Five crewmen freeze to death.</p> <p><b>1837</b>—Loco Foco Democrats protest rapidly rising food prices in New York City. Hundreds of barrels are liberated in the ensuing Flour Riot.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—A cargo jet linked to the CIA lands in Harare, Zimbabwe carrying 67 tons of South African currency and the decomposing body of a Black man.</p> <p><b>2016</b>—With wind blowing 20 m.p.h., and the thermometer at -13°, the wind chill in Portsmouth falls to -38°.</p> <p><b>2015</b>—Another 18 inches of snow fall on Portsmouth, making nearly eight feet in under three weeks.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—The White House releases some of George W.[MD] Bush's military records, but they fail to prove he was present for duty.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The first American POWs released from North Vietnam arrive at Travis AFB, Calif. [See tomorrow.]</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Nixon's secret taping system is installed in the White House.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Forty U.S. B-17s intending to firebomb Dresden miss by 90 miles and hit Prague instead. Death toll: 701. Bomb weight per death: 433 lbs.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Rubber workers go on a sit-down strike in Akron so Goodyear can't hire scabs; the tactic succeeds.</p> <p><b>1929</b>—On St. Valentine's Day in Chicago, a cop asks Frank “Tight Lips” Gusenberg who shot him. “Nobody,” he says, then dies.</p> <p><b>1879</b>—Born into slavery, later escaping, Blanche K. Bruce [R-Miss.] presides over the U.S. Senate.</p> <p><b>1873</b>—Erie Co. Sheriff and future President Grover Cleveland picks up a \$10 fee for hanging a man in Buffalo, N.Y. He botches the job, though: it takes John Gaffney 23 minutes to die.</p>
3:30      4:00	4:22      4:58	5:18      6:03	6:19      7:08	7:20      8:08	8:15      8:59	9:04      9:43
9:44      9:55	10:41      10:48	11:43      11:47	12:47	12:49      1:48	1:48      2:42	2:40      3:28
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21
<p><b>2003</b>—It's the largest demonstration in history—up to ten million people, in 600 cities around the world, say “No” to Bush 43's Iraq War.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Environmentalists, supporting striking workers, storm Int'l. Paper's Jay, Maine plant 10 days after scabs create a huge chlorine leak.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—On his first day at the Hillsboro, N.H. <i>Messenger</i>, our current editor is told, “Get over to Henniker; last night the cop shop was fire-bombed.”</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Nixon to Joint Chiefs: POW's return is “an invaluable opportunity to revise the history of this War.”</p> <p><b>1966</b>—In place of Senate hearings on the Vietnam War, CBS shows reruns of “I Love Lucy.” Fred Friendly, President of CBS News, quits in disgust.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—“Bedtime for Bonzo” premieres. During filming, Bonzo grabs and pulls at his co-star's necktie, nearly strangling Ronald Reagan.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—Allies bomb the 6th c. monastery at Monte Cassino. Nazis had removed its historic treasures to the Vatican in trucks accompanied by monks, but 230 Italian civilians in its cellars are killed by falling rubble.</p> <p><b>1851</b>—In a Boston court house, Black abolitionists wrest enslaved fugitive Shadrach Minkins from U.S. Marshals. Minkins makes it to Montreal.</p> <p><b>1798</b>—Congress did nothing after Rep. Matthew Lyon spit tobacco juice in his eye, so Rep. Roger Griswold canes the ex-newspaper editor. Lyon defends himself with fire tongs.</p>	<p><b>1982</b>—Nancy Reagan says, via an aide, she'll no longer accept “loaned” threads from big name designers because she's “really...tired of people misinterpreting what she was doing.”</p> <p><b>1978</b>—The first computer bulletin board goes online in Chicago. Uh-oh.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—The <i>Village Voice</i> publishes excerpts from the House-suppressed Pike Report; among other sins, the CIA, the FBI, and the NSA have been illegally spying on U.S. citizens.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—A week after security in Saigon is “tightened,” a V.C. bomb in an American movie theater kills three U.S. soldiers and wounds another 50.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—A two-day anti-nuclear march on Washington, D.C. begins.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Fidel Castro is sworn in as Prime Minister of Cuba.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Mildred Harnacke, a Milwaukee-born editor, is guillotined in Berlin for spying for the Soviets.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—Guy Stewart Callendar publishes a scientific paper (drawing in part on the work of F.E. Fowle) showing that mankind's carbon dioxide emissions are warming the planet.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Emma Goldman is busted for lecturing on birth control.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—French President Félix Faure has a fatal stroke while being felled in his office in the Élysée Palace.</p> <p><b>1848</b>—The Women's Rights Convention is held at Seneca Falls, N.Y.</p> <p><b>1818</b>—Charles W. Brewster begins his 50-year career as a Portsmouth, N.H. newspaperman.</p>	<p><b>2021</b>—After poisoning U.S. discourse for 37 years, oxygen thief Rush Limbaugh shuts his lying pie hole.</p> <p><b>2017</b>—President Trump declares the press to be the enemy of the people.</p> <p><b>2015</b>—A study finds that previous tallies of lynchings in the U.S. had under-counted by at least 800.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Harry Whittington apologizes to Dick “Dick” Cheney for having absorbed a face full of his birdshot.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—Covert CIA agents grab Abu Omar in Milan, blowing an Italian surveillance program; 23 agents are later convicted of kidnapping.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—“I hate the g_ks,” Sen. John McCain tells reporters. “I will hate them as long as I live”—that's 18 years.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—General William Westmoreland drops his libel suit against CBS. Apparently the network was right: he had covered up VC troop strength.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—PFC Robert Preston takes a stolen Huey on a tour of D.C., landing in a hail of bullets on the White House Lawn. Superficially wounded, he smiles and laughs on the way to Walter Reed.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The U.S. Army's top-ranked enlisted man is indicted for conspiring to defraud enlisted men's clubs.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—The Supreme Court rules that confessions obtained by police violence, i.e., relentless whipping with buckled leather belts, are inadmissible; the guilty verdict in question had been won by prosecutor and future Senator John Stennis [D-Miss].</p> <p><b>1862</b>—RIP Henry D. Thoreau.</p>	<p><b>2012</b>—Rep. Bob Morris [R-Ind.] says Girl Scouts use “feminists, lesbians, and Communists” as role models to promote a “homosexual lifestyle.”</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Robert Hanssen, a devout Catholic, exhibitionist, patron of strippers, and ex-FBI Special Agent, is arrested for selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then to the Russians.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Jerry Ford accepts the CIA's word: if it breaks the law, it'll confess.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—All of the Chicago 7 are found innocent of conspiring to incite riots; but five are found guilty of crossing state lines to incite riots anyway.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—“We are going to win in Vietnam,” says RFK in Saigon. “We will remain here until we do win.”</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Ike's A.G. OKs a memo saying the CIA need not report criminal activity by its employees.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—A majority of Congressmen are forced onto the wagon: their bootlegger, George Cassidy, aka “The Man in the Green Hat,” is busted in a Prohibition Bureau sting.</p> <p><b>1916</b>—Oscar Comery, who expected life in prison after confessing he'd poisoned his wife, is hanged in Concord, N.H. The jury changed its mind on learning he'd molested a child, too.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—Pres. W. Wilson watches his first movie, also the first ever shown in the White House: <i>Birth of a Nation</i>.</p> <p><b>1820</b>—“If you have a message you want to send to hell,” screams Lavinia Fisher from Charleston, S.C.'s gallows, “give it to me, and I'll carry it!”</p>	<p><b>2009</b>—Outraged that the government might assist mere homeowners, CNBC's Rick Santelli has a fit on the floor of the Chicago Board of Trade. His convulsions spawn a Tea Party.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—“I understand small business growth,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “I was one.” A business? Or a growth?</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Prosecutors in Passaic County, N.J. drop the bogus case against Rubin “Hurricane” Carter—after he'd been imprisoned for decades.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—After due deliberation—37 years—Congress ratifies a UN treaty outlawing genocide.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Watergate burglar James W. McCord, Jr. admits that “basically, Martha [Mitchell]'s story is true”—she was abducted and drugged to cover up the break-in. Her abductor, Steve King, is later made ambassador to the Czech Republic by Donald Trump.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Protests against the Vietnam War are held in 30 U.S. cities.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—The CIA informs the State and Defense departments that South Vietnam is making little progress against the Viet Cong.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—Sen. Harry Byrd [D-Va.] says Truman is like Hitler and Stalin—because he supports civil rights.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—In a Burmese mangrove swamp, several hundred Japanese soldiers are killed by crocodiles.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—FDR puts 120,000 Americans into concentration camps.</p> <p><b>1847</b>—Rescuers reach the leftovers from the Donner Party.</p>	<p><b>1950</b>—Joe McCarthy delivers a five-hour, paranoid rant in the U.S. Senate; a four-month inquisition ensues.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—At Iwo Jima, Jacklyn “Jack” Lucas, 17, dives onto one live grenade and pulls another under him. One goes off, one doesn't. He sets off metal detectors until dying at 80.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Hollywood embraces Office of War Information censorship.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—Fritz Kuhn, a German veteran of WWI and naturalized U.S. citizen, leads 22,000 people in a pro-Nazi rally at Madison Square Garden.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—At least 20 top German industrialists meet secretly at the Reichstag, President H. Göring's official residence and—yes, we'll say it—<i>conspire</i> to raise funds to get Nazis elected.</p> <p><b>1893</b>—After the Reading Railroad fails, the free hand of the self-regulating market reaches for the economy's throat and nearly chokes it to death.</p> <p><b>1815</b>—Almost two months after the Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812, the USS <i>Constitution</i> captures two British sloops off the coast of Portugal.</p> <p><b>1792</b>—The United States Post Office Department is established! Yay!</p> <p><b>1725</b>—Soldiers under Captain John Lovewell kill and scalp 10 Indians in Wakefield, N.H. Later, in Boston, they collect £100 for each one.</p> <p><b>1524</b>—In Germany, Count von Iggleheim is stoned to death by a mob angry at his refusal to let them board a three-story ark he had built to escape a predicted apocalyptic flood.</p>	<p><b>2012</b>—Caught by the Piscataqua's mighty current during construction of the New Memorial Bridge, the tugboat <i>Miss Stacy</i> nearly sinks.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—“Original Dick” Nixon's top goons, John Mitchell [ex-AG], Bob Haldeman, and John Ehrlichman, each get 2 1/2 years in the slammer for <i>conspiring</i>—yes, there's that C-word again—to do more than will fit here.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—A week after his home was firebombed, assassins murder Malcolm X; his last words: “Brothers! Brothers! This is a house of peace.” The FBI knew it was coming but didn't tell the NYPD which didn't care anyway. One assailant, not the killer, is jailed, along with two innocent men.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—The U.S.-backed Nicaraguan National Guard assassinates rebel leader Augusto Sandino. Legend says his head is then delivered to D.C.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—In Arequipa, Peruvian revolutionaries make Pan Am's Byron Rickards the first pilot ever hijacked; 30 years later he's hijacked a second time.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—Witnesses faint and Arizona abandons hanging after “Cheerful Eva” Dugan's accidentally-decapitated head rolls across the floor.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—The U.S. Army airship <i>Roma</i> crashes in Norfolk, Va.; 34 die in the nation's worst air crash to date.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—In N.Y.C., Portland, Maine's Nathaniel Gordon becomes the first and last person hanged under an 1820 law against bringing negroes or mullattoes onboard ship so as to enslave them.</p>
9:47      10:22	10:26      10:57	11:04      11:32	11:41	12:07      12:20	12:44      1:02	1:24      1:46
3:26      4:07	4:08      4:44	4:47      5:19	5:27      5:54	6:07      6:31	6:50      7:10	7:35      7:52

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