

## The Fortnightly Rant

### Onward Through the Fog

For more than a decade now, the dominant feature of human existence has become a thickening fog of uncertainty. Some of this is the inevitable result of technological “progress.” We have all had times when labor-saving devices have prevented us from getting anything done. That was bad enough in the physical realm. Now that reality has largely been digitized, we can no longer be sure that we know what we think we know.

And that’s just the nuts and bolts of the problem. Just as technology has been advancing at an accelerating pace, so has the use of brazen falsehood. Elders among us can recall a time when a person caught lying was routinely and universally expected to exhibit a sense of shame.

That quaint ritual has become optional. What’s more, its usage is not just asymmetrical, but inverted. The deft—or even ham-handed—use of utter bullshit is seen by some as the modern equivalent of statesmanship.

How shall this venerable institution, whose whole purpose is to seek the truth, steer through this fog? Onward and sideways, of course, and amused, if we can manage it.

On Christmas Eve, the *Washington Post* broke the news that ICE was planning to convert a warehouse in Merrimack into an ICE processing facility.

We’re not sure exactly when Governor Kelly Ayotte first denied knowing about this proposed gulag. We like to think it might have been on January 16th, National Nothing Day. What better time for the Governor to impersonate Sergeant Schultz? “I know nothing!”

The ACLU-NH brought some clarity to the issue on February 3rd, when it released a 22-page document, obtained by a Freedom of Information request, clearly showing that the State Department of Natural and Cultural Resources had been communicating with the Department of Homeland Security about the project since January 9th.

This awkward situation was briefly ameliorated by the ritual sacrifice, on Monday, February 9th, of the Commissioner of the Department in question, Sarah Stewart. Four days later the acting director of ICE, Todd Lyons, implied that Ayotte was lying, telling Senator Maggie Hassan, “Actually, DHS has worked with Governor Ayotte, has spoken to the governor about economic impact.”

The matter escalated quickly. Fans of political hardball were treated with a sitting Republican Governor flat-out calling a Trump bureaucrat a liar:

“This is simply not true,” said a statement from Ayotte. “Director Lyons’ comments today are another example of the troubling pattern

of issues with this process. Officials from the Department of Homeland Security continue to provide zero details of their plans for Merrimack, never mind providing any reports or surveys.”

Side-stepping the relatively trivial question of which of these Republicans is lying, Devon Chaffee, Executive Director of the ACLU of New Hampshire, took the high road, addressing in a statement the question of whether this state will allow itself to become part of The Trump Archipelago.™

“Let’s be clear: Governor Ayotte has still not opposed turning this Merrimack facility into a human warehouse for ICE, despite an outpouring of opposition from the town, state lawmakers, and constituents.

“In Senator Hassan’s questioning today, Senator Hassan underlined how political pressure from elected officials is, in fact, impacting where these facilities are ultimately established—like one planned for Mississippi that was canceled after opposition. The people of New Hampshire are relying on Governor Ayotte to push back and prevent such a horrifying facility from coming to our state.

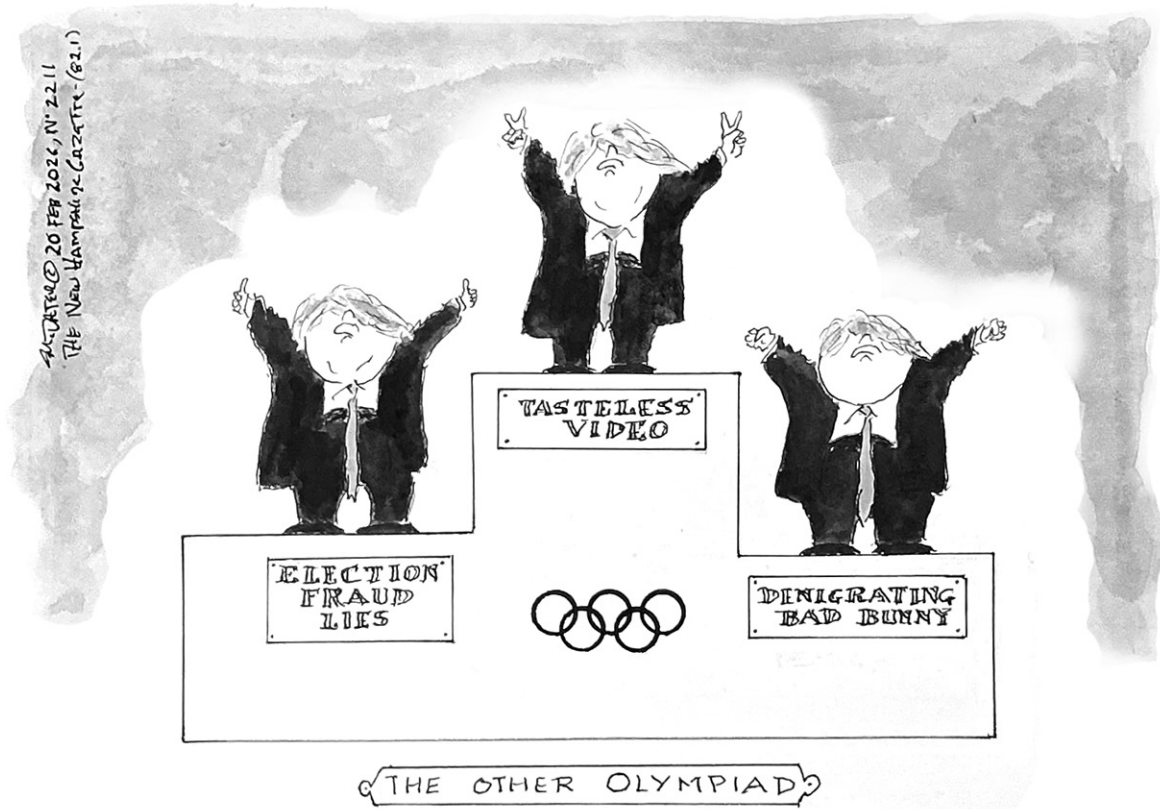
“We have filed a public records request for the economic impact statement that Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons said was given to Governor Ayotte’s office, along with any other communications sent from ICE regarding the Merrimack project. If an economic impact statement or anything else has been given to her office, Granite Staters deserve to know.”

Let’s leave the high road to Chaffee and look into the relationship between Ayotte and the owner of the property in question. It belongs to the Trammell Crow Company, which the *Wall Street Journal*, in 1986, called the largest landlord in the U.S.

Now, because these names can be confusing, we’ll explain. One might naively expect that the Trammell Crow Company would belong to, or be run by, Trammell Crow, Jr. Happily, that does not appear to be the case—otherwise we’d be forced to dive into the pending lawsuit against him, which alleges that he ran a sex trafficking ring in Texas.

No, the relevant party here seems to be Trammell’s brother Harlan. The former CEO of Trammell Crow, Harlan has earned a certain infamy through his seemingly proprietary interest in Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. He has also donated \$5,000 to the political campaign of New Hampshire Governor Kelly Ayotte.

Not that there’s anything wrong with that—just ask the Supreme Court.



### “Most Vile Scumbags on Earth”:

### Critics Appalled by Explosive Report on Kristi Noem’s Corruption

by Brad Reed

An explosive report published by the *Wall Street Journal* last week shed fresh light on what critics have described as “outrageous corruption” by U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

Among other things, the *Journal* report highlighted Noem’s relationship with top adviser [and Windham, N.H. resident] Corey Lewandowski, whom sources said is romantically involved with the Trump Cabinet official despite both of them being married.

Of particular note, the *Journal* wrote, is the way Lewandowski has taken over the contracting process at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) despite being classified as a special government employee whose service is supposed to be capped at a maximum of 130 days per year.

“Given Lewandowski’s continuing business interests in the private sector, his role in awarding contracts has raised alarm bells inside the White House and DHS,” reported the *Journal*. “Several officials inside the department said contracts and grants are being awarded in an opaque and arbitrary manner, and some are being held up without explanation.”

The report also claimed that Noem and Lewandowski have been flying around the country together on a luxury 737 MAX jet, complete with a private cabin.

DHS has been leasing the plane, although the *Journal*’s sources said it is in the process of buying it for \$70 million, which “would be double the cost of each of seven other commercial planes the department is also buying at the pair’s direction to carry out deportations.”

Additionally, the report outlined allegedly abusive behavior by Noem and Lewandowski toward DHS staff members, as sources said they

“frequently berate senior level staff, give polygraph tests to employees they don’t trust, and have fired employees,” including one incident where “Lewandowski fired a U.S. Coast Guard pilot after Noem’s blanket was left behind on a plane.”

The report generated fierce reaction from critics on social media.

“Noem and Lewandowski are like the most toxic couple you have ever met,” wrote *New York Times* columnist Janelle Bouie, “given full rein of a government agency.”

Veteran foreign policy journalist Laura Rozen described Noem and Lewandowski as “the most vile scumbags on Earth” after reading the report, highlighting the details about the pair flying on the luxury jet as particularly egregious.

Investigative journalist Sarah Posner found herself floored by the conduct outlined in the *Journal*’s report.

“There is so much crazy shit, outrageous corruption, and naked, ham-fisted ambition in this *WSJ* piece about Noem, Lewandowski, and DHS,” she wrote. “Read and

take note of the of eye-popping number of sources who have knives out for Kristi and Corey.”

Former Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-Va.) argued the report showed Noem and Lewandowski “are wholly unqualified and a disaster at DHS,” and have been “been very effective in driving [President Donald] Trump’s ratings into the ditch.”

Ron Filipkowski, editor-in-chief of *Meidas Touch*, expressed disbelief at how much power Lewandowski had accumulated despite only being a special government employee.

“How the fuck is Corey Lewandowski in any position to fire a Coast Guard pilot?” he asked. “What is his title? What is his job? What is his official position in the U.S. government? If you are Kristi Noem’s boyfriend you get to fire Coast Guard officers?”

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### BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

- The Roman Catholic bishops of Canada have instructed the priesthood to caution their congregations of the evil results which follow the fashionable pastimes now engaged in in Canada. The edict condemns tobogganing and skating.
- Rev. W.W. Downs, of Boston, whose name has appeared in the papers several times within a year past, has struck another streak of free advertising. On the evening of the 1st inst., at the Parker house, he made a violent assault upon Mr. H.I. Dillenbeck, a *Post* reporter. The contributions at Mr. Downs’ ministrations next Sabbath will probably be satisfactory.
- The “Three Classes” in English society of which we hear so much are the nobles, snobs, and mobs. The

mobs are the rising class.

- Those whose eyes are nice to discover typographical errors have no conception of the mistakes which the painstaking proof-reader corrects before they reach the press. Among the examples of last week we noticed that on the first proof “them asses” was corrected to “the masses,” and “intercessory jimjams” to “intercessory prayers.”
- The Portsmouth correspondent of the *Manchester Union* under date of Feb. 25th says: “About thirty people sat down to a fine supper at Mr. G. Faulkner’s residence on Woodbury street last night after witnessing a wedding. The contracting parties

## Trump's Concentration Camp Build-Out Includes Nearly \$40 Billion for Warehouse Conversions

by Julia Conley

President Donald Trump's anti-immigration agenda has supercharged opposition in cities where he has deployed federal agents to conduct raids, and communities in states including New York and Missouri are already working to block the next step the Department of Homeland Security plans to take in its push for mass deportations: acquiring massive warehouses across the country to use as immigrant detention centers.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement documents that were provided to Republican Gov. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire—one of the states where ICE aims to acquire a building and retrofit it to house at least 1,000 people at a time—show that the administration plans to spend \$38.3 billion on its mass detention plan.

It would buy 16 buildings across the country to use as “regional processing centers” that could hold 1,000-1,500 people. Another eight detention centers would hold as many as 10,000 people at a time, with the detainees awaiting deportation.

The *Washington Post* reported that a review of state budget data showed that the amount of money the White House intends to pour into the project over the next several months is larger than the total annual spending of 22 U.S. states.

“Thirty-eight billion dollars,” said Rep. Seth Moulton (D-Mass.). “That’s what Trump is spending to turn warehouses into human holding facilities. Not on schools. Not on healthcare. Not on veterans. On warehousing humans.”

Moulton also condemned ICE's claim that the new network of detention facilities will ensure the “safe and humane civil detention” of immigrants.

At least six people died in ICE detention centers in January, and one of the deaths, that of Geraldo Lunas Campos at Camp East Montana in El Paso, Texas, was ruled a homicide.

Medical neglect and abusive treatment—including some that amounts to torture—has been reported at multiple facilities.

ICE has already spent more than \$690 million purchasing at least eight warehouses in Maryland, Arizona, Georgia, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Michigan in recent weeks. Doc-

uments posted on Ayotte's website show the agency is pursuing additional acquisitions in New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, and Georgia.

Communities are already rallying against the plan and questioning whether the small towns ICE has selected have sufficient water and sewer infrastructure to support thousands of people detained in a warehouse.

In New York, Rep. Pat Ryan (D-NY) said last week that 25,000 people in his district have signed a petition opposing the use of a local warehouse to house immigrants and pointed to the “major corruption and graft” evident in the plan to purchase and run the warehouses.

“The site in my district that’s proposed is owned by one of Trump’s multibillionaire donors, who would directly financially benefit from this site,” said Ryan, referring to former Trump adviser Carl Icahn.

As *Common Dreams* reported last week, private prison firm GEO Group raked in a record \$254 million in profits last year as it secured contracts with the Trump administration to build new ICE facilities across the U.S.

ICE has attempted to make purchases in Oklahoma City; Kansas City, Missouri; and in Virginia, but those plans have fallen through, with the Kansas City Council passing a five-year ban on new nonmunicipal detention centers after the public learned that DHS was the potential buyer of a warehouse in the city.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) has also joined his constituents in speaking out against ICE's \$100 million purchase of a warehouse in his state to house at least 1,000 people at a time.

“This administration is spitting in the face of communities from Minneapolis to Maryland and wasting our tax dollars. We won't back down,” said Van Hollen late last month.

The details of the administration's planned conversion of warehouses were reported less than two weeks after Pablo Manríquez of Migrant Insider revealed that a U.S. Navy contract originally valued at \$10 billion “has ballooned to a staggering \$55 billion ceiling to expedite President Donald Trump's mass deportation agenda” and to help build “a sprawling network of migrant detention centers across the U.S.”

At *Common Dreams* last week, talk show host and author Thom Hartmann wrote that the warehous-

es Trump plans to use to hold people—purchased by an agency whose own data shows it has largely been detaining people with no criminal records—are best described as concentration camps like those used in Nazi Germany.

“By the end of his first year, [Adolf] Hitler had around 50,000 people held in his roughly 70 concentration camps, facilities that were often improvised in factories, prisons, castles, and other buildings,” wrote Hartmann. “By comparison, today ICE is holding over 70,000 people in 225 concentration camps across America,” with hopes to “more than double both numbers in the coming months.”

“Germany's concentration camps didn't start as instruments of mass murder, and neither have ours; both started as facilities for people the government's leader said were a problem. And that's exactly what ICE is building now,” he continued. “History isn't whispering its warning. It's shouting.”

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### BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page one

were John Faulkner of Illinois and a lady named Booth. The parties met for the first time Tuesday, and were married Wednesday night. Mr. Faulkner will soon return to his large farm in Illinois.”

• A large white-headed eagle, with a bell attached to his neck, was flying around Newcastle a few days ago. The bell was a spherical sleigh-bell of large size and loud tone, such as were in ordinary use forty years ago; and it and its bearer were evidently a disturbing element to the gulls along the shore.

• A gossip writer in the Boston *Traveler* thus refers to what might have been: “Old Billy Gray made much of his money in Salem, then a centre of the East Indian and African trade. Salem is twenty miles from Boston, and sixty years ago began to feel its centripetal influence. Mr. Gray decided to remove, and preferred Portsmouth, N.H., which has the best harbor on the coast. The rich merchants there were

jealous of him, and raised the price of the wharf property so high that he went off in disgust. Portsmouth could never have been a permanent rival to Boston, for it lacks the thickly populated back country and the railroad connections of the larger city. Still, had it welcomed Gray, its decadence would have been delayed, and its population would have reached twenty or thirty instead of ten thousand. It is now about as

dead as Salem. No square-rigged merchant vessel had entered its harbor until the other day, and the last vessel from Africa moored in Salem in 1872.”

• Monday was an objectionable day. The thermometer ranged from zero to ten degrees below in different parts of the city in the morning, and did not get very high during the day;

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Last month the Planning Board was presented with a plan to knock down these three buildings on Hanover Street. A reasonable but uninformed person might ask, “Why in God’s name, in a city so short of affordable housing, would anyone throw a dozen households out in the street?” According to a lawyer representing the anonymous person or persons behind the LLC which owns the properties, these buildings are old, and were built in the 1850s. This is not true. They were built between 1910 and 1916, according to Richard M. Candee’s Building Portsmouth, readily available at the public library. And if we’re going to start knocking down buildings just because they’re old, well, just take a look around. Returning to our original question, “Why,” the glib answer would be “The Invisible Hand of the Market™”. Settling for such an abstract excuse, though, would let the perpetrator off the hook. The answer is somebody wants to make a lot of money.

#### Next Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable February 24 New Time: 6:00 p.m.

Co-Sponsored by the Portsmouth Democrats and the Seacoast Friends Preserving Democracy (SFPD), the monthly Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable is held on the 4th Tuesday of each month, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at a local restaurant in Portsmouth.

February's Roundtable will be held on next Tuesday, the 24th. Call or contact Peter Somssich for the location. The Roundtable is an opportunity to socialize with Democrats

and other friends without any agenda or rigid structure. New residents of Portsmouth are welcome meet those involved in the Portsmouth Democrats and learn of opportunities to get involved, suggest new ideas, or be supportive of planned initiatives. Next month the Roundtable will be on March 24.

For information or questions, please call Peter Somssich at (603) 436-5382 (no texts, please), or email [peter.somssich@gmail.com](mailto:peter.somssich@gmail.com). For Brian Wazlaw, call (603) 988-9998, or email [briwazlaw@aol.com](mailto:briwazlaw@aol.com). Website: [seacoastfriends.org](http://seacoastfriends.org).

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# Earth Hurling Toward 'Hothouse Trajectory,' Scientists Warn in Tipping Points Analysis

by Jessica Corbett

In the lead-up to the Trump administration effectively destroying the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ability to combat the fossil fuel-driven climate emergency, an international team of scientists warned Wednesday that "Earth's climate is now departing from the stable conditions that supported human civilization for millennia."

Various institutions, including in the United States, have confirmed that 2025 was among the hottest years on record, and January continued that trend. Meanwhile, governments and polluting industries have repeatedly refused to impose policies that adequately heed experts' calls for action.

"In an effort to mitigate dangerous levels of warming, the Paris Agreement formalized the aim of limiting warming to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels, yet global temperatures have recently breached this limit for 12 consecutive months, coinciding with record-breaking heat, wildfires, floods, and other extremes," the scientists noted Wednesday in the journal *One Earth*.

They wrote that "crossing critical temperature thresholds may trigger self-reinforcing feedbacks and tipping dynamics that amplify warming and destabilize distant Earth system components. Uncertain tipping thresholds make precaution essential, as crossing them could

commit the planet to a hothouse trajectory with long-lasting and potentially irreversible consequences."

A "hothouse trajectory," they wrote, is "a pathway in which self-reinforcing feedbacks push the climate system past a point of no return, committing the planet to substantially higher long-term temperatures, even if emissions are later reduced."

"Sixteen major tipping elements have been identified, 10 of which could add to global temperature if triggered," the experts detailed. "Tipping may already be underway or could occur soon for the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, boreal permafrost, mountain glaciers, and parts of the Amazon rainforest."

As an example, they pointed to ice melt in the Arctic, explaining that the resulting water "could perturb the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), which is already showing signs of weakening. A weakened AMOC could alter global atmospheric circulation, shifting tropical rain belts and drying parts of the Amazon. This cascade of events could trigger large-scale Amazon forest dieback, with major consequences for the region's carbon storage and biodiversity."

The team of eight was led by William Ripple, who has previously emphasized alongside other experts that "we are on the brink of an irreversible climate disaster" and

"fossil fuels—and the fossil fuel industry and its enablers—are driving a multitude of interlinked crises that jeopardize the breadth and stability of life on Earth."

Ripple, distinguished professor of ecology at Oregon State University (OSU), said in a Wednesday statement that "after a million years of oscillating between ice ages separated by warmer periods, the Earth's climate stabilized more than 11,000 years ago, enabling agriculture and complex societies."

"We're now moving away from that stability and could be entering a period of unprecedented climate change," he stressed. "Existing climate mitigation approaches, including scaling up renewable energy and protecting carbon-storing ecosystems, are critical to limit the increase in global temperatures."

Study co-author Christopher Wolf, a former OSU postdoctoral researcher who is now a scientist with Terrestrial Ecosystems Research Associates (TERA), noted that already, "climate model simu-

lations suggest the recent 12-month breach indicates the long-term average temperature increase is at or near 1.5°C."

"It's likely that global temperatures are as warm as, or warmer than, at any point in the last 125,000 years and that climate change is advancing faster than many scientists predicted," he said.

"Policymakers and the public remain largely unaware of the risks posed by what would effectively be a point-of-no-return transition," Wolf added. "And while averting the hothouse trajectory won't be easy, it's much more achievable than trying to backtrack once we're on it."

The team's warnings came in the wake of Big Oil-backed President Donald Trump claiming in a United Nations speech last year that climate change is "the greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world," and his ditching of dozens of relevant organizations and treaties, including the Paris Agreement.

On Thursday, the Trump administration continued its war on the climate, revoking the "endangerment finding" that allowed the EPA to pass regulations fighting

the global emergency—which was forcefully condemned by scientists and activists.

"In case there was any remaining doubt, the truth is very clear: Trump cares nothing for the health and well-being of our communities or our climate," said Erin Doran, senior staff attorney at the advocacy group Food & Water Watch. "He is concerned only with making more money for the billionaire fossil fuel polluters that help to fund his dangerous political agenda."

"The notion that the EPA shouldn't regulate climate emissions is inconsistent with the law, the science, and the realities of the climate crisis," Doran added. "EPA is charged with protecting human health and the environment, yet this rule does neither, benefiting only the fossil fuel industry at our expense. It's absurd, and we'll be fighting back."

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

## BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from previous page

the wind kept high all the time.

### Police Court

William H. Randall, drunk, (colossal drunk, apparently,) fine \$10, costs \$6.90; Brentwood. Wm. Falvey, very large drunk, fine \$8, costs \$6.90; Brentwood. James Lee, large drunk, fine \$5, costs \$6.90; Brentwood. William Mason, drunk, ordinary affair, ordered to skip town; very much pleased.

*The New Hampshire Gazette*

February 18, 1886

- The Oregon legislature has passed a law to the effect that tricyclists and bicyclists must stop riding whenever they approach within 100 yards of a team, and after dismounting remain standing until the team has passed.
- [Confederate] General [Robert] Toombs "last words" will hardly do to put in the list of the last words of great men. Said the dying Georgian to his grandson-in-law, "Lend me \$100," and that was the final utterance of the old man.
- George E. Roundy on Tuesday morning started for East Vassalboro, Me., with the body of his brother, Edwin A. Roundy, who died in the Rockingham trotting park last Sat-

urday night after getting drunk at the "Hotel Pickwick."

[NB – The reference above is not to the famous Rockingham Park in Salem, N.H., founded in 1906, but to an earlier venue "about three miles from this city (Portsmouth), on the old Newington cross-road, (where) stands a small wayside tavern known to the country people for miles around as the Pickwick Hotel," according to a contemporary news story. – The Ed.]

In consequence of revelations made at the inquest, Sheriff Kent and City Marshal Norton on Tuesday afternoon proceeded to the park to arrest the proprietor of the place, Mrs. Annie E. Grey, and her barkeeper, Henry C. Littlefield, on several complaints for violation of the liquor law; but the precious pair were absent, having left the "hotel" on Monday afternoon, and the only occupants of the crib were a dog and cat. The woman, who is said to be the wife of a former engineer on the Boston & Maine railroad, purchased the property not long ago, and it is supposed that she and her friend the barkeeper are now in Boston, from whence they came and where they had better remain. That resort in the trotting park has had the worst

of reputations ever since it opened some years ago, and it is to be hoped that the authorities will keep the vile den closed in the future.

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**Boston Globe, March 8, 1886:  
DEAD IN THE ROAD  
Result of a Night's Carousal  
in Portsmouth  
Edwin Roundy Brutally Murdered  
His Brother George Held  
for the Awful Crime**

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**Portsmouth Democrats Coffee Meetup  
February 27 – New Location**  
The monthly Portsmouth Democrats Coffee Meetup will be on Feb. 27, 2026, at a local Portsmouth restaurant, from 8:00 a.m to 9:00 a.m. "This is a great morning get together," according to the sponsors. "Drop in and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Dems, and bring a friend. There is plenty of parking. See you soon. Go Dems!" For the location of the Meetup, or any other information, contact Brian Wazlaw at (603) 988-9998 or Peter Somsich at (603) 436-5382.

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December has given way to February, and the big blue spruce in Market Square has been repurposed. The "Holiday Tree" has morphed into the "Tree of Love." Both monikers deftly sidestep an inconvenient Constitutional pitfall in order to give the people what they want. Mission Accomplished: a public facility, suitable for festooning with public displays of affection, which makes no explicit reference to a certain 3rd century religious martyr.

**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**  
"If you can't explain it to a six year old, you don't understand it yourself."  
— Albert Einstein

"Money is like manure. If you spread it around, it does a lot of good, but if you pile it up in one place, it stinks like hell."  
— Clint W. Murchison  
john@wordpraxis.com

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— a Bar Harbor reader

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**Yet Another Shocking New Low**

Dear Editor:

Throughout Donald Trump's sordid life there have been many examples of actions and words that were despicable and disgusting. The list is too long to cover all of them, but there was, for example, the Central Park Five episode, his mocking a handicapped journalist, and the disrespect shown to Gold Star parents. Unfortunately, Mr. Trump continues this behavior on almost a daily basis, but recently he may have hit a new low for even him, if that is possible. In a Truth Social clip, Mr. Trump depicted former President Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama as what appeared to be a cartoon chimpanzee and gorilla. The Obamas' faces were superimposed on the animals' bodies.

This level of depravity goes far beyond behavior that can be ignored, or accepted by a civilized society. Anyone who tries to justify, rationalize, excuse, explain away, or accept such behavior is no better than Mr. Trump. Yet too many remain silent either out of fear of retribution or in approval. The words and actions of Mr. Trump provide a window into his soul. It reflects a soul consumed by hate, anger, jealousy, and revenge but completely devoid of compassion, sympathy, empathy, understanding, remorse, or any other basic decent human emotion.

All Americans, regardless of their political leanings must loudly and forcefully reject and condemn this behavior. The world is watching and what they see is a country that has lost its moral compass. We are better than this, but we need to prove it.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.  
Rich:

*Back in the Gilded Age of which Trump is so fond, "slumming" was a fad among the upper crust. An academic with the Dickensian name of Chad Heap wrote a book about it: Slumming: Sexual and Racial Encounters in American Nightlife 1885-1940. In a 2009 review in the New York Times, Jennifer 8. Lee—yes, that's her real name, you can look it up—described the phenomenon: "well-off white New Yorkers exploring black, Chinese, gay or poor working-class*

*communities. Popular neighborhoods for this voyeuristic pastime included Chinatown, Harlem and the Lowest East Side tenements, home to the 'Hebrews.' That may sound a bit tawdry, but Heap argues that "slumming actually promoted social mixing and reshaped the sexual and racial landscape in what had become an increasingly stratified society."*

*Back then slumming was voluntary—on the part of the boity-toity, anyway. Nowadays—unless we're willing to abandon our civic responsibilities and go cover in a cave—we are all being forced, every day, to go morally slumming in the overflowing cesspit of #47's noggin.*

The Editor

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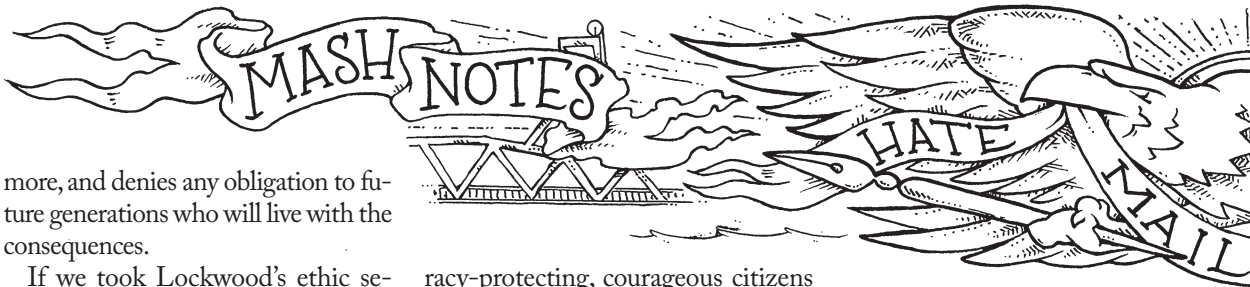
**Only Snowflakes Need Air to Breathe**  
To the Editor:

The Trump administration has repealed the Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas "endangerment finding." In 2009, the EPA formally concluded that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases endanger public health, giving the agency its legal authority to limit pollution from cars, power plants, and oil and gas facilities.

The new rule strips away that foundation, and it is hailed by President Trump as "the single largest deregulatory action in American history." It is, in reality, the deliberate blinding of our primary public-health and environmental watchdog at the very moment the alarms are sounding loudest.

Climate scientists now warn that global warming is accelerating, possibly pushing Earth toward a "hothouse" trajectory. They describe a world in which ice sheets melt, forests die back, and oceans lose their capacity to buffer heat, triggering feedbacks that could lock in catastrophic levels of warming for centuries or more. There is no historical guide for what comes next because humanity has never before forced the climate system so far, so fast.

Scientist and author Jeffrey A. Lockwood, in his essay "The Fine Art of the Good Guest," reminds us that we are "uninvited, but not unwelcome, guests of the planet." A good guest, he says, asks little, accepts what is offered, and gives thanks. This decision does the opposite: it demands much, takes



more, and denies any obligation to future generations who will live with the consequences.

If we took Lockwood's ethic seriously, we would be strengthening climate protections, not dismantling them. A decent guest leaves a place better—or at least not worse—than they found it. Right now, our government is breaking that most basic rule.

Terry Hansen  
Grafton, Wis.

Terry:

*There you go, panicking, just because you're in the habit of respirating the old-fashioned way. We'll let you in on a hot tip: Peter Thiel, Elon Musk, and Donald Trump Jr. are going to introduce a better way to get oxygen into your bloodstream. You'll hardly know you're wearing one of their bandy-dandy carbon fiber synthetic air tanks. Invest now in this exciting new venture and you'll get a guaranteed discount on refills.*

*Musk's Space Mirrors are another matter. Unfortunately, everyone, whether they pay or not, will benefit from them. That's OK, though, in a concession to socialism, they'll be sent into space on the taxpayer's dime. By safely and effectively blocking the sun, they'll control Earth's temperature through a thermostat mounted on the dash of Elon's CyberTruck.*

The Editor

====

**Good News and Bad News**

Dear Editor,

trump's billionaires censoring journalists and closing newspapers, it's not freedom; it's despotism.

trump giving pardons and government favors to financial contributors, it's not fair; it's bribery, corruption.

trump suing the government he controls for \$10 billion, it's not moral, it's not right; it's theft.

trump's military jailing and deporting children without judicial process, it's not American; it's evil.

trump's thugs killing civilians, it's not protection; it's murder.

trump's agents taking control of state ballots, it's not democracy; it's dictatorship.

Dictatorship is not some vague danger; it's a growing presence. Fair-minded, freedom-loving, democ-

racy-protecting, courageous citizens must speak out now and resist in every way we can.

Sincerely,  
Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

*The good news is, your powers of perception are functioning perfectly.*

*The bad news, of course, is what you perceive.*

*Nobody sane asked for this mess. Here it is, though. The question each of us must ask is, what am I going to do about it?*

The Editor

====

**The Major's Gig Line is Awry**

[The Major neglects to include a salutation to The Editor, a former enlisted man.]

Our national leaders are heading to recess. Like little school children when the bell rings, they leave their work behind and head to the playground. Of course their playground is fundraising and shoring up their base, while ignoring constituents who are unhappy with the job they're doing.

Admit it, there is no accountability for those who work in Washington. They do nothing but enrich themselves, perpetuate their political careers by pleasing their party, donor and lobbyist masters. Their constituents are an every two or six year afterthought.

They and their masters have been extremely successful in pitting the people against one another. In so doing they've rendered we the people powerless and voiceless.

Imagine if we all rejected the monikers they've foisted upon us to divide us. Imagine if we all voted based on their accomplishments.

Remember, "a bee does not try to convince a fly that honey is better than s\_t." Let their actions say everything. Can't pass a budget, go home. Can't pass a comprehensive immigration bill, bye, bye. Can't guarantee one day voting and election integrity, have a nice day. Can't root out and eliminate the fraud, waste and abuse of the tax dollars we send you, take a hike.

If politicians can't do their job, give

someone else a chance. It's time to fire ineffective politicians, and replace them with someone who will represent we the people.

It's time to listen to the bee, and ignore the fly.

Sincerely,  
Michael Petruzzello  
Major, USMC (Ret)  
Wolfeboro, N.H.

Major:

*You happen upon one vital truth—politicians are "extremely successful in pitting the people against one another"—but your reference to immigration suggests you may have fallen into their trap. Ditto on election integrity—another phantasm.*

*Any diatribe this abstract can only be superficial. Perhaps you're trying to appear bipartisan. If so, that's even worse. Democrats are certainly not above reproach, but at least they're not trying to torch the Constitution on behalf of a gilded tyrant.*

The Editor

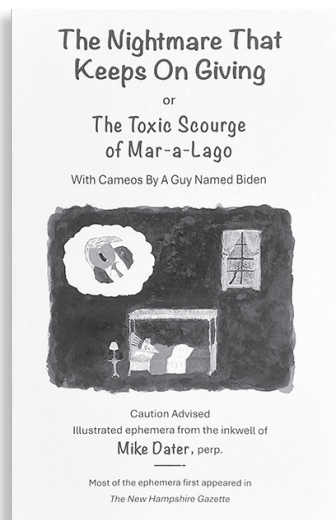
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**Causes and Effects of Inequality**

To the editor;

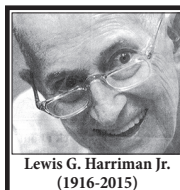
Of all the indicators used to measure the condition of the American economy, perhaps the most relevant to our current condition is the degree of wealth inequality. It is important because it shows how wealth is distributed within American society, a measure of society's egalitarianism. Moreover, an investigation into trends in inequality helps us to understand the economic structures and processes that advantage some over others. This is important to know since wealth in America is arguably the most important determinant of social influence and power. Unfortunately, the current level of wealth inequality in America is at a record level. The top one percent owns an astounding 31.7 percent of total wealth, and the top 10 percent account for approximately two-thirds. The bottom 50 percent are left with approximately 2.5 percent. Although the U.S. has never been particularly egalitarian in terms of wealth distribution, inequality has increased over

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The Editor

**The Super Wealthy Can Afford to Lie**

To the Editor:

What we have learned about the super wealthy, like all those many associated with the Jeffrey Epstein files, is that most lie like a rug.

Among those named in the files are Elon Musk, Lord Mandelson (UK ambassador to the U.S.), Prince Andrew, Richard Branson, Bill Clinton, Steven Tisch (New York Giants co-owner), Larry Summers (former Secretary of the Treasury), Bill Gates, Howard Lutnik (Trump's Commerce Secretary), Sergey Brin (Google co-founder), and many others.

The worst of them are used to buying or sharing all kinds of illicit things, like young girls, and then covering it all up.

That is what billionaire Donald Trump did to win the 2016 election. He paid off a porn star to cover up his adultery and then told the public he never slept with her. He then lied about who really was trying to steal the 2020 election.

He continues to lie about why he is trying to rid the country of immigrants. It is not because they are criminals, but rather because he is a racist and brown-skinned folks are gaining in the population and may surpass whites before long.

Kimball Shinkoskey  
Woods Cross, Utah  
Kim:

*You'll get no argument from us on any of this. Your letter did prompt, though, this supplementary question: to what degree was lying the route to their wealth in the first place?*

*Of course, the moment that question sprouted in our editorial crania, we thought of Honoré de Balzac: "Le secret des grandes fortunes sans cause apparente est un crime oublié, parce qu'il a été proprement fait."*

*In English, according to the wonderful quoteinvestigator.com, that line from Le Père Goriot, published in 1834, translates to, "The secret of a great success for which you are at a loss to account is a*

*crime that has never been found out, because it was properly executed."*

The Editor

**Bibi's Crying "Wolf" Again**

To the Editor:

In 2002, Bibi Netanyahu testified before a Congressional committee and urged President Bush to attack Iraq. According to Netanyahu, Iraq was on the verge of developing a nuclear bomb with Iran's help! It's now 2026 and it seems the Israeli leader is determined to push the U.S. into attacking Iran!

In 2003, the U.S. attacked Iraq but as we later learned, there were no nuclear weapons there. For over 30 years, Netanyahu has been beating the drums of war saying that Iran was extremely close to creating a nuclear weapon. In a speech to Israel's government in 1992, Bibi said it would take Iran about three or four years to have the ability to assemble atomic weapons. In a 1995 book he wrote, Netanyahu asserted that Iran's plans for such weapons would pose an existential threat to global security! And, believe it or not, Bibi said in 2009 that Iran was only one or two years away from actually creating a nuclear bomb.

In 2012, the Israeli Prime Minister spoke at the United Nations, and insisted that Iran was quickly preparing the ingredients for a Weapon of Mass Destruction!

So, here we are in 2026 and the U.S. has sent U.S. ships, planes, and troops close to Iran, and it's obvious that Trump and Netanyahu have discussed plans for a powerful attack on Iran.

If America and Israel bomb and invade Iran, look for all Hell to break loose in the Middle East.

Will Thomas  
Auburn, N.H.  
Will:

*As we write this, the USS Gerald R. Ford is headed towards the Gulf—which is to say, our war criminal is acting at the behest of their war criminal. Both of them are bent on staying in office by any means necessary, in order to keep from going to jail.*

*Meanwhile, aboard the largest, most expensive warship ever built, 4,600 sailors enjoy the luxury of having 650 toilets*

*available for their convenience—except when they don't work. Last month NPR reported that "Problems with the [ship's] Vacuum Collection, Holding and Transfer (VCHT) system increased in 2025.*

*The vacuum system was adopted in part from the cruise ship industry. It uses less water, but the system used by USS Ford is more complex. Breakdowns have been reported since the \$13 billion carrier first deployed in 2023.*

*"Every day that the entire crew is present on the ship, a trouble call has been made for ship's force personnel to repair or unclog a portion of the VCHT system, since June 2023," reads an undated document provided by the Navy, through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request."*

*Last year the ship's engineering department reported 205 breakdowns in four days.*

The Editor

**Beware Wallstreetium Corruptus**

To the Editor:

Societies, like the people who populate them, can be become quite ill—especially if their condition fails to receive the proper treatment.

Back in 2003, with our nation still reeling from the terror attacks of 9/11, we became quite sick. We fell victim to one of the most virulent germs ever known to humanity, the illegal war virus.

This virus soon had our nation embarking on a disastrous invasion and occupation of Iraq, an illegal and immoral disaster that left hundreds of thousands killed and wounded and destabilized an entire region.

George Bush and Dick Cheney initially infected us with this deadly virus. But then, just as we thought the epidemic had passed, a new contagious strain of the virus infected Barack Obama. So instead of trying to finish the virus totally off by quarantining Bush and Cheney in prison, Obama proceeded to bomb Libya and double down on drone warfare. And the virus survived, with a particularly virulent strain that went on to infect Donald Trump, who would quickly deny he had become sick.

to next page

the past thirty years to the point that a small elite now controls a vast amount of wealth. The U.S. resembles a plutocracy more than a democratic republic.

A major reason for the growth of wealth inequality during the last three decades has been the difference between the return on financial assets compared to wage growth. Since the '80s, returns on financial assets such as stocks, real estate and business ownership have skyrocketed while wages have largely remained stagnant. Owners of financial assets have prospered while working-class economic clout has declined. During the period of neoliberal globalization, millions of manufacturing jobs were replaced, either by cheaper foreign labor or by robotic technologies driving down blue-collar wage growth. In 1980, manufacturing's share of corporate profits was approximately 44 percent but by 2025 it had dropped to approximately 15 percent. During this same period, labor's share of GDP declined by approximately 11 percent while finance's share increased by the same amount. The financial sector has grown to replace manufacturing as America's most profitable industry.

The effect on inequality is straightforward. Virtually, all the benefits of economic growth since 1980 have been acquired by the owners of capital while working class wages have failed to keep pace. The wealth of a small number of asset owners has burgeoned while the working class has struggled. Financialization, however, has spawned more pernicious effects. The traditional role of banking in capitalism has been to mediate between savers and investors, distributing depositors' assets as loans to fund business growth through expansion and innovation. As neoliberal regulators removed constraints on how banks and other financial institutions could use depositors' money, less of it was used to invest in productive growth in new factories or manufacturing technologies. Instead, the focus became seeking out the highest return in the

shortest time through investment in various financial products. Financial engineering became more important than investing in actual engineering. The invention of the complex mortgage-backed securities that precipitated the 2008 Great Recession is a good example. Today, Wall Street banks and private investors such as hedge funds and private equity invest vastly more in financial assets than business growth. The economic consequence has been to hollow out investment in companies that actually make things and hire workers while investment profits are generated by contrived financial assets owned by the wealthy. This decreases American competitiveness in global markets, deprives the working class of potential high-paying jobs and increases wealth inequality.

The social impact of these economic trends is to separate society into two tiers, a wealthy, asset-rich elite at the top and an increasingly precarious working class at the bottom. The middle class is being hollowed out as income has shifted upward. In 1980, the middle class held approximately 35 percent of wealth; today, it holds approximately 26 percent. The almost 10 percent difference has migrated to the top 1 percent. While the rich elite enjoy extravagant benefits and control the levers of power, the working class finds it increasingly difficult to afford basic necessities. Housing, healthcare, and education are simply unaffordable for many. The trend is not sustainable. A reckoning is due and it is not far off.

Robert D. Russell, PhD  
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

*Thank you as always for this lucid primer on a vitally important topic. We found the third paragraph to be of particular interest. It shows the "haves" abandoning even the shop-worn pretense of investing in the nation's future.*

*If there were more honor in our own racket, our fellow news-mongers would have called out this trend decades ago, perhaps reducing the general level of carnage. But, no. As a certain bald-headed S.O.B. has recently made clear, practical-*

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from previous page

But didn't the American bombing on small boats in the Caribbean, a reporter asked Trump, show that you have most definitely caught the virus? Nonsense, answered Trump, who went on to explain that he only bombed the Caribbean small boats because Obama had already set a presidential precedent for such attacks with his extensive drone strikes in Yemen.

But what about, another reporter asked, your invasion of Venezuela? Didn't that prove that you have also caught the virus? Not at all, responded Trump. Just following precedent. Didn't Bush and Cheney walk away scot-free from their invasion of Iraq?

Viruses, of course, haven't been the only plague on our nation's health. In 2008, we suffered an attack from the deadly *Wallstreetium Corruptus* bacterium, a microorganism that flourishes in greedy, secret environments that get precious little sunlight. This bacterium initially attacked only the United States, but the infection spread quickly to many other countries, nearly destroying the global economy and costing many millions of people their jobs and homes.

President Obama contracted this pathogen early on when he took in more Wall Street campaign cash than his opponent John McCain—and then didn't take any of the necessary steps to neutralize the microbe. Instead of isolating the Wall Street carriers of this toxic bacterium, Obama judged these financial kingpins as too big to fail or jail and left them free to continue incubating one deadly germ after another. Wall Street's investment in his campaign paid off handsomely.

And now we find ourselves facing perhaps the most dangerous threat to our health of all, our addiction to fossil fuels. This addiction is overheating our entire planet and destabilizing our global life support system. Catastrophe lies ahead.

Out of this fetid, festering, fever-

ish swamp of untreated disease, our body politic, not surprisingly, is now manifesting the ultimate symptom of a sick society. Out of this quagmire a malignant narcissist has arisen. In the White House now sits an old-fashioned quack offering phony treatments for chronic ailments.

We have had in the past, of course, deadly pathogens within our social system. We still suffer from one of the oldest and worst of these: the virulent and highly resistant virus of racism. We once had a leader in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who understood how to treat—and beat back—this vile virus. We need to practice, Dr. King taught us, nonviolent civil disobedience.

Dr. King was murdered before his noble cure for racism could go into total effect. But he knew that the path forward to full recovery demanded that we also treat the equally deadly and symbiotic germs of greed and militarism. Let's heed his legacy and follow his shining example—before time runs out.

Jeff Vogel  
Sunnyside, N.Y.

Jeff:

*Well, you certainly have wrung that metaphor dry. You left out one particularly nasty case, though. Jerry Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon seems to fit into this pattern awfully well. A few excerpts from Admiral Fowle's Tidal Guide:*

**August 1, 1974**—Vice President Ford meets with Al Haig for 50 minutes; they talk about Nixon perhaps resigning, and a possible pardon from Ford. *It's all quite kosher, though Haig did sign the official log under an assumed name.*

**August 7, 1974**—Three GOP bigwigs tell Nixon he's through. Len Garmet talks him out of pardoning the Watergate conspirators. Nixon's man Al Haig meets again in secret with Jerry Ford. *Move along; nothing to see here.*

*The next day, of course, Nixon announces he'll resign.*

The Editor

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## Violence By Another Name...

Sure, they're deceptive, hypocritical, and illegal — but they're bipartisan!

by Richard Balzano

Economic coercion has become a routine instrument of U.S. foreign policy, using sanctions to pressure smaller states to yield to American hegemony. Often hailed as a peaceful alternative to conventional warfare, sanctions are inherently violent by design, undercutting any claims of humanitarian intent.

Sanctions are designed to inflict deprivation inside target states. Sanction-induced deprivation (SID) is intended to create unrest and trigger anti-government mobilization, to in turn bring about desired political change. Reasonable observers may identify popular mobilization as evidence of civil society, but with no sense of irony or self-reflection, Washington capitalizes on protests to label target governments as illegitimate authoritarian regimes. If mobilization brings about political change, Washington achieves its objective without further intervention. This is rarely the case, as the origins of SID are not lost on target populations that recognize the origins of their deprivation and value their sovereignty. Researchers have observed sanctions' ineffectiveness in achieving their stated objectives, while critics have questioned the integrity of stated objectives and likely ulterior motives. Time and time again, protest and mobilization provide opportunities for coups, color revolutions, and other subversive tactics from Washington's clandestine regime change playbook.

All is not lost if no mobilization transpires. Washington and the compliant mainstream Western media blame SID on corruption, economic mismanagement, and the allegedly inevitable failures of socialism. Countries like Iran, Venezuela, and Cuba are consistently labeled "failed states," but the material effects of U.S. economic aggression are never mentioned. This omission, paired with the hollow rhetoric of democracy promotion and humanitarian concern, sustains the ideological justification for continued pressure.

Sanctions trace their roots to pre-modern siege tactics, when cities were surrounded and deprived to force submission. Article 16 of the League of Nations' Covenant legitimized the practice, and the UN Charter expanded it through Articles 2(4), 39, 41, 42, 43, 46, and the 1950 Uniting for Peace Resolution. After the Second World War, sanctions shifted from military tools to instruments of economic and diplomatic pressure, aimed at shaping behavior across geopolitical terrain. Sanctions target nations, institutions, and individuals, and take on many forms, including trade restrictions, monetary constraints, visa revocation, travel bans, cultural restrictions, embargoes, and military assistance suspensions. Modern sanctions operate on coercion, raising the costs of economic activity and threatening the population to push the leadership into compliance, with the ultimate goal of polit-

ical change or, failing that, creating leverage for U.S. influence.

The behaviors targeted by sanctions are broad, from forestalling war and promoting democracy to combating repression or terrorism, advancing human rights, or securing captured territory or persons. The stated noble motivations for sanctions are highly suspect, often serving as a moral alibi that masks the pursuit of U.S. national interests and rarely aligning with actual outcomes. Few legal barriers constrained their application; Article 2(4) of the UN Charter imposes no limit on coercive measures short of war. Over time, sanctions became routine tools for enforcing the preferences of dominant powers, often applied inconsistently or manipulatively.

The application of sanctions follows a clear asymmetry: larger Western economies target smaller states that lack the capacity to reciprocate. Historical analysis shows that sanctioning powers' economies often dwarfed the targets' by ratios of ten to one, and in cases aimed at destabilization, the disparity often exceeded 400 to 1. This imbalance reinforces Western hegemony and amplifies the coercive power of sanctions.

Legal protections emerged in response to coercive economic practices. The UN's long-ignored 1970 Declaration on the Principles of International Law states: "No State may use or encourage the use of economic[,] political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind." The OAS Charter similarly prohibits intervention, declaring that no state may employ coercive measures to force the sovereign will of another. Collective punishment, central to SID, is explicitly prohibited under international law, including Articles 50 of the 1899 and 1907 Hague Regulations, Article 26(III) of the 1949 Geneva Convention, and Articles 4(2)(b) and 75(2)(d) of the 1977 Additional Protocols, as well as Article 20(f)(ii) of the International Law Commission's 1996 Draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind. Despite these protections, dominant powers continue to employ sanctions with little accountability.

Before 1990, the UN modestly applied sanctions, but Washington drove their expansion in the latter twentieth century, acting unilaterally, through coalitions, or through the UN. Between 1960 and 1990, most sanctions originated in the United States, and from 1970 to 1998, Washington participated in over two-thirds of trade sanctions imposed. The 1990s became known as "the sanctions decade," cementing sanctions as a preferred tool of U.S. geopolitical influence.

This transpired amidst post-Cold War unipolarity, Clinton-era liberalism, and the rise of New Democrats, which contributed to sanctions' bipartisan normalization. American conservatives generally embrace

aggressive foreign policy under both Republican and Democratic administrations, while liberals, generally critical of Republican interventions, easily sign off on Democrat-led hostilities. When Democrats lead, libs double down on the uplifting dictator-toppling democracy promotion rhetoric that underwrites U.S. foreign policy, leaving critical thinking by the wayside. Liberals embraced Clinton's sanctions as a humane alternative to military violence (along with Clinton's violence), and dismissed their human costs. The Party that brought you human rights provisions in foreign assistance legislation was now willing to sign off on starvation in the name of democracy.

Sanctioned nations persevere, but it gets little exposure in the Western press. Cuba, likely the next nation on the Trump regime's hit list, has endured a U.S. embargo for generations and is frequently labeled a failed state by the colossus in the north, yet neither the State Department nor Western media are willing to make the connection between Cuba's economic woes and the decades-long embargo. Despite the siege, Cuba outperforms the hemisphere in several humanitarian areas. Housing and food are human rights with homelessness near zero. Cuban literacy is nearly 100 percent while the U.S. is in freefall. Healthcare is a revered human right, and infant mortality and life expectancy compete with Western nations. Cuban medical diplomacy sends doctors throughout the Global South not to profit but to provide humanitarian relief. Not surprisingly, the Trump regime re-designated Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism, and Marco Rubio has targeted Cuban medical missions abroad. As the U.S. puts the squeeze on Cuban oil imports, the consequences are increasingly dire, the conditions of which will be incoherently written off under the auspices of an authoritarian failed state.

Sanctions are economic warfare. They lack the shock and awe of conventional warfare, but they are far from a humane alternative—they are violent, designed to produce starvation and death. They run on coercion, suffering, and deprivation, and they hit civilians hardest, yet they have been normalized as a routine instrument of geopolitical pressure. Sanctions are collective punishment at their core—they are war crimes, and in a just world they would be treated as such. The good news is that the rise of BRICS, the emergence of China's economic preeminence and a multipolar order will cripple Washington's ability to exert economic leverage over smaller states. The bad news is that it won't come soon enough.

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*Richard M. Balzano is an historian and political analyst peddling truths at several institutions of higher learning, quietly devoted to the art of sedition and comfortably resigned to the peripheral left.*

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## Do Not Thank Me for My Service

by W.D. Ehrhart

For the past two decades, I've been patient with this ridiculous insistence by my fellow Americans on thanking me for my service. I have tried to imagine that they mean well and are sincere in their thanks, however misdirected the sentiment may be, however oblivious to reality the well-wishers may be. For two decades, whenever someone has thanked me for my service, I've simply said, "You're welcome," and let it go at that.

But I have finally run out of patience. I just can't keep my mouth shut anymore. I'm tired of their stupidity and ignorance, and the utter emptiness of their words. I'm tired of letting them feel like they've made me feel appreciated or whatever the heck they think they're making me feel by thanking me. I'm tired of letting them feel good about themselves for doing what they seem to think is the right thing.

The fact is that I am ashamed of what I did while serving in the military of the United States. I went halfway around the world to kill, maim, and make miserable people who had never done me or my country any harm, nor ever would or could. Do you really think I want your thanks for that? I think you ought to go have a long talk with a member of the clergy.

What really sent me over the edge was a few nights ago when I was watching *The Daily Show*. This is a program that is highly critical of the current administration, but also has a history of criticizing the stupidity and foibles of whoever is in charge of our government. Michael Costa was interviewing some former Navy SEAL who discovered that dropping LSD helped with his PTSD,

or something like that. But the first thing Costa did was to thank this guy for his service and for what he'd done for our country.

I have no idea what the details of this man's "service" are because I turned the TV off as soon as Costa said that. But I do know that no member of the U.S. military has done a damned thing to protect our country or defend our freedoms since the end of the Second World War.

During the Korean War, 37,000 Americans died to make sure that a dictator named Singman Rhee remained in power in South Korea instead of being displaced by a dictator name Kim Il Sung.

We lost the war in Vietnam—"my war"—the Vietnamese finally defeating the bogus government we'd installed twenty years earlier and sending us packing, yet Americans can still worship at the church of their choice and buy whatever brand of toothpaste we want, so our freedoms clearly weren't at stake in that war.

Hundreds of Americans died in Lebanon in the early 1980s, so that wasn't exactly a win, but again we lost none of our freedoms. We did win the war in Grenada, preventing the expansion of an airfield that might have accommodated Soviet bombers, but then we turned around and finished the airport so that Grenada could accommodate more tourism, an idea that surely never would have occurred to the Grenadians without our help and guidance.

In 1989, our military invaded Panama and kidnapped Manuel Noriega, who had been on the CIA payroll for a couple of decades, and represented zero threat to American freedoms. In 1991, our military invaded Iraq to put the Emir of Ku-

wait back on his gold-plated toilet (think I'm kidding?) and ensure that we Americans retained the freedom to burn as much Middle Eastern petroleum as our hearts and our gas-guzzling cars desired.

In 1993, American soldiers died in Mogadishu, maybe trying—however ineptly—to help the people of Somalia, but certainly not defending American freedoms. And of the two big wars in this century—Afghanistan and Iraq—we eventually left Afghanistan to its fate with no detrimental impact on our own freedoms, and it turns out U.S. government knew all along that Saddam Hussein never did have weapons of mass destruction that could threaten the U.S.

And now we're told that Venezuela poses a grave threat to the United States, so we must hijack Venezuelan oil tankers, destroy small boats on the high seas, and kidnap that country's head of state to protect our nation, even as this president pardons former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez, who was convicted in U.S. federal court of facilitating the importation of 400 tons of cocaine into the U.S.

Over the past 80-plus years, this is what the U.S. military has been doing in the service of our country. Not to mention now being deployed in the streets of our cities against Americans exercising their constitutional rights to free speech and to petition the government for redress of grievances.

None of this has anything to do with defending our nation or protecting our freedoms.

Less than a week ago, I was sitting in the waiting room of my vascular surgeon, and I happened to mention to another man there that I had been in the Marines sixty years ago. He

was not a veteran, he said, having gotten a high draft lottery number, but his father had been a Marine on Iwo Jima. And then he thanked me for my service.

I said that I appreciated his sincerity, but that if he knew what I had done in my "service" to the country, he would realize that thanks were not in order.

He immediately replied that while the Vietnam War might have been a bad war, that wasn't my fault; I had nevertheless answered the call and done my duty.

At that point, I couldn't help myself. I said, "You're not listening. I went halfway around the world to kill, maim, and make miserable people who had never done me or my country any harm. I am ashamed of what I did. I certainly don't want your thanks."

The guy clearly didn't know what to say. He looked at me like I'd just asked him what color panties his wife wore. I then said, "You ought to think twice before you thank somebody for their service. Maybe not all of us want to be thanked. Frankly, being thanked for what I did makes my skin crawl."

At that point, a nurse called my name and I got up and left. By the time my appointment ended, the man was gone. But I'm done being polite about this. If people want to shove their heads up their backsides and parrot nonsensical drivel, that's their prerogative. But if they insist on laying that crap on me, from now on they're going to get an earful.

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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 Should We Allow Food Monopolies? Let's Bust The System!

by Jim Hightower

How are monopolistic corporations able to gain their economic dominance? They get politicians to give it to them.

Consider the old robber barons. They weren't brilliant investors or managers, they were ruthless exploiters of government giveaways, and they routinely bribed lawmakers and other officials to permit their monopolistic thievery.

Likewise, today's monopoly players have captured local, state, and national markets—not through honest competition, but by getting public officials to subsidize their expansion and to rig the rules against small competitors. Monopolizers buy this favoritism with the legalized bribes of dark-money campaign donations they lavish on compliant lawmakers.

Investigative digger Stacy Mitchell recently documented how this corrupt political favoritism has allowed massive retail chains like Walmart, Kroger, and Dollar Store to crush thousands of local grocers. This has left millions of Americans living in "food deserts"—worker class, poor, and rural communities with no food store.

What happened? As grocery chains spread from local to regional to national, they demanded that food manufacturers give them big discounts—a dramatic monopoly pricing advantage over independent rivals, so hometown grocers began hemorrhaging customers. This raw, anti-competitive, price discrimination was a flagrant violation of America's anti-monopoly law—but here came Big Money to protect the monopolists.

In 1980, as Ronald Reagan was railing against "silly" consumer protection laws, supermarket lobbyists poured campaign cash into top officials of both parties. What they bought was bipartisan agreement to simply stop enforcing that "rusty" old antitrust law that had protected a competitive grocery economy for nearly 50 years.

But good news! That useful, highly-effective law is still on the books, so let's build a long-term grassroots campaign to rejuvenate it and re-outlaw monopolization, redlining, and price gouging by food giants. For more information, go to [ilsr.org](http://ilsr.org).

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### BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

- The *Penny Post* says that "Col. J. Horace Kent wishes it understood that he is in no way responsible for the sensational and untruthful stories telegraphed to the *Boston Globe* from this city in relation to the Roundy affair." The author of that remarkable story was a Boston reporter who happened to be in this city on Sunday, and who evidently "let himself loose."
- The *Gazette* subscribers in Rye, West Rye, North Hampton and perhaps other places, who did not get their papers last week until Saturday, the 6th, are informed that the fault was with the postal service; the papers were mailed on the 3rd, at the usual hour, and were sent from this

- post-office as usual.
- There was a grand "chivaree" at the witching hour of midnight on Friday, opposite the residence of Mr. Edgar D. Stoddard, who had lately returned from his bridal tour. All occasion for further disturbance was removed by that gentleman responding liberally.
- A brutal prize fight occurred in a barn near Fayetteville, W.Va., between Tom McGonigle and James Sheady, as the result of an old grudge. After forty-three rounds had been fought Sheady was dead, and McGonigle is missing.
- The New England Fat Men's convention is to be held in Dover in a few weeks. At a meeting of promi-

- nent citizens, March 2nd, a committee of twenty-five was appointed to make arrangements.
- Stephen S. Sleeper, a selectman of Fremont, was prosecuted by the agent of the S.P.C.A. for beating a cow to death last week. He was held probably guilty, and put under bonds for his appearance before the

supreme court in April.  
*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

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 22	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23	TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25	THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
<p><b>2018</b>—After jabbing him in the legs and groin for 2.5 hours, Alabama prison officials wheel cancer patient Doyle Hamm out of the death chamber alive.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—A Pentagon document leaks: it says climate change may spell doom.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—The FBI arrests a spy: 32-year CIA officer Aldrich Ames.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Samuel Byck, planning to crash an airliner into the White House, carelessly shoots the pilot before takeoff. He's then shot dead, too.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—<i>The New York Times</i> calls the late Malcolm X "an extraordinary and twisted man [who turned] many true gifts to evil purposes."</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Sam Lovjoy details a planned nuke plant in Montague, Mass. by downing a tower with a crowbar.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—On the House floor, Rep. John Rankin [D-Miss.] calls Rep. Frank Hook [D-Mich.] a Communist, whereupon Hook calls Rankin a "God damned liar." Rankin, 63 and 140 lbs., attempts to punch out Hook, 52 and 195 lbs., to little effect.</p> <p><b>1940</b>—The <i>Luftwaffe</i> attacks six <i>Kriegsmarine</i> destroyers, sinking two and killing 600 sailors. <i>Hoppla!</i></p> <p><b>1902</b>—In the Senate Chamber, John McLaurin [D-S.C.] calls Ben Tillman [D-S.C.] a liar, whereupon Tillman belts McLaurin in the jaw.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—Shoemakers in Lynn, Mass. begin the largest U.S. strike to date. Six weeks later they get a 10% raise.</p> <p><b>1838</b>—Penn. amends its Constitution to take the vote from free Black men.</p>	<p><b>2008</b>—Because one maintenance crew fails to warn another that humid air confuses its sensors, a \$1.4 billion B-2 bomber crashes in Guam.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—Rod Paige, U.S. Sec. of Education, calls the nation's largest teachers union a "terrorist organization."</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Days after presiding over his paper's 100th birthday, and deep in debt to mobsters, <i>Oakland Tribune</i> owner and ex-Sen. William Knowland (R-Calif.), shoots himself dead.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Lt. William Calley confesses to mass murder, and says his CO, Capt. Ernest Medina, ordered it.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—Barry Bondhus dumps human digestive byproduct on draft files in Elk River, Minn. He gets 14 months.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Jonas Salk starts disrupting man's natural relationship with polio.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—The huge [356-foot] Japanese submarine <i>I-17</i> fires more than a dozen 5.5 inch rounds at the Richmond oil refinery near Santa Barbara, Calif.</p> <p><b>1891</b>—Two feuding newspapermen shoot it out during a Washington's Birthday parade in Columbus, Ohio; an editor and a bystander are killed.</p> <p><b>1775</b>—"Give me liberty, or give me death," says Patrick Henry—or words to that effect. Multiple accounts differ.</p> <p><b>1669</b>—Diarist Samuel Pepys, visiting Westminster Abbey with his family, kisses and fondles Katherine of Valois, interred more than 200 years earlier.</p> <p><b>1455</b>—In Mainz, Germany, Johannes Gutenberg completes the world's first big print job, <i>i.e.</i>, the Bible.</p>	<p><b>2001</b>—"My plan reduces the national debt, and fast," says G.W.[MD] Bush, "...economists worry that we're going to run out of debt to retire."</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Bad door latch design results in nine passengers being sucked out of a Boeing 747 southwest of Hawaii.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—SCOTUS says it's OK to portray Jerry Falwell drunkenly losing his cherry to his mama in an outhouse.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Capitol cops carry Sen. Bob "The Groper" Packwood (R-Ore.) into the Senate to make up a quorum.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Turned away from Istanbul, <i>MV Struma</i>, a decrepit hulk carrying 791 Jewish refugees, is torpedoed by a Soviet sub. The 19-year old sole survivor, David Stoliar, lives to be 91.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Anti-aircraft guns in Los Angeles fire 1,400 rounds at a weather balloon. Three Angelenos are trampled to death in the resulting panic and dozens more are injured.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—Lewis Vernon Harcourt, 1st Viscount Harcourt and former British Secretary of State for the Colonies, commits suicide rather than face public accusations of pederasty.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—On orders from mill owners, Lawrence, Mass. cops beat the hell out of women and children for trying to get on a train to Philadelphia.</p> <p><b>1836</b>—Rep. and N.H. native Jonathan Cilley [D-Maine], is killed in the 3rd volley of a rifle duel by Rep. William Graves [Whig-Ky].</p> <p><b>1803</b>—The Supreme Court grabs the power to decide who can do what.</p>	<p><b>2020</b>—"We will not see diseases like the coronavirus come here," says Dolt #45's Kayleigh McEnany. "Isn't that refreshing when contrasting it with the awful [Obama] presidency...?"</p> <p><b>2011</b>—"[A]ny future Defense Secretary who advises the President to regain send a big American land army into Asia or into the Middle East or Africa should have his head examined," says Defense Secretary Gates.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—"I do not believe Hanoi can hold up under a long war," says Gen. William "Clueless" Westmoreland.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—President Ike advises vigilance, lest communist teachers sneak propaganda into math problems.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—The IWW's Paterson, N.J. strike begins. One organizer: Concord, N.H.'s Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.</p> <p><b>1906</b>—Pianist Nikolay Burenin &amp; comrades rob the Russian State Bank in Helsinki to fund the Revolution.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—Londoner Edwin Sewell, 31, is the first auto driver to die in a wreck.</p> <p><b>1870</b>—Hiram R. Revels (R-Miss.) becomes the first Black U.S. Senator.</p> <p><b>1836</b>—Colt patents the six gun.</p> <p><b>1836</b>—Joice Heth, formerly exhibited by P.T. Barnum as George Washington's 162 year-old "Mummy," is autopsied in New York City at Barnum's behest before 1,500 paying spectators.</p> <p><b>1643</b>—Under orders from Willem Kieft, Director of New Netherlands, 120 Weckquaesgeek Indians are murdered in their sleep at Pavonia, near present-day Hackensack.</p>	<p><b>2020</b>—"Within a couple of days, [Covid will be] close to zero. That's a pretty good job we've done." —#45</p> <p><b>2015</b>—Sen. James Inhofe [R-Okla.] conclusively proves that global warming is a hoax—or that he's an idiot—by brandishing a snowball in the Senate.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—A truck bomb explodes beneath the World Trade Center in NYC; six are dead, 1,000 injured.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush admits the U.S. has been supporting the Khmer Rouge.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—The Tower Commission reports that President Reagan has been confused and uninformed.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—A 328-year old faith which holds that God pays no attention to Earth, and won't until He ends it, dies out along with Philip Noakes, of Kent, England: the last Muggletonian.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—A Senate report says Ford Motor Co. had close ties with the Nazis.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Pittston Coal's cheap-jack dam on Buffalo Creek in West Virginia collapses killing 118, injuring 1,121, and leaving 5,000 homeless. The company ends up paying fines amounting to less than \$15,000 per casualty.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Buzzing the courthouse in Huntington, Tenn., U.S.A.F. Lieut. Jack Jenkins pulls up too hard. The wings fall off his C-119; four on board die, two on the ground are hurt.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—Egged on by the local newspaper, whites massacre about 150 Wiyot Indians, mostly old men, women, and children, in Humboldt County, Calif.</p>	<p><b>2025</b>—A. G. Bondi "releases" previously-leaked stuff to right-wing influencers. FBI boss Kash Patel vows "no cover-ups, no missing documents..."</p> <p><b>2019</b>—"I fear that if [Trump] loses the election in 2020," says his ex-lawyer Michael Cohen, "there will never be a peaceful transition of power."</p> <p><b>2014</b>—Senate Republicans block a bill to fund veterans health care because it would cost too much.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Rep. David B. Vitter [R-La.] skips a House vote honoring 28 Desert Storm KIA's to take a call from Deborah Jeane Palfrey, the D.C. Madam.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—The FDA recalls a batch of 1,241 GE pacemakers—after they've all been implanted.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—The American Indian Movement occupies Wounded Knee, S.D.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—<i>New York Times</i> stenographers report that the U.S. Army no longer conducts illegal domestic surveillance. Wasn't true then, probably isn't now.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Walter Cronkite says on the <i>CBS Nightly News</i> that "we are mired in stalemate" in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—Renegade South Vietnamese pilots use U.S. planes to bomb Saigon's Presidential Palace.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—Britain and France grant diplomatic recognition to General Francisco Franco's fascist government.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Nazis burn the Reichstag and blame the fire on Communists.</p> <p><b>1869</b>—Congress votes not to seat John Willis Menard, winner of a special election. Guess what? He's Black.</p>	<p><b>2024</b>—Nine Free Staters help Dustin Duren, his partner Lyn Naffziger, and their two kids move to Berlin, N.H. The next day he murders her.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—A former gay male escort begins attending White House press briefings with his official pass issued under the pseudonym "Jeff Gannon."</p> <p><b>1997</b>—That blue dress gets soiled.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—The ATF tries to serve a warrant on a religious community in Waco, Texas. It does not go well.</p> <p><b>1947</b>—Hooligans in Taiwan riot over routine government corruption, so anti-Communist Koumintang troops are forced to massacre thousands.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—The Kronstadt Rebellion against bolshevism begins in Russia. "Shoot them down like partridges," orders Leon Trotsky.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—Denied information and cooperation, Congress' Pujio Commission nevertheless finds that a Money Trust runs Wall Street. <i>N.Y. Times</i>: "Move along, nothing to see here."</p> <p><b>1893</b>—Birth of Ben Hecht, newspaperman and author of <i>The Front Page</i>.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—The U.S. seizes the Black Hills, in violation of a treaty.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—A group of political activists meet in Ripon, Wisc.; they may or may not found the GOP.</p> <p><b>1844</b>—On the Potomac, during a VIP cruise aboard USS <i>Princeton</i>, Secretary of the Navy T.W. Gilmer pulls the lanyard to fire a huge untested gun. It explodes, killing him, the Secretary of State, and four others.</p>
2:08      2:36 8:24      8:39	2:56      3:30 9:18      9:30	3:51      4:32 10:17      10:28	4:53      5:41 11:23      11:33	6:01      6:53 12:33	7:11      8:02 12:43      1:42	8:17      9:02 1:51      2:44
SUNDAY, MARCH 1	MONDAY, MARCH 2	TUESDAY, MARCH 3	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4	THURSDAY, MARCH 5	FRIDAY, MARCH 6	SATURDAY, MARCH 7
<p><b>1991</b>—"By God," President George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush tells Koch-heads, "we've kicked the Vietnam Syndrome once and for all."</p> <p><b>1985</b>—President Reagan insults the Founding Fathers, saying the Contras are their "moral equivalent."</p> <p><b>1978</b>—The late Charlie Chaplin's tomb is raided by corpse-nappers.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Kissinger tells Nixon, "...if they put Jews into gas chambers in the Soviet Union, it is not an American concern." Nixon replies, "I know."</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The Weather Underground bombs the U.S. Capitol.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—The "Justice" Department agrees to let the CIA decide which of its crimes should be prosecuted.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—H-bomb test Castle Bravo delivers thrice its expected yield at Bikini Atoll. Unanticipated winds spread millions of tons of radioactive debris over inhabited islands.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Four Puerto Rican nationalists in the Gallery fire 30 rounds towards the floor of the U.S. House, wounding five U.S. Congressmen.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Joe Stalin spends the day on the floor in a puddle of urine because his aides don't dare open his door.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—In Wellington, Wash., an avalanche pushes two trains 150 feet into the Nye River, killing 96.</p> <p><b>1906</b>—Emma Goldman publishes the first issue of her anarchist newspaper, <i>Mother Earth</i>.</p> <p><b>1872</b>—Yellowstone, the world's first national park, is created.</p>	<p><b>2004</b>—UN weapons inspectors report that Saddam Hussein didn't have any WMD after all. Oops....</p> <p><b>1991</b>—At Ramaila, Iraq, under future-MSNBC military analyst Barry McCaffrey, the U.S. 24th Infantry Division kills about ten percent of the 7,000-man 1st Hammurabi Armored Division, two days after the Gulf War cease-fire.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—The Screen Actors Guild votes to expel any member who takes the Fifth to avoid self-incrimination.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—The KKK parades and burns crosses in Wrightsville, Ga. None of the town's 400 Black voters show up for a primary election the next day.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—The U.S. Army tells all Japanese-Americans to move away from the West Coast, for their own good.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—An Electoral Commission to which Congress passed the buck OKs a plan cooked up by newspaper editors and railroad barons: Republicans gets the Presidency, Southern Democrats get white supremacy.</p> <p><b>1860</b>—Abraham Lincoln visits the Amoskeag mills in Manchester, then speaks at City Hall in Dover.</p> <p><b>1859</b>—Pierce M. Butler, profligate grandson of a signer of the Constitution, holds a two-day auction in Savannah, Ga. to settle gambling debts. On the block: 439 human beings.</p> <p><b>1808</b>—At Bladensburg, Md., Rep. Barent Gardener [F-N.Y.] and Rep. George Washington Campbell [DR-Tenn.] meet to shoot at each other.</p>	<p><b>2016</b>—Dolt #45 asserts on live TV that his genitalia are adequate.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—LAPD cops savagely beat Rodney King—on tape, it turns out.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Burlington, Vt. elects a new mayor: Socialist Bernie Sanders.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—An under-manned company of the 4th Division is sent after a crack NVA battalion west of Kontum; result: 47 percent end up KIA or MIA.</p> <p><b>1934</b>—John Dillinger busts out of the Crown Point, Ind. jail with a hand-carved wooden pistol and drives off in the sheriff's new V-8 Ford.</p> <p><b>1931</b>—In Laredo, Texas, 17-year old Harlon Carter murders Ramón Casiano, 15, with a shotgun. Sentenced to three years, Carter does two; 46 years later he takes over the NRA.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—Congress bars entry to whore-mongers, epileptics, and anarchists; its own members are not sanctioned.</p> <p><b>1873</b>—Congress passes the Comstock Act, banning obscenity, contraceptives, abortifacients, and sex toys from the U.S. Mail, and the "Salary Grab Act," giving itself a 50 percent raise, retroactive for two years.</p> <p><b>1871</b>—Congress passes an act effectively denying that Indian tribes exist: they're all individuals from now on.</p> <p><b>1863</b>—Congress passes the first U.S. draft law, exempting men who can pay the government a \$300 bribe.</p> <p><b>1791</b>—Congress passes Hamilton's whiskey tax. It pays tax-free interest to rich bond holders and puts small distillers out of business.</p>	<p><b>2001</b>—Fox broadcasts a "Lone Gunman" show in which U.S. agents remotely hijack an airliner and try to crash it into the World Trade Center.</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Ronald Reagan admits trading arms to Iran for hostages.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—<i>La Coubre</i>, a French munitions ship, explodes in Havana harbor. Between 75 and 100 people die. CIA involvement is "suspected."</p> <p><b>1937</b>—The UAW wins a sit-down strike in Flint, Mich.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—"We have nothing to fear," says FDR, "but fear itself."</p> <p><b>1929</b>—Oscar Stanton de Priest [R-Ill.] becomes the first African-American to take a seat in Congress since Reconstruction.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—In Congress, Sen. Harry Lane (D-Ore.) prepares to stab Ollie James (D-Ky.) in the neck if James pulls out his pistol; meanwhile, Democrats prevent Sen. Robert La Follette (Progressive Rep.-Wisc.) from bashing the presiding officer with a spittoon.</p> <p><b>1909</b>—President Taft and First Lady Nellie move into the White House. Under the lawn is a voodoo doll of Mrs. Taft, buried by Teddy Roosevelt's daughter Alice.</p> <p><b>1849</b>—From noon today until noon on the following day, the U.S. is without a president because Zachary Taylor will not profane the Sabbath.</p> <p><b>1825</b>—Daring to eschew the Christian Bible, John Quincy Adams takes the Presidential Oath with his hand on a book of Constitutional law.</p>	<p><b>2007</b>—In Bloomington, Ill., Dee Riddle is startled by a meteorite crashing through her bedroom window.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—A Nor'easter begins which will dump 40 inches of snow on New Hampshire's Rockingham County.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Patsy Cline, singer of "I Fall to Pieces," dies when her plane crashes.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Alberto Korda takes "that photo" of Che Guevara.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Car thief and armed robber Pearl Miller, on the lam since an escape in 1948, on the FBI's most wanted list for one day, is arrested at a diner in Somersworth, N.H.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Everybody dies; this time, to the relief of many, it's Joe Stalin.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—In Germany, the Nazi party wins a plurality in the Reichstag.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—On his first full day in office, FDR declares a bank holiday.</p> <p><b>1927</b>—One thousand U.S. Marines land in China.</p> <p><b>1877</b>—As per crooked agreement, "Rutherford" B. Hayes becomes President. He bails out bankrupt railroads and betrays freed Blacks by pulling Federal troops from the South. They're sent North to beat up and kill striking railroad workers.</p> <p><b>1871</b>—Rosa Luxemburg is born.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—"Know-Nothings" heave into the Potomac a stone sent by the Pope to be part of the Washington Monument.</p> <p><b>1770</b>—Evil British troops slaughter innocent Bostonians in the Boston Massacre. (Or, provincial terrorists attack duly constituted authority.)</p>	<p><b>2011</b>—After heavy rains, the Hooksett water treatment plant disgorges two million two-inch plastic discs into the Merrimack. By August they're at Campobello Island and Rhode Island Sound, in 2014, the English Channel.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—Dick "Dick" Cheney's Chief of Staff "Scooter" is found guilty of perjury and obstruction of justice.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—President George W.[MD] Bush claims Saddam Hussein has "biological and chemical agents" that move "every 12 to 24 hours... in vehicles... in residential neighborhoods."</p> <p><b>1991</b>—President George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush claims that his defeat of Saddam Hussein has ushered in a "new world order."</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Russian crank Ayn Rand addresses West Point cadets on the topic, "Philosophy — Who Needs It?"</p> <p><b>1971</b>—Lawrence Welk's singers perform "One Tuke Over the Line," the FCC bans songs that "promote or glorify the use of illegal drugs."</p> <p><b>1944</b>—The U.S. Army uses napalm for the first time, in Berlin.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—A gasoline delousing bath at an El Paso jail accidentally burns 26 Mexicans and two whites to death.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—U.S. Army intelligence officers break into the New York office of the National Civil Liberties Bureau and steal documents.</p> <p><b>1857</b>—The Supreme Court rules in <i>Dred Scott</i>: "the unhappy [B]lack race [never possessed] rights which the white man was bound to respect."</p>	<p><b>1981</b>—Stabbed at Disneyland, Mel C. Yorba becomes the Magic Kingdom's first murder victim, because Disney employees feared the consequences if they called an ambulance.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—Civil rights marchers en route to Montgomery try to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma. They're mercilessly beaten by law enforcement officers and deputized goons.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—In front of the <i>Union Leader</i> building, JFK deftly paints the paper as irresponsible and its publisher as a liar. Next day he wins the primary.</p> <p><b>1953</b>—Newark, N.J. officials publicly burn allegedly lewd photos, movies, and books valued at \$100,000.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Dearborn, Mich. cops fire on Ford hunger marchers; five die.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—In Cincinnati, Mayor Mark Breith announces that "women are not physically fit to operate automobiles."</p> <p><b>1906</b>—Finland's Senate OKs universal suffrage—except for the poor.</p> <p><b>1905</b>—NYC subway workers strike. The City hires James Farley, the notorious strikebreaker. In a week, his thugs beat workers into submission.</p> <p><b>1876</b>—Alexander Graham Bell gets a patent for the telephone without having submitted a working model. It is remarkably similar to Elisha Gray's previously-submitted design.</p> <p><b>1850</b>—New Hampshire native Daniel Webster, representing Massachusetts in the U.S. Senate, argues that slaveholders are entitled to be secure in their ownership of the enslaved.</p>
9:17      9:55 2:53      3:38	10:10      10:42 3:49      4:27	10:58      11:25 4:39      5:10	11:43 5:26      5:51	12:06      12:25 6:10      6:30	12:45      1:07 6:52      7:08	1:24      1:49 7:35      7:46

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