

The Fortnightly Rant

About That Peace Prize...

His critics claim that our Commander-in-Chief has never done anything, ever, for anyone but himself. Now he has made liars out of all of them.

It is no secret that he has long coveted—one might even say that he has lusted after—a Nobel Peace Prize. The chances of that were never good, except in his dreams. After last weekend, though, his only shot will be through an invasion of Norway.

Why did he make such a sacrifice? We may never know, thanks to our Commander's expertise in the fine art of Strategic Ambiguity. Indeed, our Great Leader's ability to keep adversaries off balance through obfuscation is so phenomenal that it deserves a name of its own. Our suggestion: Strategic Incoherence.

Four days after we attacked Iran, there's one thing we can say for certain: we may never know the answer to the question, "why?" The problem is not that we lack for answers. The problem is that we have too many.

El Commandante announced that the war had begun Saturday, via his privately-owned propaganda channel. He said then that its purpose was "to defend the American people by eliminating imminent threats from the Iranian regime." That rationale was disputed the next day by Mark Warner, the top-ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee. He said on CNN, "I saw no intelligence that Iran was on the verge of launching any kind of preemptive strike against the United States of America." For context, Warner is a former Boy Scout. The Leader of the Free World is a felon and a golf cheat with six bankruptcies and two divorces under his lengthy belt.

Just to be pedantic, we'll note here that this war appears to be, like so many of our Chief Executive's innovative methods of governing, technically speaking, illegal, the power to make war being reserved, according to the Constitution, to that moribund institution, Congress.

It has long been obvious that the Oval Office Occupant intended to conduct this war. All those ships did not just drift haphazardly into the region. It was surprising, though, on Monday, to hear from the U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, that it was Benjamin Netanyahu who decided when.

"We knew that there was going to be an Israeli action," he said. "We knew that that would precipitate an attack against American forces, and we knew that if we didn't pre-emptively go after them before they launched those attacks, we would suffer higher casualties."

Within hours the Secretary was contradict-

ed by the person who is accompanied at all times by a briefcase containing the codes he will use should he decide to launch a nuclear war. "No," he said. "I might have forced their hand." Because no one tells him what to do, especially if what he is doing—starting a war in the Middle East—is exactly what he promised he would not do, during the election. To further de-clarify the situation, the person who declared himself, during his first term, "the chief law enforcement officer of the country," actually obeyed the law for once, sending a letter to Congress declaring that the purpose of Operation Epic Fury was to "neutralize Iran's malign activities." *I.e.*, it said nothing.

The next day the same guy offered a different reason for his war: "if we didn't do what we're doing right now, you would have had a nuclear war, and they would have taken out many countries." This curious answer creates two mutually-exclusive possibilities: either Iran re-constituted an alleged but un-proven nuclear weapons program just eight months after it was "completely obliterated," or the word of the Obliterator-in-Chief may not be entirely trustworthy.

The official line on the progress of the war quotes the man in mid-fall from a skyscraper window: "So far, so good." Vietnam? Iraq? Afghanistan? Never heard of 'em. Among the obstacles which lie ahead: the administration has already killed the Iranian officials it had hoped would succeed the late Ayatollah, and blown up the building in which he would have been chosen.

It's an ill wind, though, that blows no one good. On February 28th, just hours before the bombs started dropping, six anonymous gamblers placed bets on Polymarket—one of the innumerable blessings brought to us by Silicon Valley—that the war would begin that very day. They reaped a total of \$1.2 million. Meanwhile, six members of the U.S. Army Reserve were killed in Kuwait when their flimsy trailer was hit by an Iranian drone or missile.

If support for this adventure wanes, it could worsen the GOP's chances in the mid-term elections. Unlike mere wars, that's a truly important matter, so there is an actual plan: a draft executive order, written by Donald Trump's allies. By claiming there has been Chinese interference in U.S. elections, Trump would have an excuse to declare a national emergency and take control of polling places, ballot boxes, and whatnot. Easy-peasy win.

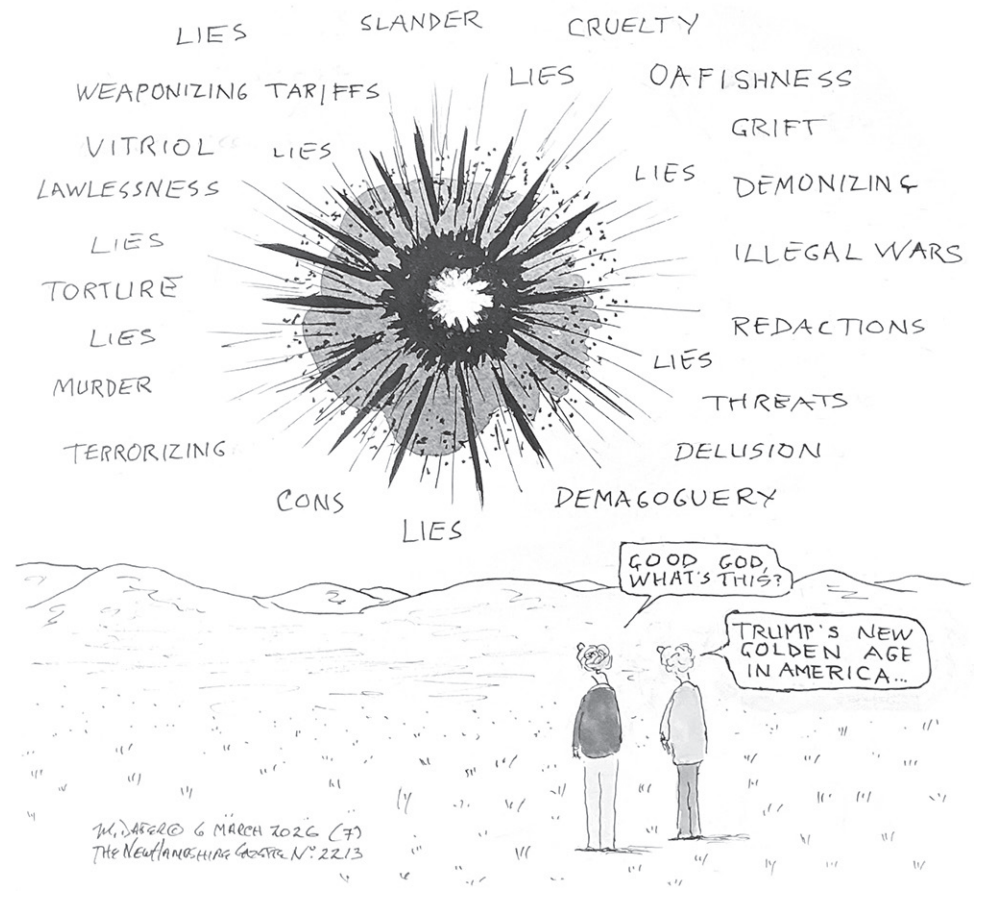
Sounds scary, right? But don't worry. He says trust him—he won't do it.

Seacoast Residents Hear Advice About ICE

Recently approximately 35 Seacoast residents attended Portsmouth Police Commissioner Buzz Scherr's talk, "ICE and our Constitution," in a packed room at the Portsmouth Library. The event was sponsored by the local "Seacoast Friends Preserving Democracy" (SFPD) advocacy group. Scherr provided an overview of the Civil Immigration System, clarifying the processes and legalities involved in detaining individuals. He addressed the rights of protesters and the nuances of interpreting protesters' actions as impeding, interfering, or intimidating ICE. He also answered a number of questions during a lively Q&A. From the audience feedback, it was clear that this was a valuable civic education about a topic of great concern to New Hampshire residents.

One of the good examples that Commissioner Scherr provided for protesters was how they can protect their 4th Amendment rights against illegal search and seizures. If an ICE agent asks a protester to hand over a phone without a warrant signed by a judge, the protester is not obligated to do so. That protester should just say that they are putting the phone in their pocket, and that if the ICE agent wants to arrest them for this, the protester should be prepared for that to happen. However, such an arrest would be a violation of constitutional rights.

The SFPD is currently planning the next community talk by a panel of local independent media editors and radio hosts. For more information, see seacoastfriends.org. This report provided by SFPD.



'Batsbit Authoritarianism':

Trump Allies Drafting Order to Give Him Extraordinary Power Over Voting

by Brad Reed

A group of right-wing activists is crafting an executive order that would let President Donald Trump unilaterally ban mail-in ballots and voting machines ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

The *Washington Post* reported last month that the order being drafted by Trump allies would give him "extraordinary power over voting," even though the U.S. Constitution explicitly gives individual states the powers to run their own elections.

An advocate for the order, Florida attorney Peter Ticktin, acknowledged in an interview with the *Post* that the Constitution does not give the president any role in shaping elections, but he said Trump needed to act to prevent China from supposedly interfering with American elections.

"Under the Constitution, it's the legislatures and states that really control how a state conducts its elections, and the president doesn't have any power to do that," Ticktin said. "But here we have a situation where the president is aware that there are foreign interests that are interfering in our election processes. That causes a national emergency where the president has to be able to deal with it."

The activists drafting the emergency order said that they are working in coordination with the White House, although the extent of any cooperation isn't clear.

However, the *Post* pointed to some evidence that the White House really is on board with such a strategy, such as the Trump administration's efforts to investigate his 2020 election loss to former President Joe Biden, which the president has long baselessly claimed was due to foreign interference from a number of nations, including China and Venezuela.

As the *Post* noted, "a 2021 intelligence review concluded that China considered efforts to influence the election but did not go through with them."

Additionally, Trump has publicly stated numerous times that he wants to completely do away with mail-in ballots and voting ma-

chines, both of which he has baselessly claimed are riddled with fraud.

Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), the ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said that the draft order was simply an attempt by the president's allies to block democratic accountability in future elections.

"We've been raising the alarm for weeks about President Trump's attacks on our elections and now we're seeing reports that outline how they may be planning to do it," Warner told the *Post*. "This is a plot to interfere with the will of voters and undermine both the rule of law and public confidence in our elections."

Government watchdog Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) said that the drafted order was plainly unconstitutional and would fail in court.

"The Constitution gives states power over election law with oversight from Congress," CREW wrote in a social media post. "Notice who's missing? The president. Trump may try to cook up a sham national emergency to try to seize control of elections but it won't stand up to scrutiny."

MS NOW national security contributor Marc Polymeropoulos called the draft order "batshit authoritarianism" and cautioned that "this crazy shit is possible as Trump knows Congress is all but lost at this point in a free election."

"To save himself," Polymeropoulos added, "anything is possible."

Democratic Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker pointed to the *Post* report and warned, "Donald Trump's plan to steal the 2026 midterm elections is already underway."

Rep. Rosa De Lauro (D-Conn.) accused Trump of "setting the stage to steal the midterm elections and set fire to our democracy," while vowing that Democrats would "fight for our democracy and safeguard the right to vote."

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U.S. Commanders Want to Make War With Iran as 'Bloody' as Possible to Bring About Biblical End Times, Officers Report

by Stephen Prager

In less than a week, the U.S. and Israel's war has rendered unfathomable suffering upon the people of Iran. Over 180 schoolgirls and staffers were killed in a massacre this weekend; and several hospitals have reportedly been struck, amid numerous other attacks on civilians.

But some U.S. troops are being told the bloodletting is all a part of God's plan.

At a briefing on Monday, as President Donald Trump unleashed what has been called a "carpet bombing" of Tehran, a combat-unit commander reportedly told noncommissioned officers (NCOs) that the commander-in-chief was "anointed by Jesus to light the signal fire in Iran to cause Armageddon and mark his return to Earth."

The complaint, sent by one of those noncommissioned officers, was just one of at least 110 similar reports received by the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) since Trump first launched strikes on Saturday.

In compliance with the First Amendment, the Department of Defense has long adopted rules against proselytizing within the

armed forces. But under Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, an evangelical Christian who has said the West must wage a "crusade" against Islam, Christian nationalist invocations in the military have become commonplace.

Mikey Weinstein, the president and founder of MRFF and an Air Force veteran who served in the White House of former President Ronald Reagan, told independent journalist Jonathan Larsen that the group has been "inundated" with complaints from NCOs since Saturday, which all have "one damn thing in freaking common."

"Our MRFF clients report the unrestricted euphoria of their commanders and command chains as to how this new 'biblically-sanctioned' war is clearly the undeniable sign of the expeditious approach of the fundamentalist Christian 'End Times' as vividly described in the New Testament Book of Revelation," Weinstein said.

"Many of their commanders," he added, "are especially delighted with how graphic this battle will be, zeroing in on how bloody all of this must become in order to fulfill and be in 100 percent accordance with fundamentalist Christian end-of-

the-world eschatology."

According to Larsen, who first reported on the MRFF's findings on Monday, the message has been spread far and wide as U.S. troops rained missiles down upon Iran.

Larsen reported that the "complaints came from more than 40 different units spread across at least 30 military installations," and have involved commanders in every branch of the U.S. military.

One noncommissioned officer, who did not identify himself out of fear of retaliation, said his commander "urged us to tell our troops that this was 'all part of God's divine plan' and he specifically referenced numerous citations out of the Book of Revelation referring to Armageddon and the imminent return of Jesus Christ."

The NCO added that his commander "had a big grin on his face when he said all of this, which made his message seem even more crazy."

"Our commander would probably be described as a 'Christian First' supporter," he said. "He has been this way for a very long time and makes it clear that he desires all of us under him to become just like him as a Christian. But what he did this morning was so toxic and over the line that it shocked many of us in attendance at the ops readiness briefing."

The NCO identified himself as a Christian, but emailed MRFF on behalf of 15 of his troops, which included at least one Muslim and one

Jewish person.

He said that their commanders' remarks "destroy morale and unit cohesion and are in violation of the oaths we swore to support the Constitution."

Christian nationalism has long simmered just under the surface of U.S. military culture and has been invoked by presidents of the past, including George W. Bush, who referred to his War on Terror as a "crusade."

But Hegseth, who regularly hosts Christian prayer services at the Pentagon during work hours, rails

One noncommissioned officer said he was directed to tell his troops that Trump was "anointed by Jesus" and that war with Iran was "all part of God's divine plan" to bring about Armageddon.

against "secular humanism" and the "godless left," and has hosted the notorious fundamentalist pastor Doug Wilson—who opposes the right of women to vote and calls for the U.S. to be a Christian theocracy—at the Pentagon, has dropped any pretenses of religious pluralism.

"While America's relationship with Iran is influenced by all the typical geopolitical factors of oil, culture, and nuclear weaponry, there is a part of American foreign policy that is influenced by apocalyptic evangelical theology," wrote Josh Olds, a pastor and theologian, on Monday for *Baptist News Global*.

Christian fundamentalists, some of whom have the ear of the White

House, he said, view an Iranian war with Israel as central to triggering Armageddon, during which God will miraculously strike down Israel's enemies, Jesus will return to Earth, and Christians will be raptured to Heaven, according to Biblical teachings.

He said that while Iran's Muslim leaders are often accused of being dangerously irrational out of blind religious fundamentalism, "it is increasingly clear that American actions are shaped by it as well."

In just over three days, U.S. and Israeli strikes have killed at least 787 people in Iran, according to a Tuesday report from the Iranian Red Crescent Society, including hundreds of civilians. In addition to schools and hospitals, attacks have been reported against crowded residential buildings, a radio and TV broadcast center, and a sports complex.

"Donald Trump partnered with Israel to bomb Iran because of the influence of an eschatology that sees conflict with Iran as setting the stage for fulfilled prophecy," Olds said. "The irony is profound: A faith centered on loving enemies and making peace becomes a framework that welcomes and advocates violence. The result is not the advance of God's kingdom but its irrevocable damage in the eyes of the world."

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Because there is far too much of it going around already, *The Flag Police* try, as a rule, to avoid self-aggrandizement. However, the general dearth in recent years of observable Flag Code offenses had them wondering whether their decades-long campaign to eradicate all cases of flag desecration resulting from neglect could be said to have finally achieved its desired effect. [Intentional destruction, of course, continues to be a form of speech protected by the First Amendment.] Then, last Sunday, during a recent, less-than-consequential snowfall, they sighted this raggedy banner on Deer Street, demonstrating once more the truth embodied in the Flag Police Motto: "Eternal vigilance is the price of upholding the fetishization of material objects which symbolize the values of a purported republic in the absence of any perceptible functionality."

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

- John Johnson of Boston, alias Wm. Smith of Liverpool, Eng., a ruffianly tramp of the worst variety, was shot dead in that jail at Pittsfield, Mass., March 10th, by Charles W. Fuller, a keeper, whom he was assaulting at the time.
- A nephew of Jules Verne fired two shots at him on the 10th inst., intending to kill him. Verne was slightly wounded in one leg.
- Delano Robinson, known as "the hermit of the Dungeon rock" at Lynn, Mass., killed himself on the 9th inst. with rat poison.
- Two buildings of the powder mill at Gambo, several miles out of Portland, Me., blew up on the 11th inst., killing Harry Hooper and another man. Loss \$6,000.
- The dynamite manufactory of Dit-

- tman Hexter & Co., at Bay Chester, New York, was wrecked by the explosion of 200 pounds of dynamite. A night watchman cannot be found.
- Capt. S.E. Brau and Attorney M.E. Grace had a discussion with pistols in the custom house at New Orleans, and successfully perforated each other three times each. Neither of them will have anything more to do with fire, in this world.
- Henry J. Hall, a wealthy mining engineer, aged seventy-two years, shot himself in the Fifth Avenue hotel, New York, while suffering from aggravated dyspepsia.
- Mrs. Sophia J. Norton of Woodtick, Conn., claims to have been confined in the Middletown insane asylum while sane, by her husband, who was infatuated with a pretty

- cousin, Miss Minnie Norton.
- At Bridgewater, N.H., on the 11th inst., Mrs. Rivers Mitchell attacked Mrs. Frank Pillsbury with a razor, and gashed her shockingly on the face, shoulder, bosom and both arms. Jealousy was the cause of the attack. Both the women are young, and live with their husbands.
- At Newburgh, N.Y., Sadie, a seven-year-old daughter of George Taggart, died March 12th from convulsions caused by jumping the rope.
- Myron Howland, aged thirteen, died at New Boston, Mich., last week, from pricking red ink into the back of his hand.
- George D. Williams, clerk of the Lempter Hotel at Hot Springs,

to next page

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No Safety in Appeasement: Law Firms That Fought Trump Vindicated as DOJ Drops Cases

Note: One day after the Trump administration abandoned the four retaliatory legal cases described in this article—and hours after this page had been set in type—Justice Department lawyers, apparently channeling the late Gilda Radner in the role of Emily Litella, said to the court, “Never mind.” If we were to replace this piece we would, in effect, be allowing Pam Bondi to edit this newspaper, and that just ain’t happening. — The Ed.

by Julia Conley

Congressman Jamie Raskin said the U.S. Department of Justice’s decision Monday to abandon its legal cases against law firms that refused to capitulate to President Donald Trump should serve as “a reminder that those who fight back against authoritarianism are winning.”

The DOJ asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to dismiss its cases against law firms including Perkins Coie, WilmerHale, Susman Godfrey, and Jenner & Block, which won legal challenges they filed last year after Trump issued executive orders saying they should lose government contracts and their employees should be blocked from government buildings.

Those executive orders were signed because the firms represented and employed high-profile Democrats and other opponents of Trump.

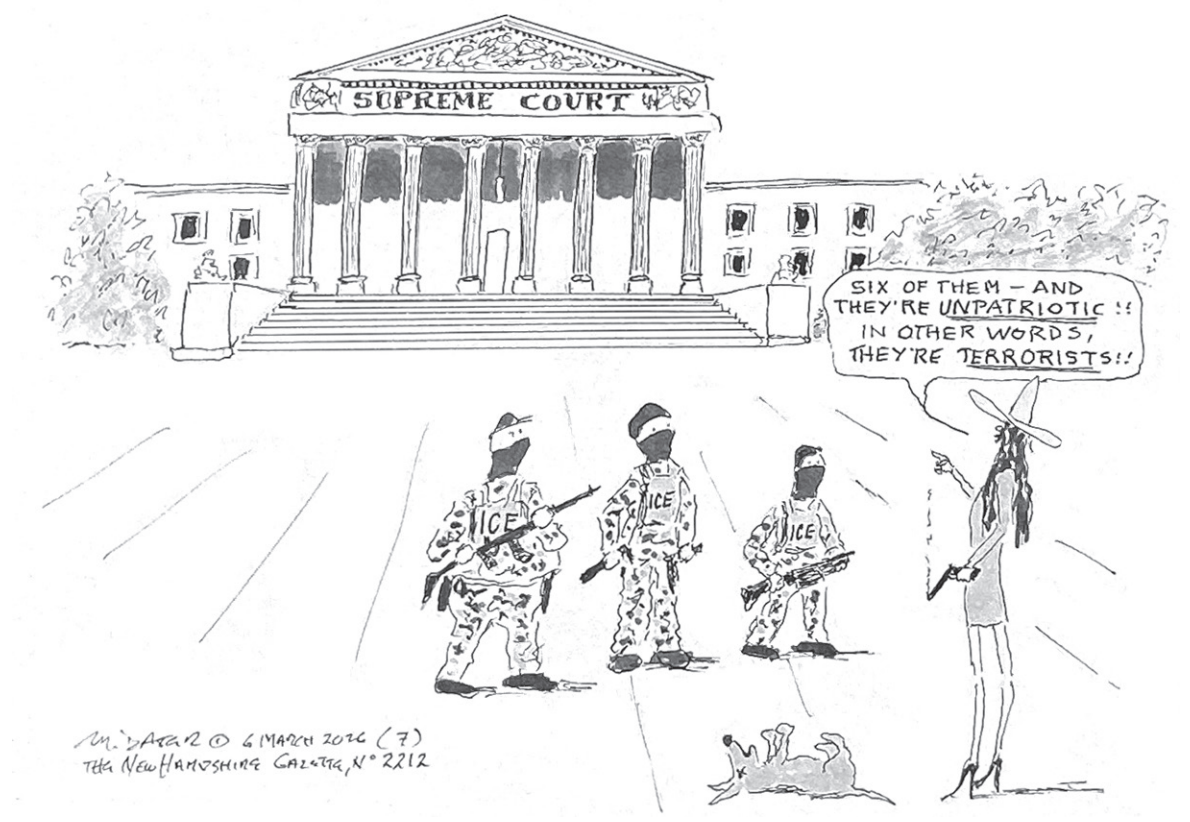
Other law firms, including Skadden Arps and Paul Weiss, angered

lawyers within their ranks and the larger legal community when they signed deals with Trump; the latter firm agreed to end its internal diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and provide \$40 million in free legal work for the president and causes he supports.

The Trump administration’s decision on Monday proved, said Raskin (D-Md.), that “there’s no safety in appeasement.”

“When the Trump administration tried to bully and silence law firms by banning them from federal buildings, courthouses and contracts, a handful—like Susman Godfrey, Perkins Coie, Jenner & Block, and WilmerHale—fought back,” said Raskin. “Today, those firms forced Trump to back down and abandon his blatantly unconstitutional effort to punish lawyers, clients, and causes because Trump disagrees with their speech. Meanwhile, the firms that chose to roll over saddled their associates and partners with doing billions of dollars-worth of free legal work for Trump, his twisted administration and his MAGA allies.”

While other firms caved to Trump’s demands last year, the companies that didn’t quickly won legal victories, with one federal judge saying the executive order targeting Jenner & Block was “doubly violative of the Constitution” because it targeted the clients it represents as well as a lawyer it once employed—Andrew Weissman, who was part of former special counsel Robert Mueller’s team that investigated Trump.



“This order, like the others, seeks to chill legal representation the administration doesn’t like, thereby insulating the executive branch from the judicial check fundamental to the separation of powers,” U.S. District Judge John Bates wrote last May. “It thus violates the Constitution and the court will enjoin its operation in full.”

“This episode will be remembered as demonstrating the difference between institutions that had the ethical courage to uphold the Constitution and fight bullying and then won, and those that compromised their ethics and gained nothing.”

Jenner & Block said Monday that “the government’s decision to withdraw its appeals makes permanent the rulings of four federal judges that the executive orders targeting law firms, including Jenner & Block, were unconstitutional.”

“Our partnership is proud to have stood firm on behalf of its clients, and we look forward to continuing to serve them—guided by these bedrock values—for many decades to come,” said the firm.

Brian Hauss, deputy director of the Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project at the ACLU, said the DOJ had finally admitted “what everyone knew on Day 1: There is no way to defend these unconstitutional executive orders.”

“This shameful assault on the rule of law has failed, thanks to the brave lawyers who refused to compromise their integrity,” said Hauss.

Vanita Gupta, former associate at-

torney general under the Biden administration, told NBC News that the law groups that struck deals with the White House had “undermined the rule of law and the legal profession in this country.”

“This episode will be remembered as demonstrating the difference between institutions that had the ethical courage to uphold the Constitution and fight bullying and then won, and those that compromised their ethics and gained nothing,” Gupta said. “Let’s hope that media companies, universities, and other organizations pay heed.”

In addition to his attacks on law firms, the president has threatened universities with funding cuts and federal investigations into what the White House views as antisemitism and extremism on campus and the colleges’ efforts to promote diversity and inclusion.

At least six universities have struck deals with Trump. The University of Pennsylvania agreed to ban trans-

gender student athletes from participating on women’s sports teams and Columbia University agreed to further crack down on campus protests like those that erupted in 2024 against U.S. support for Israel’s assault on Gaza—protests that both the Biden and Trump administrations claimed were antisemitic.

Harvard sued the administration over its decision to freeze \$2.2 billion in research funding and was granted a restraining order last year to protect international students whom the White House had threatened with visa restrictions.

On Monday, Raskin said the DOJ’s decision to back down from the attacks on law firms was “another significant victory for the rule of law over Trump’s reign of lawlessness.”

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Waiting... waiting...

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote

“We know now that government by organized money is just as dangerous as government by organized mob.”

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

“People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.”

— Dave Barry

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from previous page

Ark., murdered Mrs. Norris, a guest, and then attempted to kill himself.

- For poisoning her husband with arsenic Mrs. Mary Wildman will be hanged at South Valley, Cataaugus county, N.Y. on April 30th next.
- The Portland *Argus*, democratic, speaks as follows concerning the four repeaters who were arrested on

the 9th inst. in Biddeford for voting too many times the previous day for democracy and reform: “All four of them are graduates of the notorious ‘Stafford block,’ Portland’s famous resort for the vilest of the vile. ‘Finger’ Smith is a sneak thief, and has served terms in reformatory institutions. His brother has been re-

to page seven

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Is There Even a Plan?

To the Editor:

When protests broke out in Iran, President Trump warned the Iranian government against harming the protesters. He stated the United States was locked and loaded. The protesters believed him. Iran's government did not. They shot and killed thousands of protesters. Trump did nothing.

A month later Trump sent an aircraft carrier to the gulf. It isn't because of Iran killing protesters. He says it is because of Iran's nuclear program. A program Trump claimed to have completely destroyed.

Our allies in the gulf don't want to be collateral damage if Trump does attack Iran. They have banned us from attacking Iran from our air bases in their countries as well as using their air space.

Trump also loses interest as soon as things stop going his way. He then does something to divert people's attention. Attacking Iran may be a diversion from the Epstein files and his mishandling of the economy. If our military begins taking casualties, nothing he can do will divert the country's attention from that.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

This letter came in more than a week ago. As time passed it has become more relevant, not less. Three days into the war as we write, there appears to be disagreement between the White House and the Pentagon about why we're in an illegal, undeclared war with Iran.

The Editor

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Without Justice, There Is No Peace

To the Editor:

I recently watched the haunting docudrama "The Voice of Hind Rajab." The film takes place in January, 2024, inside a Palestinian Red Crescent emergency call center and uses recordings of Hind's actual voice as the five-year-old in Gaza pleads for help from a car in which she is surrounded by her dead relatives.

Hind's body was later found in the car, reportedly riddled with 335 bullets, believed to have been fired by Israeli forces. The ambulance sent to

rescue her was destroyed, killing both paramedics.

Through Hind's conversations with dispatchers, we learn that the name of her school was "The Happy Child," and in preschool she was in "The Butterfly Class." Her mother recalls that Hind loved playing in the sand and ocean, and we see home video of her joyfully doing so.

Strikingly, during pro-Palestinian protests at Columbia University, activists occupied Hamilton Hall, renaming it "Hind's Hall" in her honor.

President Trump's inaugural meeting of his "Board of Peace" focused on Gaza. At the meeting, Trump emphasized that the parents who received the remains of the last Israeli hostage "wanted that dead body as much as if he were alive. . . . There was great sadness, but there was great joy too."

But in June, 2024, the organization Save the Children estimated that over 20,000 Gazan children were missing—lost to their families, detained, or buried beneath the rubble or in unmarked mass graves.

Trump also asserted that "the war in Gaza is over. . . . What we're doing is very simple: Peace."

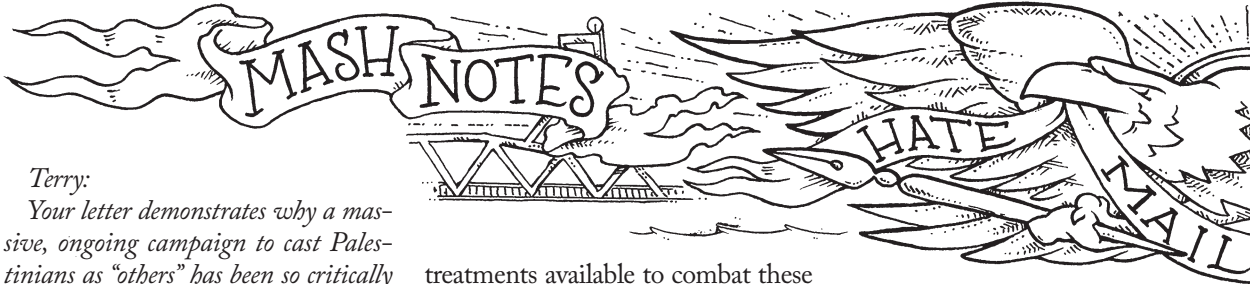
Yet the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem contends that since the "ceasefire" started on October 10, 2025, the Israeli army has killed at least 609 people in Gaza, including at least 100 children.

Kaouter Ben Hania is the director of "The Voice of Hind Rajab." At the Cinema for Peace gala in Berlin, Germany on February 16, Ben Hania noted that Hind's killing is not an exception, and she refused an award insisting that "peace is not a perfume sprayed over violence so power can feel refined, and can feel comfortable. . . . If we speak about peace, we must speak about justice. Justice means accountability."

As world leaders invoke peace in name, Hind's story demands that we ask what peace without justice truly means.

Ben Hania's words remind us that peace without accountability is not reconciliation—it is denial.

Terry Hansen
Grafton, Wisconsin



Terry:

Your letter demonstrates why a massive, ongoing campaign to cast Palestinians as "others" has been so critically important. Without proper guidance, the world at large might begin to perceive Palestinians as human beings, much like themselves. Bibi Netanyahu's plans for a Greater Israel might falter. Mike Huckabee might expire of old age, without getting to witness Armageddon!

The Editor

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Warning From an Epidemiologist

Dear sir:

I read with great interest and serious concern the article in the *Union Leader*, "Ancient Microbes survived ice age, and a N.H. lab is seeking their secrets." Why am I concerned about this information? We already have concerns about pathogens being released accidentally from the melting permafrost as a result of climate change.

As a former public health official, I can assure the reader that these ancient microbes are serious potential threats to public health and require the utmost of protections. Previous research has been done on the bodies of victims of the "Spanish flu," buried in the permafrost, identifying that virus's genome so as to prepare for a similar virus emerging. The article states, about the microbes being unearthed, "Many are species that science has never seen before. These scientists are pulling entirely unknown life forms out of ice that have been frozen since the last ice age—and bringing them back to the lab. So far, 52 percent of the bacteria researchers have encountered in permafrost tunnel samples have been new species."

Among these "unknown life forms" could be viruses and other pathogens that humans have never been exposed to before or some that no human currently living has ever been exposed to before. This means that no humans would have any immunity to these pathogens. If they were released into the environment there is a possibility of their being easily transmitted from person-to-person through the air. The consequences would be catastrophic. Humanity would have no immunological defenses, no vaccines, nor any

treatments available to combat these pathogens. The result would be a pandemic that could rival the 1918 "Spanish Flu" or even much worse.

While the article makes no mention of the biosafety precautions being taken by the Army's lab in Hanover, I would hope that it would be a level 4 lab with the strictest controls to prevent a leak. After all, we have some suspicion that the COVID 19 virus might have been accidentally released from a laboratory in Wuhan, China. We cannot allow that to happen with a laboratory in New Hampshire or anywhere else. I think we need to be assured that this laboratory is taking every possible precaution to protect the population.

Rich DiPentima, RN, MPH, Former Chief, Communicable Disease Epidemiology, N.H. Division of Public Health Services
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

Yikes! After reading this, we felt the urge to order a hazmat suit.

The Editor

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The Tax Man Flim-Flam

To the editors:

As I listened to the president's State of the Union address last night, I found it disturbing that he repeated his claim that Social Security is not taxed. The president had repeated this many times in many situations while the media has spottily reported that only the first \$6,000 would be untaxed, and I had to have my taxes done by a professional to be sure I didn't try to "save" too much. Having already filed my 2025 taxes, I know first-hand that only the first \$6,000 of Social Security income is untaxed. AND that what you save by this "tax break" is factored by your tax rate. The higher your tax rate, the more you save as a result. For example: if your tax rate for 2025 is 12 percent, you save \$720 by this tax break, but if you are a lower income recipient and your tax rate is five percent, you save only \$300.

Of course, if you didn't have income sufficient to pay any taxes—just

the person who needs a break the most—you save nothing. And if you had to hire a tax professional to help with your taxes so that the savings you claimed using this "tax break" are correct, you saved even less. This does not merit applause for the president and his GOP millionaire and billionaire cronies who hope to fool us with their tax trickery.

I don't get tips and don't work overtime, so I have no first-hand knowledge of what kind of tricks exist in the actual implementation, if any, of these "tax breaks"—but I doubt it amounts to much, and I'm sure it pales in comparison to the massive tax breaks his Big Ugly Bill wrote into law this past year for large corporations and the president's sycophants. For my eyes and ears, the things his administration has done for lower income families and seniors is overshadowed and consumed by the negative things his administration has done TO them. If 2026 mid-term elections are actually held, and the most important issue for voters is "the economy," I hope they remember just this one tax trick that didn't save anyone much and was lied about over and over again by the president. What kind of America do you want to live in?

Paul Cully
Dover, N.H.

Paul:

Among the myriad things wrong with this country, the tax system is particularly grotesque, and is rightly loathed by most Americans. We have to suspect, though, that some percentage of people—perhaps one percent—may well think it's perfect. God knows it's working well for them.

The Editor

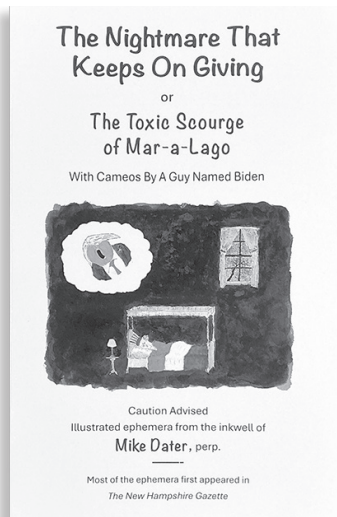
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People Get Ready

To the editor:

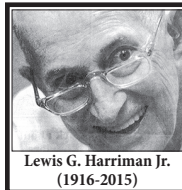
Amid the chaos and destruction inflicted by Trump's policies, one issue remains constant. It is his false claim that he lost the 2020 election because of massive fraud. This is the "Big Lie" that sustains his support among MAGA voters and underpins his in-

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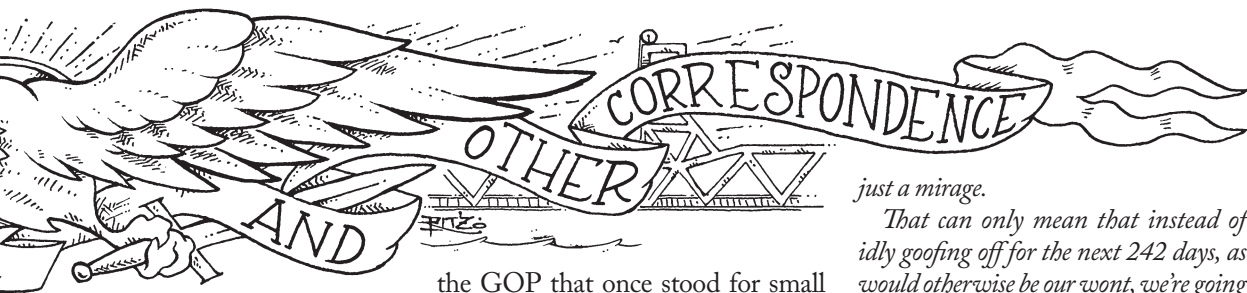
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That can only mean that instead of idly goofing off for the next 242 days, as would otherwise be our wont, we're going to have to pay close attention, stay current, think hard, and act decisively.

Oh, well. Might as well get to it. The current state of affairs is bad enough. Anything worse would be intolerable.

The Editor

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Lower Our Flags for Rev. Jesse Jackson
To the Editor:

The death of Jesse Jackson marked the end of a particular era of civil rights activism that started in the 1950s. Many of us here in New Hampshire remember well the two campaigns he waged for the Democratic nomination for the presidency in 1984 and 1988. Those who worked for or met him have their own stories to tell. He was a nationally-known leader and statesman, who helped to bring home American hostages, and was an advisor to numerous presidents. Only four months ago Portsmouth lowered its municipal flags to half-staff to remember Charlie Kirk. Mr. Kirk was not well known nationally and had contributed very little to the general welfare of our country. Our city automatically lowered our flags because President Trump and Governor Ayotte had announced that they would. However, as our mayor and city council discovered, after the fact, a municipality is not required to follow suit. That is why I call on Portsmouth officials now to lower our flags in honor of Jesse Jackson.

Peter Somssich
Former State Representative
Portsmouth, N.H.

Peter:

Your argument seems sound. Let's see whether anyone acts on it, or rebuts it.

The Editor

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The Ghost of Meldrim Thomson
To the Editor:

As we approach the March 10th vote, I am struck by a glaring contradiction in the Oyster River School District's proposal for Article 3. We are asked to authorize nearly \$10 million—actually \$11.7 million with interest—to expand elementary schools

while district enrollment is projected to remain flat or decline.

According to the District's data, student counts are dropping at the middle school level, yet we're told Mast Way and Moharimet are at a "breaking point." If fewer students are entering the system, why rush into permanent expansion? Once built, taxpayers are stuck with the debt for a decade, whether the desks are full or not.

The burden is also alarmingly unequal. A Lee homeowner faces an estimated tax impact of \$0.59 per \$1,000 of assessed values—nearly double the \$0.31 rate Durham residents will pay. For a town already facing a high rate of \$27.61, this is a major burden based on questionable long-term needs.

Before committing to this bond, the School Board must explore creative solutions. Can we repurpose existing spaces or adjust boundaries? Most families "make do" with their current homes when budgets are tight; the District should be held to that same standard.

With property revaluations looming and the cost of living rising, now is not the time for "nice-to-have" construction. Vote NO on Article 3. Let's demand a more efficient plan for the space we already have.

Thomas Ralph Paolera
Lee, N.H.

Thomas:

We can't speak to the specifics of the two schools you mention, but we can say this: from Mel Thomson's "Ax the Tax," to Stephen Merrill's somewhat more genteel and still operational "New Hampshire Advantage," the powerful and connected in this state will forever defend their decision—it's not a right, it's a choice—to enjoy life in this state without paying their fair share for the privilege.

The Editor

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Let's Do Anything Except What Would Work
To the Editor:

The Fair Funding (for education) N.H. event in Laconia on February 19th was disappointing. While talking about high property taxes, they didn't address reducing property taxes or education costs, or even improving student educations. They just want more State education funding and control.

But increased funding doesn't translate into better student educations. E.g., the cost of educating a Bedford student is about two-thirds the cost of educating an Interlakes student but Bedford's results are significantly better and teachers are paid less.

Suggestions for raising money: increase state business, reconstitute the Interest and Dividends tax, and/or create an income tax.

Another idea was to take the State Wide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) from the local community to fund a new State bureaucracy to distribute SWEPT funds based on its, not local, priorities.

Although they claimed this was a non-partisan event, no one was there to explain current funding, future plans, or implications of the proposals put forth by the presenters concerning e.g., affordability of life in N.H. or loss of local control of education.

No one mentioned that New Hampshire's school system, as currently funded, is successful; it's generally ranked in the top five nationwide.

Presenters advocated the elimination of Education Savings Accounts. This would greatly increase the taxpayer cost of educating each student from about \$5,000 via an ESA to our statewide average cost of \$22,700, or much more some places, e.g., about \$33,000 at Interlakes.

Funding public schools locally incentivizes the community to be interested in their schools, their spending, and each student's success.

The Fair Funding New Hampshire event seemed primarily to want higher taxes to fund bigger government and a bigger, remote controlled, educational bureaucracy funding its priorities, not local priorities.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

Property taxes are too high because the state refuses to meet its constitutional requirement to fund public schools, leaving cities and towns to make up the difference, and your solution is to let certain parents drain local school budgets?

You say our schools are ranked in the

to next page

cessant claims that the electoral system in Democratic states is corrupted. Recently, he has campaigned for the cancellation or the nationalization of the 2026 mid-term elections, both of which are clearly unconstitutional. He and his allies have threatened to use either ICE or the National Guard as security forces to ensure that no fraud occurs in local elections, also unconstitutional acts. He has threatened poll workers with prosecution for voter fraud without cause or proof. He has ordered the FBI to seize 2020 ballots in Fulton County, Georgia using a questionable warrant obtained in Missouri. He constantly rants against mail-in voting as a major source of fraud. He has proclaimed the necessity of the SAVE Act, which would require proof of citizenship for both voter registration and election day voting. Although Republicans claim that the act is a reasonable method of preventing non-citizens from voting, it would inevitably exclude many citizens who lack ready access to required documents. It is no surprise that most of this group are not Trump supporters.

Trump's rants on election integrity are not intended to ensure secure elections. If they were, he would not have defunded the government's election security operations early in his term. Rather, Trump intends to disrupt and subvert the mid-term elections by casting doubt on their integrity while preventing many Democratic voters from voting. His methods are taken from the autocrat's playbook and are not designed to replace elections but to use democratic institutions to ensure that the process elects only MAGA candidates, thereby creating a false sense of legitimacy. He is using methods used by Putin in Russia, Erdogan in Türkiye and Orban in Hungary to subvert the election process and ensure the election of handpicked candidates.

The stage was set for election subversion when Republicans won both the House and Senate in 2024. The Grand Old Party has collapsed under Trump and is a hollowed-out shell of

the GOP that once stood for small government, fiscal responsibility and individual rights. It is now made up of either sycophants who have jettisoned their principles because they fear loss of power or MAGA zealots who perceive Trump as a revolutionary paragon. The Republican Congress has lost any sense of acting for the common welfare and will likely collaborate with Trump to provide legislation abetting Republican election control. Trump has put in place other elements that would ease an election takeover. He has weaponized the DOJ and FBI so that neither agency would be likely to oppose him. The Supreme Court has been packed with conservatives who have already supported enhanced presidential powers. Media outlets that have opposed Trump have been browbeaten, threatened and sued by the Trump administration while conservative outlets supportive of Trump have promoted false accounts, tilting the narrative toward Republican policies. All these elements have been used by autocrats like Orban and Putin to consolidate power. One element from the autocrat's playbook that Trump relies on is the manufactured crisis—look for Trump to manufacture another false emergency shortly before the mid-term elections.

These are precarious times. We are in the thrall of a demented wannabe king who has co-opted or corrupted many of the institutions designed to protect democracy. Our last line of defense may have been revealed by the courageous citizens of Minneapolis who took to the streets to protest the thuggish actions of ICE. The preservation of our democracy may be decided not only at the ballot box but by ordinary citizens taking to the streets.

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

Robert:

Thanks a lot. You have shown that the one thing that has been staving off despair—a rock-solid expectation that Republicans were surely bound to suffer catastrophic losses in the midterm election—has been wishful thinking. It was

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top five nationally. As with so many things, that excellence is not evenly distributed. You can conjure up any argument you want by pitting one school district against another, but you can't deny that kids in rich towns have the advantage.

The only way to fix that is with more state funding. Only seven other states and the District of Columbia have a higher per capita income than New Hampshire.

We can afford to solve this problem. The question is, can we muster the will to break our political fetters?

The Editor

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Why? Why Else?

Dear Editor:

On January 22, 2026 the United States officially withdrew from the World Health Organization (WHO), an organization we have been a member of since 1948. Currently 194 nations are part of the WHO. It employs thousands of public health professionals, scientists, medical experts worldwide. It strengthens global health by coordinating a vast network of partner laboratories, including National Influenza Centers (NICs), specialized collaborating centers, and COVID-19 reference labs. All this will be lost to America. Instead, the Trump administration plans to create an alternative organization run by the U.S. that would attempt to recreate or duplicate the systems currently in place by the WHO. The estimated cost of the Trump proposal, which would be funded and operated through the Department of Health and Human Services, is \$2 billion per year. Prior to leaving the WHO the U.S. contributed \$680 million per year. From a public health, economic, and international relations perspective this makes no sense and will place the U.S. at greater risk from global disease threats.

By creating its own version of the WHO, America will be flying solo

in a world where a disease threat can emerge from anywhere at any time. Instead of having 194 pairs of global disease surveillance eyes and ears, the U.S. will be on our own. There is no way America can duplicate the global disease surveillance and protection reach that the WHO currently provides, even by spending \$1.320 billion more. Where would we find all the necessary scientists to fill these positions, especially after Trump and RFK, Jr. fired so many over the past year? It would take decades to train enough to meet the need. This is time we do not have. Not only that, but, by not having a seat at the WHO table, America will not be part of making any policies and decisions made by the WHO and will not receive real-time disease intelligence information. We will have no input on decisions that will directly and indirectly impact the health of Americans, whether we wish to believe it or not.

As we learned from COVID-19 and other pandemics like AIDS and influenza, pathogenic microbes do not respect borders or respond to politics, ideology or the whims of politicians. Viruses and bacteria only respect the laws of nature. Organisms, especially viruses, have only one objective, to survive by finding new hosts in order to multiply and spread. They take advantage of any opportunity humans provide them to achieve this goal. And thanks to the Trump policies, we are giving these microbes greater opportunities to wreak havoc.

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

Rich:

You're missing the big picture. Sure, WHO provided more bang for the buck, and staffing would be a challenge for an administration that knew what it was doing. AI, though, will solve that problem. Best of all, this new outfit—let's call it "Trump, That's WHO!"—will offer unparalleled opportunities for profit and outright graft!

The Editor

Consider the Source: Expats, Protest, and Imperial Optics

by Richard Balzano

Americans are perhaps the planet's most propagandized population. Exceptionalism, innocence, and decades of propaganda have diluted the general public's ability to critically process international affairs and U.S. foreign policy. The media is complicit, for when Washington sets its crosshairs on another government and primes the public for intervention, the empire's ambitions are strategically branded in uplifting good-guy savior rhetoric and cheered by flag-waving mainstream media consumers insisting that this time we'll be greeted as liberators. (Hint: we won't...)

Protesters recently took to the streets in Iran and Venezuela, but not for the reasons we're given by the mainstream media. Many of the grievances Iranians and Venezuelans face are the result of U.S. sanctions. Mainstream coverage largely evades that point, and when sanctions are acknowledged, the tone often suggests that they're warranted.

After the Trump regime illegally kidnapped Venezuela's president Nicolás Maduro, Western media claimed Venezuelans flooded the streets to celebrate, calling for U.S. intervention. Clips of protesters featured alongside repeated coup-colaborator and Nobel-degrader María Corina Machado's pleas for American boots on the ground to free Venezuela and open her to foreign investment. This was, per Washington, a nation begging to be liberated. Indeed, many in Venezuela did protest in support of Washington's war crime—further testament of Venezuela's tolerant civil society that has endured U.S.-funded subversion campaigns for a quarter century. But a far greater number of Venezuelans took to the streets to denounce Washington's actions and show support for both Venezuelan sovereignty and the Maduro-Rodriguez government. Neither the mainstream media nor the State Department acknowledged that.

Recent protests in Iran became violent, the government responded, and Washington quickly credited the events to the Iranian government's alleged authoritarian barbarity. Both the protests and the Iranian government's response received predictable coverage in the West, although those keen enough to cross-reference mainstream coverage with peripheral outlets (read:

actual journalism) or use the translation feature on their browsers discovered a different reality.

Evidence indicating the initial violence was instigated by foreign agents was presented to Western diplomats. Our most brazen Middle Eastern ally—which shall not be named since I wish to continue working in higher education—openly bragged about its complicity, knowing full well the Western media would not pick up that angle. The mainstream media framed Iran's evidence as allegations from a questionable source, and this is easily accepted by Western media consumers conditioned by decades of Orientalist* barbarizations of the Islamic world repeated *ad nauseam* to forge a conventional wisdom in which Islamic people and nations are, among other things, untrustworthy. How can the Iranians be trusted, having had the audacity to overthrow the regime that Washington imposed when the CIA lost its coup virginity in 1954, ousting Iran's democratically elected Mohammed Mosaddegh?

In response to American posturing, Iranian protesters took to the streets to denounce U.S. intervention, forcing Western media to acknowledge the complicated nature of Iranian protests, albeit often obscured in statistics intended to further barbarize Iran and charge them with limited transparency. Iran's response to the foreign agents implicated in subversion might seem harsh to Americans—Iran executes Mossad agents, whereas Americans elect them, or at the very least—per Epstein's lawyer, Alan Dershowitz—offer them immunity.

Every administration clamoring for war insists that we will be greeted as liberators. Much of the world doesn't see it that way, and Americans have been shielded from reality in our whitewashed history and political discourse. The shining city on the hill was founded on slavery and an indigenous genocide that inspired Hitler. At the start of the Cold War we were a segregated society that executed civil rights leaders and protesters, supported human rights-abusing regimes and apartheid states abroad, conducted

* The term "Orientalism" was coined by academic Edward Said to encapsulate the (often-contradictory) Western depictions of much of the non-Western world as unproductive, deceptive, naive, gullible, unintelligent, weak, hostile, irrational, barbaric and uncivilized. Westerners, in contrast, are depicted as strong, rational, intelligent, and civilized. Orientalism rationalized earlier European colonialism in the Middle East and North Africa, and evolved to provide moral cover for contemporary imperialism in the form of uplifting, civilizing, ideological rhetoric.

non-consensual medical experiments and sterilizations on people of color in the colonial and post-colonial world, and regularly obstructed the self-determination of states, allegedly in their own best interests, all while insisting that we were engaged in a good vs. evil struggle to uphold human freedom (read: defend capitalism). This glaring hypocrisy was and is not lost on the Global South. Since the Second World War, Washington has been a harbinger of torture, hunger, and death to the Global South, and yet Americans are generally oblivious to this reality. It is a tough pill to swallow.

There are indeed some protestors calling for U.S. intervention, many of whom collaborate with subversive regime change institutions like the National Endowment for Democracy. Expat communities are often vocal advocates for U.S. intervention, but consider the source. Many expats fled reforms that sought to close the chasms of wealth inequality and reverse the inequities of colonialism and neoliberalism in their home nations.

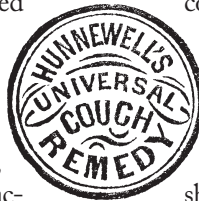
When expats appeal to Washington for intervention on mainstream news networks in English, we should consider whether their mastery of the English language is indicative of privilege. Whose class interests do they represent? Were they on the suffering end of imperialism, or the collaborative end? Did they benefit from colonial and neocolonial arrangements? Consider the Venezuelans who support the Bolivarian Revolution, the Cubans who support the Cuban Revolution, and the Iranians who reject American imperialism—many of them are not fluent in English, and they cannot appear on prime time news to counter the expat intervention lobby. Their voices go unheard.

Not every protest is a cry for U.S. intervention, yet Washington capitalizes on mobilization to delegitimize governments as a potential pretext for regime change. The Global South may become reluctant to protest because it could be manipulated to justify intervention. Their grievances with their governments are their own, and expressing their frustrations in the streets should not warrant a ten-plus year occupation, yet this is a potential reality the world must endure. In this sense, American public diplomacy has an adverse impact on Global South civil society. It's almost as if Washington could care less about the democratic rights of those they'd claim to liberate.

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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new poetry by
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King For a Day

by W.D. Ehrhart

Recently a young man who is in a college ROTC program and about to embark on a career in the U.S. Army seems to have read enough of my writing that he saw similarities between me and the point of view suggested by David Hackworth in his 1990 memoir *About Face: The Odyssey of an American Warrior*. My young correspondent, whom I'll call Emmett, wanted to know if I thought problems like "ticket-punching" and "careerism" still existed in the military, and what he might do to change or at least mitigate them. Did I have any advice for him?

"I don't know what to tell you by way of advice as you begin your stint in the U.S. military," I replied. "I personally would never consider serving while the Draft-Dodger-in-Chief is your Commander-in-Chief, the vice president was a military public relations flak, and the guy who likes to think of himself as the Secretary of War was a civil affairs officer.* In all honesty, my best advice to you would be to find a way not to end up in the army, but I suppose it is already too late for you to choose that option.

"It is also my studied opinion that you will, for the most part, not be able to address or mitigate the issues you raise. You will be up against a huge and deeply entrenched institution. My best advice to you is to keep your head down and your powder dry, and get the heck out of the army as soon as you possibly can."

* Back when I was in the Marines in Vietnam, the civil affairs officers were the officers that other officers and senior NCOs didn't trust to lead men in combat, so they got relegated to civil affairs, where they dealt with farmers demanding compensation for the pigs and the chickens we Marines killed on combat operations. I don't know for sure, but I suspect that hasn't changed much over the years.

To this, Emmett replied, "Your reflections leave me with one final question: if you were 'king for a day,' what changes would you make?"

Talk about irony. We already have a guy in the White House who thinks he is a king, who behaves as if he's a king, and who gets away with it because Congress and the Supreme Court haven't got the courage or the decency or the patriotism to put a stop to it. But Emmett's question got me thinking, and here's how I answered him:

"If I were king, I would abolish the electoral college; the winner of a presidential election would be the candidate who gets the most votes, period. Already twice in this century, the majority of American voters did not get the president they voted for. This is not democracy.

"I would also change how senatorial representation is calculated; it is absurd that two senators from Wyoming represent fewer than 600,000 people while two senators from California represent 39,500,000 people, yet both states get an equal vote in the Senate. This is not 'equal representation,' nor is it democratic.

"I would repeal the 2nd Amendment, or at least insist upon honoring its 'original intent': that every American should have the right to own a Brown Bess muzzle-loading smooth-bore musket, but only if they participate in a well-regulated militia.

"And speaking of the Constitution, I would demand that Congress exercise its power—placed only in the hands of Congress—to determine when and with whom the nation goes to war. This country has not fought a constitutionally legal war since Congress declared war on Bulgaria in June 1942 (bet you didn't know about that one).

"I would impeach, convict, and re-

move from office any supreme court justice or other federal judge who engages in the kind of corruption and conflict of interest exhibited by Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito.

"I would severely limit the amount of money allowed to be spent on political campaigns. Corporations are not people, and \$\$\$\$\$ does not equal free speech.

"I would reduce the annual military budget by at least 65 percent. The U.S. spends more money on its military than the next 10 countries combined, including three times as much as China and seven times as much as Russia.

"I would redirect the money saved on military spending into health care, education, and housing. The wealthiest nation in human history should not have millions of its citizens struggling to afford decent health care, decent housing, and enough food to eat (far too many Americans have no health care at all, no place to live, and regularly suffer from hunger and malnutrition).

"Health care, in fact, would be single-payer, eliminating any need for the private health insurance industry, which does nothing but jack up the cost of health care far beyond the costs in any other developed country in the world. I've been on Medicare for more than a decade, and it works just fine. Medicare for all.

"I would require every American to pay the same rate of social security tax, regardless of income level; if you earn \$1,000,000 a year, you should pay the same percent of your income as the person who earns \$55,000 year. Same for the 1 percenters who earn \$50 million and \$85 million and \$210 million a year.

"I would abolish the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. Heavily armed and armored masked

thugs who ignore the 4th Amendment with impunity, beat and brutalize whoever they please, and murder innocent citizens without consequence? Go do some research on Hitler's Gestapo or Reza Pahlavi's SAVAK.

"Indeed, go do some research on immigrants living in this country. Most immigrants—documented and undocumented—are law-abiding, productive, tax-paying members of their communities. And somebody seems to want them here because somebody keeps giving them jobs.

"I would re-unionize American labor. Who do you think put an end to child labor, the kind of unsafe working conditions that led to the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, the 12-hour workday, and the six-day workweek? Go learn something about U.S. labor history.

"I'm sure there's more I could come up with, but that ought to be enough to get you started."

Alas, I will never be king, even for a day, and I cannot make any of these things happen. And the felonious grifter who does think he's king certainly isn't going to make any of this happen. Quite the opposite, in fact.

Meanwhile, since I suspect Emmett is already irrevocably committed to joining the army regardless of what I've told him, I can only hope he doesn't end up getting killed in some undeclared war in Venezuela or Iran or Cuba or Mexico or Greenland. Or on the streets of the next American city our military is deployed to.

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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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Public Safety Down, CEO Pay Up. Corporations Play "Rig the System"

by Jim Hightower

To see how the game of "Rig the System" is played, consider the shameful corporate gaming of the horror of California wildfires that have been devouring lives and entire communities.

Many of the worst fires have been ignited by the faulty wires, transformers, and other poorly functioning equipment of such profiteering electric utilities as Southern California Edison. The safety failures of this multibillion-dollar giant have been so awful that state lawmakers and regulators have rushed out fire-protection laws—not for the people, but for the corporate owners! A 2019 law literally protects utilities from paying for fire damages they cause, instead passing the costs to state taxpayers.

Wait, says Edison, if our annual safety record is poor, our top executives are punished with a cut in their annual bonuses. Ouch! Well, not really—the reduction is capped at five percent.

Take last year's fire that destroyed nearly every home and building in the town of Altadena, killing 19 people. "It's just a tragedy," lamented Edison's CEO, though he admits it was sparked by an Edison transmission line. Sure enough, the chief "suffered" a five-percent bonus hickey. Hold your pity, though, for that means he still collected 95 percent of his 2025 performance bonus, plus pocketing his extravagant salary, stock options, and benefits. In all, the man-in-charge of this corporate-made "tragedy" walked away with nearly \$14 million in personal pay.

Meanwhile, Edison went to the Public Utility Commission, demanding that its customers be forced to pay 10 percent more on their electric bills. To keep score on utilities rigging the system, go to TURN, The Utility Reform Network: turn.org.

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

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

peatedly jailed for drunkenness, and Charlton has served out numerous sentences for selling rum. Altogether they are a 'sweet lot.'

The New Hampshire Gazette
March 18, 1886

• A duel with swords was fought at Paris, March 16th, between Prince Amadee de Broglie and Vicomte Tredeme.

• Rev. J.C. Overbaugh of Washington, N.J., a Baptist clergyman with a wife and family, having compromised himself by osculatory exercises among his flock, especially favoring the younger and handsomer members, announced on the 13th inst. the preaching of his farewell sermon on the 14th. He did not appear in his pulpit, however, and it turned out that the reason for his absence was the discovery by Mrs. DeHart, mother of a young school girl, of a letter from the reverend gentleman to her daughter, laying the plans for elopement.

• W.S. Sproat, a lieutenant in the salvation army [sic], is in jail at Salem, Mass., charged with polygamy, he having two living wives.

• M.J. Maloney, editor of the Rich-

ford, Vt., *Gazette*, was thrashed in St. Albans on the 17th inst. by T.M. Tierney. The assault was made in consequence of Maloney's attacking the reputation of Tierney's recently deceased brother.

• Editor Shilleto of the West Haven (Conn.) *Budget* was on the 20th inst. cowhided by E.L. Kimberly, a prominent businessman and democratic politician, on account of some article published in the paper.

• At Memphis, Tenn, on the evening of March 17th, Henry Arnold was shot through the heart by Emma Norman, a young lady who he had seduced under promise of marriage. Instead of keeping his promise, Arnold five weeks ago married another girl. Miss Norman, who lives eight

miles out of Memphis, went in for the express purpose of killing her seducer, and expresses great satisfaction at the fatal result of her shot. She was arrested.

• Orderly citizens of Portland, Oregon, have taken a decided stand against the forcible expulsion of Chinese, and declare that they will maintain law and order. This stand is slow in being taken, but better late than never.

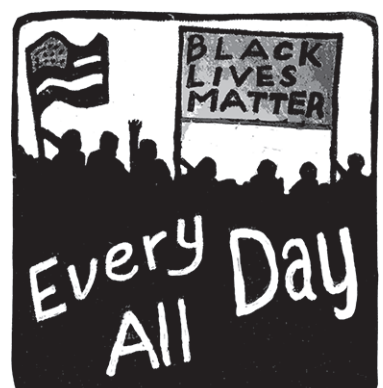
• Serious anarchist riots occurred in several cities in Belgium on the

night of the 20th inst., and much property was destroyed. At Liege there was a long and severe fight between the anarchists and troops, many persons being injured. Over 6,000 troops were on duty in Liege on the 21st.

The New Hampshire Gazette
March 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, MARCH 8	MONDAY, MARCH 9	TUESDAY, MARCH 10	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11	THURSDAY, MARCH 12	FRIDAY, MARCH 13	SATURDAY, MARCH 14
<p>1985—A joint U.S./U.K./Saudi operation detonates a 440 lb. car bomb in Beirut; 83 innocent civilians die. The target—also innocent—is unscathed.</p> <p>1983—Ronald Reagan runs the phrase "evil empire" up the flagpole.</p> <p>1973—President Nixon gripes to Al Haig, "What the hell's Agnew doing? He's never spoken up once on this Goddamn [Watergate] thing."</p> <p>1971—The Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI breaks into the Bureau's Media, Pa. office, obtaining 1,000+ documents revealing COINTELPRO. The Bureau fails to find the perps. [See 1956.]</p> <p>1965—The first U.S. combat troops—U.S. Marines—hit the beach at Da-nang ready to fight. Vietnamese girls greet them with flowers.</p> <p>1956—At a meeting of the National Security Council, J. Edgar Hoover proposes a measure to include warrantless wiretapping and break-ins: COINTELPRO. Despite the illegalities, Ike and his A.G. say, "OK."</p> <p>1906—Winchester, N.H. native Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood proudly surveys the results of his illegal order: 900 Filipinos of all ages and genders, massacred in a volcanic crater. TR later calls it "a brilliant feat of arms [upholding] the honor of the American flag."</p> <p>1782—After granting them a night of prayer, Pennsylvania militiamen massacre and scalp 96 captive Christian Lenape Indians, men, women, and children, at Gnaddenhuten, Ohio.</p>	<p>2007—Newt Gingrich admits, as he runs for president, that he committed adultery while impeaching B. Clinton.</p> <p>1992—Donald Trump files his second bankruptcy in eight months.</p> <p>1986—Divers locate the crew compartment of the Shuttle Challenger.</p> <p>1982—It's revealed that the Contras have gotten \$19 million in covert aid.</p> <p>1969—Terrified CBS execs nix the Vietnam drama "Sticks and Bones."</p> <p>1969—Terrified CBS execs cancel "The Smothers Brothers."</p> <p>1965—Racists fatally beat Boston minister James Reeb in Selma, Ala.; a white jury soon acquits the suspects.</p> <p>1954—Ed Murrow dismantles Joe McCarthy on CBS. The network assures nothing like that happens again.</p> <p>1941—Writer Sherwood Anderson dies of peritonitis after swallowing a toothpick at a party in Panama.</p> <p>1920—Favorite Son and war criminal Gen. Leonard Wood wins the New Hampshire Presidential Primary.</p> <p>1916—Pancho Villa leads nearly 500 guerrillas in a raid on Columbus, N.M. It does not go well: 190 are killed, wounded, or captured. Later, a six-month "Punitive Expedition" fails to capture <i>El Centauro del Norte</i>.</p> <p>1841—Black mutineers who took the <i>Amistad</i> from enslavers are declared free men by the U.S. Supreme Court.</p> <p>1776—Adam Smith publishes <i>The Wealth of Nations</i>; once a treatise on economics, it's now a license to steal.</p>	<p>2020—"Just stay calm," says Dolt #45. "It [Covid] will go away."</p> <p>2004—Pres. George W.[MD] Bush is surprised to learn that 1) his Terrorist Surveillance Program expires that day, 2) his lawyers won't renew it, and 3) his A.G., who will renew it, has been in the ICU for a week. In a bedside standoff, Bush's team loses.</p> <p>1993—A Florida man stands up for the sanctity of life by putting three fatal slugs in Dr. David Gunn's back.</p> <p>1974—With police corruption "systematic at all levels," Philly Mayor Rizzo tries to block an investigation.</p> <p>1968—At remote Lima Site 85 in Laos, 13 radarmen die: the greatest single U.S.A.F. combat loss of the war.</p> <p>1966—Seeing a fellow A-1 pilot crash land at A Shau's A-Team camp, as two NVA battalions are overrunning it, Maj. Bernard Fisher lands under fire, picks up the pilot, and flies out.</p> <p>1952—Fulgencio Batista, a favorite of U.S. politicians and gangsters, stages a military coup in Cuba.</p> <p>1951—Genial old Ike says America might try a first-strike nuclear attack.</p> <p>1950—Turned down once, Gen. Douglas again requests permission to nuke Korea. Bomb parts are gathered.</p> <p>1945—Curtis LeMay's napalm-laden B-29s visit the deadliest six hours of WWII on Tokyo, Japan.</p> <p>1945—Japan shuts down plutonium production for the Nagasaki bomb when its balloon-firebombs down electric wires in Hanford, Wash.</p>	<p>2025—The White House is turned into a Tesla dealership for a day.</p> <p>2020—Dolt #45 announces a travel ban; infected U.S. citizens turn airports all over into super-spreader sites.</p> <p>2012—Freedom, Maine's Town Meeting votes to amend the Constitution, nixing corporate "personhood."</p> <p>2011—An earthquake knocks Earth 10 inches off its axis, brings Japan four feet closer to the U.S., causes a tsunami that kills 15,850 people, and triggers three nuclear meltdowns.</p> <p>2008—SEC Chair Chris Cox says "We have a good deal of comfort about the capital cushions at these firms," days before Bear Stearns collapses.</p> <p>2002—Fox military expert Lt. Col Joe Caffasso, who boasts a Green Beret and a Silver Star, resigns. Weeks later the <i>N.Y. Times</i> reveals his true military career: 44 days in boot camp.</p> <p>1958—A B-47 accidentally drops a Mark 6 A-bomb on Mars Bluff, S.C. Lacking a fissile core, its explosion only injures six and destroys a house.</p> <p>1954—The U.S. Army charges that Sen. Joe McCarthy [R-Wisc.] and Roy Cohn used threats to get special treatment for Pvt. G. David Schine.</p> <p>1861—Seven Southern states adopt a fake "Constitution of the Confederate States," cribbed from the real one.</p> <p>1811—Luddites in Nottingham, England, destroy 63 knitting frames. It's not about the machines, though—they're protesting against inhumane working conditions.</p>	<p>2014—Austin Ruse, head of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, says on American Family Radio, "the hard left, human-hating people that run modern universities... should all be taken out and shot."</p> <p>2013—Jim Clapper, Dir. of Nat'l Intelligence, swears to Congress citizens aren't being spied on. He's lying.</p> <p>2003—News reports say VP Dick "Dick" Cheney is still being paid up to \$1 million a year by Halliburton.</p> <p>1990—ADA activists visit the Capitol the only way they can: leaving their wheelchairs and crawling up the steps.</p> <p>1956—Bill Fulbright, Sam Ervin, Hale Boggs—Cokie Roberts' dad—and 98 other Congressmen sign a "Southern Manifesto" pledging to maintain school segregation.</p> <p>1947—President Harry announces the Truman Doctrine: we'll fight Commies everywhere and anywhere.</p> <p>1947—Piper pilot Carmen Onofrio of Milan, N.H. makes the first of 43 landings atop Mt. Washington, delivering ice research equipment.</p> <p>1912—"The Wobblies" "Bread and Roses" strike in Lawrence, Mass., ends with significant wins for workers.</p> <p>1906—Apparently mistaking corporations for people, SCOTUS grants them 4th Amendment rights.</p> <p>1888—Refusing to pay a New York cabbie's jacked-up rate, GOP king-maker Roscoe Conkling gets pneumonia walking three miles home in a blizzard. Weeks later he's dead at 58.</p>	<p>2020—Dolt #45 states the obvious: "I don't take responsibility at all."</p> <p>2019—Gambino family mob boss Frank Cali is whacked in front of his Staten Island home by a QAnon follower who thought "he was enjoying the protection of President Trump."</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush says, "We haven't heard much...I don't know where [bin Laden] is...I truly am not that concerned about him."</p> <p>1979—In N.Y.C., P.M. Eric Gairy asks the UN to investigate UFOs. In Grenada, the New Jewel Movement leaders whom he had ordered jailed or killed overthrow his government.</p> <p>1968—A leaky nerve gas dispenser on an F-4 Phantom lets VX nerve gas drift from the Army's Dugway Proving Ground in Provo, Utah. It poisons 6,400 sheep in nearby Skull Valley.</p> <p>1962—General Lyman L. Lemnitzer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, OKs Operation Northwood, a false flag campaign of lethal domestic terrorism intended to build public support for an attack on Cuba.</p> <p>1954—Viet Minh forces besiege French troops at Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p>1933—SCOTUS' Louis Brandeis blames the Depression on "the Frankenstein monster which States have created by their corporation laws."</p> <p>1930—The Smoot Hawley Act jacks up tariffs; Crash becomes Depression.</p> <p>1877—Chester Greenwood, 18, of Farmington, Maine, gets his first patent, for earmuffs. He'll get 129 more.</p>	<p>2025—A federal court orders #47 not to deport anyone under the Alien Enemies Act. He defies the order. Congress lets him get away with it.</p> <p>2018—Hoping not to get shot like so many of their late peers, a million American students walk out of school to demand gun control that works.</p> <p>1977—RIP Fannie Lou Hamer, organizer of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, who said, "Nobody's free until everybody's free."</p> <p>1973—Guards at the notorious Walpole, Mass., State Prison go on strike. For two months inmates run the joint, with zero murders and little violence.</p> <p>1970—Two merchant sailors mutiny, taking the napalm-laden <i>SS Columbia Eagle</i> to pinkish Cambodia.</p> <p>1965—"Except for Vietnam," the AP reports Richard Nixon saying, "U.S. foreign policy is in a shambles."</p> <p>1964—We still don't know who killed JFK, but on this day a jury decided Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald.</p> <p>1961—A B-52 with two nukes on board, its cabin overheated and its crew overamped on bennies, runs out of fuel over Yuba City, Calif. No big boom, though; all survive the crash.</p> <p>1891—A mob of 20,000 in New Orleans lynches 11 Italian immigrants recently acquitted of murder.</p> <p>1888—Kentucky's State Treasurer, James "Honest Dick" Tate, vanishes with \$247,000 in state funds.</p> <p>1883—Ex-journalist Karl Marx dies in London, impoverished, of course.</p>
3:04 9:18	3:33 9:28	3:47 10:05	4:21 10:13	4:35 10:57	5:15 11:04	5:29 11:56
5:29 12:02	6:17 12:59	6:31 1:05	7:22 2:02	7:35 2:02	8:24 2:06	8:33 2:57
SUNDAY, MARCH 15	MONDAY, MARCH 16	TUESDAY, MARCH 17	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18	THURSDAY, MARCH 19	FRIDAY, MARCH 20	SATURDAY, MARCH 21
<p>1999—The "Hockey Stick" graph shows that global warming's real; corporate demand for expert liars soars.</p> <p>1989—To flatter veterans without incurring any actual additional expenses, the Veterans Administration is elevated to Departmental status.</p> <p>1982—Donald Trump gets a New Jersey casino licence—normally a months-long process—in hours.</p> <p>1980—A <i>Boston Globe</i> editorial about a speech by Jimmy Carter is headlined, "Mush from the Wimp."</p> <p>1969—The National Security Council OKs the Nixon/Kissinger plan to illegally bomb Cambodia.</p> <p>1962—Flying Tiger Flight 739 from Travis AFB to Saigon disappears with 107 soldiers and crew on board.</p> <p>1948—"Without superior air power America is...easy prey to any yellow dwarf with a pocket knife," says LBJ on the floor of the House.</p> <p>1940—<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> premiers.</p> <p>1910—Oil driller Charlie "Dry Hole" Woods hits a wet one in Kern County, Calif. The Lakeview Gusher spews 9 million barrels in 18 months; the largest single spill in history.</p> <p>1889—An imperial standoff between the U.S. and Germany ends when a cyclone wrecks or beaches all their ships in an exposed Samoan harbor.</p> <p>1874—A French "protectorate" takes over in Annam (Vietnam).</p> <p>1760—New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth, 64, marries his housekeeper, Martha Hilton, 23.</p>	<p>2025—DOGE conducts a hostile takeover of the U.S. Institute of Peace.</p> <p>2008—The New York Federal Reserve fronts JPMorgan \$30 billion to buy Bear Stearns' bankrupt corpse.</p> <p>2003—On "Meet the Press," Dick "Dick" Cheney claims that Saddam Hussein "has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons," and that "we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators."</p> <p>1995—Mississippi, after 130 years, ratifies the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery; its actual certification takes another 18 years.</p> <p>1990—GOP race whipsper Lee Atwater "repents" on his deathbed; no lie detectors are present, however.</p> <p>1988—Kurds in Iraq are gassed with ingredients Saddam Hussein bought from the U.S. and Europe.</p> <p>1970—Sen. Roman Hruska (R-Neb.) defends G. Harrold [sic] Carswell as nominee to the Supreme Court: "there are a lot of mediocre judges and people and lawyers. They are entitled to a little representation, aren't they?"</p> <p>1968—U.S. GIs massacre hundreds of civilians at My Lai, in Vietnam.</p> <p>1965—Alice Herz, 82, self-immolates in Detroit to protest the Vietnam War. She dies 10 days later.</p> <p>1965—In Montgomery, Ala., police attack civil rights marchers.</p> <p>1914—Henriette Caillaux, wife of the French Minister of Finance, pumps four slugs from a Browning .32 into Gaston Calmette, editor of <i>Le Figaro</i>. He dies, she skates.</p>	<p>2017—Arguing <i>Apocalypse Now</i> in the Oval with 'Nam vets, Dolt #45 confuses Agent Orange with napalm.</p> <p>2008—His high-priced hooker habit exposed, N.Y. Gov. E. Spitzer resigns.</p> <p>2007—<i>Navy Times</i>: before he was a U.S.M.C. Cpl. and Fox News reporter, Matt Sanchez was a gay porn star.</p> <p>2004—To honor St. Patrick, narcs and off-duty cops duke it out in Paddy's parking lot at the Tradeport.</p> <p>2003—George W.[MD] Bush tells Saddam Hussein that Iraq isn't big enough for the both of them, giving the varmint 48 hours to vamoose.</p> <p>1976—Candidate Jimmy Carter marches in New York's St. Patrick's Day parade, wearing a button saying "England Get Out Of Ireland."</p> <p>1960—Genial ol' Ike signs off on a clandestine plan to violently overthrow the government of Cuba.</p> <p>1924—Siding with tobacco companies over the Senate, the FTC, and the public, SCOTUS bestows 4th Amendment rights on corporations.</p> <p>1923—Waterbury cops halt a meeting, preventing editor Carlo Tresca from reading the Connecticut Constitution's Declaration of Rights.</p> <p>1922—Washington, D.C.'s suburbs are littered with racist propaganda dropped by the Klan from a biplane.</p> <p>1921—Checka officers use machine guns to encourage Bolshevik troops to charge across the ice-over Neva River into machine gun fire from rebellious sailors at Kronstadt.</p>	<p>2006—Barnstead, N.H. bans corporations from exporting groundwater and denies them personhood.</p> <p>2004—At Gilley's, Portsmouth narcs and off-duty cops hold round two of a fight begun at Paddy's on St. Pat's Day.</p> <p>2003—"Why should we hear about body bags and death and how many?" asks First Mom Barbara Bush. "It's not relevant...why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?"</p> <p>1997—A road rage shootout between undercover L.A.P.D. cops leaves one of them dead in an SUV owned by Death Row Records' "Suge" Knight's wife. Exposure of massive corruption at the Rampart Division ensues.</p> <p>1990—Fake cops bluff guards and steal Rembrandts and a Vermeer from Boston's Gardner Museum.</p> <p>1970—<i>Columbia Eagle</i> mutineers C. McKay and A. Glatkowski are jailed in Cambodia after a pro-U.S. coup.</p> <p>1970—Offered a 4% raise while inflation is at 5.8%, postal workers stage a wildcat strike; after a week they win.</p> <p>1969—The U.S. begins secretly and illegally bombing Cambodia.</p> <p>1953—Cowed by Sen. Joe McCarthy [R-Scotch], the State Dept. vows books by "suspect" authors will be purged from its overseas libraries.</p> <p>1938—New Nazi laws loosen restrictions on gun ownership, later NRA propaganda notwithstanding.</p> <p>1937—In oil-rich New London, Texas, a school saving money by heating with un-scented gas explodes; 300 die.</p>	<p>2023—The presses of the <i>Portsmouth Herald</i> go silent after running their final locally-printed edition.</p> <p>2011—The U.S. and France attack Libya—for its own good, of course.</p> <p>2003—George W.[MD] Bush starts his pre-emptive war; 40 Tomahawk missiles hit residential Baghdad.</p> <p>1987—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese endorses drug testing for schoolteachers.</p> <p>1983—On "Different Strokes," Nancy Reagan tells "a true story" about "Charlie." "Burned out on marijuana" at 14, he "brutally beats" Sis when she won't steal to buy him weed.</p> <p>1954—The U.S. government burns books by Wilhelm Reich.</p> <p>1948—Nobel Prize winner Mme. Irene Joliot-Curie is released from detention on Ellis Island; her work against fascism made her suspect.</p> <p>1945—Off Japan, Kamikaze attacks kill 800 sailors on the USS <i>Franklin</i>.</p> <p>1937—Clarence "Frogman" Henry is born in New Orleans.</p> <p>1935—Over 100 are injured in a Harlem riot. A study suppressed by Mayor LaGuardia blames police brutality.</p> <p>1916—Eight U.S. Army biplanes go after Pancho Villa.</p> <p>1840—Sixty-five Comanche men, women, and children attend a San Antonio peace conference; 35 are killed by Anglos and 30 imprisoned.</p> <p>1777—Moses Dunbar, found guilty of recruiting for the British, is hanged in Hartford, Conn. His father, a patriot, offers to supply the rope.</p>	<p>2017—FBI Boss Jim Comey tells Congress the Trump campaign and Russia may have colluded.</p> <p>2012—One of the two loaded .45 pistol Rep. Kyle Tasker [R-Northwood] legally carries in shoulder holsters drops to the floor of a packed hearing room in the N.H. State Capitol.</p> <p>2003—U.S. troops invade Iraq to protect The Homeland from Saddam's innumerable WMDs.</p> <p>1992—UN weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus says Iraq has agreed to destroy its weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p>1976—Press Baron William Randolph Hearst's granddaughter Patricia, 22, is convicted of bank robbery.</p> <p>1954—"If the [Vietnamese] Communists continue to suffer the losses they have been taking," says French Chief of Staff Gen. Paul Ely, "I don't know how they can stay in the battle."</p> <p>1933—"Get to hell out of here, you son of a bitch," would-be FDR assassin Giuseppe Zangara tells the chaplain before he's zapped for killing Chicago's mayor. "All capitalists lousy bunch of crooks. Goodbye to all poor peoples everywhere! Push the button!"</p> <p>1905—An old boiler explodes, shooting through the roof of the Grover Shoe Factory in Brockton, Mass. The building collapses, trapping hundreds of workers—then the naphtha barrels catch fire; 58 die and 150 are injured.</p> <p>1899—Gender pioneer Martha Place becomes the first woman to die in New York's electric chair.</p>	<p>2006—Twitter takes flight.</p> <p>2003—Richard Clarke, top counter-intel cop since Bush #41, says Bush #43 ignored al-Qaeda until 9/11.</p> <p>1981—In Mobile, Ala., two Ku Kluxers conduct the last recorded lynching. RIP: Michael Donald, 19.</p> <p>1973—"There is a cancer on the Presidency," White House Counsel John Dean says, speaking to the cancer.</p> <p>1963—"Gents, this is an educational project," says condemned murderer Frederick Wood in New York. "You are about to witness the damaging effect electricity has on Wood."</p> <p>1960—South African police kill 89 unarmed black protesters in the Sharpeville Massacre.</p> <p>1952—DJ Alan Freed throws the Moondog Coronation Ball in Cleveland—the first rock concert.</p> <p>1947—"Red Scared" by the GOP, Truman orders "loyalty screening."</p> <p>1937—Cops in Ponce, P.R., following orders from the Governor, machine gun protesters: 21 KIA, 235 WIA.</p> <p>1933—Nazis ban criticism of Nazis.</p> <p>1925—Tennessee bans the teaching of evolution in public schools.</p> <p>1915—At a White House screening, Woodrow Wilson is enraptured by the racist masterpiece <i>Birth of a Nation</i>.</p> <p>1907—Marines land in Honduras to "protect American interests."</p> <p>1877—N.Y. State Grange members, in economic self-defense, form the Northern Farmers Alliance. Its successes are limited, mostly by its racism.</p>
9:25 3:02	10:01 3:44	10:11 3:51	10:41 4:26	10:53 4:35	11:19 5:05	11:34 5:18
12:16 6:01	12:58 6:44	1:01 7:01	1:42 7:29	1:42 7:43	1:44 7:29	1:42 7:43

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