

The Fortnightly Rant

How's That Cross of Iron Treatin' Ya?

What a difference a fortnight can make. As this one began we had to decide: should we start working on the next newspaper, or just write a will?

Admittedly, when it comes to assessing threat levels in various situations, our worst-case scenarios may be particularly vivid. That can happen when your prefrontal cortex matures under circumstances in which continued existence is clearly a matter of chance. We would argue, though, that our sense of looming dread was hardly without foundation.

Thousands of Marines were already in the Gulf. More were on their way. The 82nd Airborne got orders to join them. What the future might hold for them was anyone's guess; but at that stage, it's safe to say they all still had their full complement of feet. Boots on the ground, anyone?

Armchair admirals and keyboard warriors have been spoiled for nearly 20 years. Their fantasies of American exceptionalism and military dominance have been enabled by a fleet of Reapers: remotely-controlled flying death machines.

For the low, low price of \$30 million a pop, these gizmos empower our actual generals to order our low-ranking enlisted personnel to surveil foreign targets—foreign for now, anyway—become familiar with their habits, then send down a \$175,000 Hellfire missile and scatter bits of their corpses all over their backyards.

It's a curious form of combat. Prior to detonation, the defeated party may not be aware he's engaged in a battle. He may not even be eligible for elimination. When foreign armies are in your country, there are few more effective means of resolving disputes than denouncing your neighbor as a [fill-in-the-blank].

The victor, meanwhile, is unscathed. Physically, at least. At command levels the question is, can the mission be accomplished, or has that soldier been rendered unfit by the proverbial paper cut? Nor is the overall well-being of our drone operators likely to be a matter of great concern among members of our enlisted infantry. Fair enough. Considering who's at the upper end of their chain of command, they have more immediate concerns.

Eventually, though, barring intervention by World War Three or an Artificial Intelligence Armageddon, our hard-chargin' operators and chairbound warriors seeking relief from the moral injuries will have plenty of time to compare notes as they wait in line to make appointments to wait in another line. Last year the Bone Spur Administration eliminated 35,000 health care positions at the already-understaffed VA.

For what it's worth, the problem of what to do with morally-conflicted Reaper operators may have been partially solved for us—by our enemies. To better understand how, let's look to history. During World War Two, German U-boat commanders had what they called a "Happy Time." From January into August, 1942, they were able to range up and down our eastern seaboard virtually undetected. For every U-boat we sank, the Germans destroyed 27 of our ships.

Now our Reapers "Happy Time" seems to be over. Those tea-totalling Iranians sounded "Last Call" when they down more than a dozen of them. That represents an investment of

\$200 million, enough to have built four hospitals, if we'd heeded the advice given 73 years ago by the guy who took Normandy away from the Nazis:

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. . . . This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

The Reapers are but a drop in the Department of Macho Posturing's bottomless bucket. Recently three F-15E Strike Eagles were shot down over Kuwait—by our allies, no less—during Operation Epic Futility. The crews reportedly ejected safely, but that's literally \$100 million up in smoke. Not to worry, though. We have a couple hundred more where they came from.

AWACs are a whole 'nother matter. During the peak of the Cold War, Boeing built sixty-eight of these ungainly rigs. Looking like a 707 hanging from a pancake, the E-3 Sentry was built to tote an Airborne Warning and Control System. Due to the high cost of maintenance, our inventory of them has since been greatly reduced.

Until recently we had 16 of these birds. Only eight or nine AWACs can be kept mission-capable at a time, though. Six of them were at the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia last Friday. Then, suddenly, there were five. An Iranian missile and drone attack took a massive bite out of one, right where the pancake used to be.

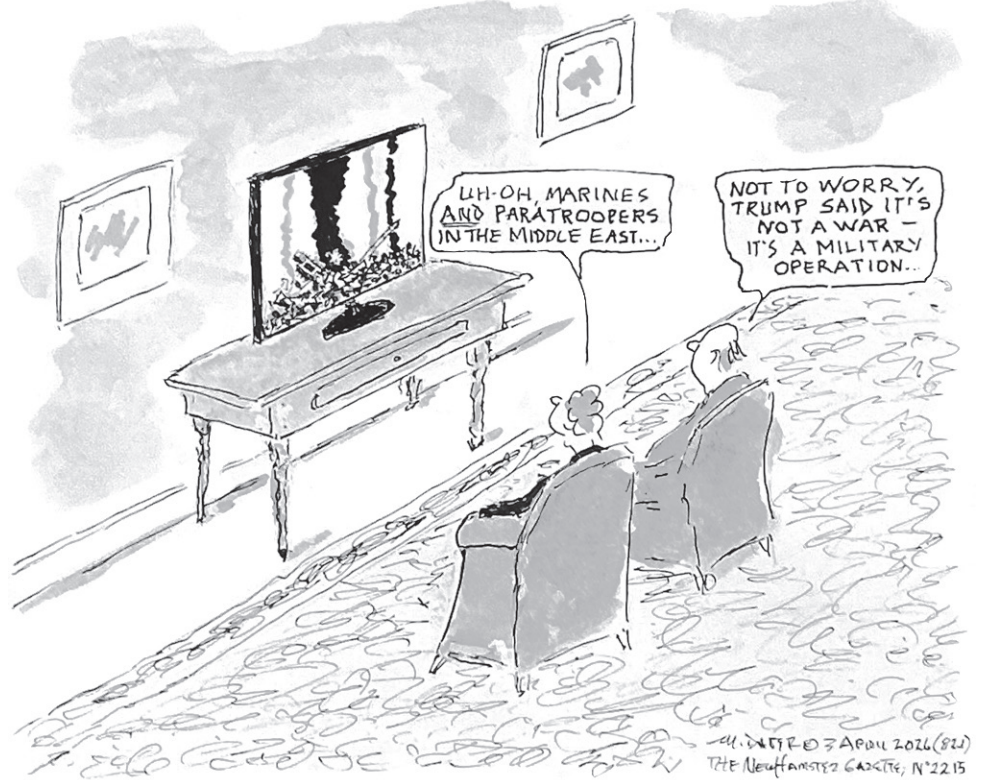
Naturally the Pentagon had a plan in the works to replace what seems in retrospect to have been a sitting duck. They have plans for everything except getting out of wars, and not getting into them in the first place.

A fleet of new and improved Boeing E-7 Wedgetails would have cost us roughly \$1 billion each. For a moment it seemed we might be spared that expense. A certain top-ranking official decided to take another route towards a safer world—straight up. His grandiose proclivities, though, and the name of this new whizbang, suggest we'll end up spending more, not less.

The Golden Dome option is Ronald Reagan's Star Wars dream brought to fruition: thousands of space-based weapons in low-earth orbit. (Just add AI and shazam: SKYNET!) Due to atmospheric drag and orbital decay, these killer satellites will require frequent replacement, exemplifying planned obsolescence.

While it has largely abandoned its Constitutional duties, Congress has retained its ability to shovel currency into the coffers of campaign donors. So, last November it allocated another \$400 million for the Wedgetail program. As the meme says, "Why not both?" So much profligate spending, so little space. We never even got to the USS *Ford*, the most expensive warship ever built, now sidelined by errant dryer lint.

Now our deadline fast approaches. It appears our optimistic hunch was right. Despite the lavish spread of big-boy toys before him, President Bombast, whose demeanor, as it cycles from soporific to agitated, screams frontotemporal dementia with a side order of pharmaceutical fog, has spared us to fret another fortnight. Hallelujah!



Trump's War Siphons \$100 Billion From Consumers' Pockets

by Jake Johnson

An analysis released Monday estimates that oil and gas price spikes driven by the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran have so far cost consumers and businesses around the world over \$100 billion—money that has flowed into the coffers of some of the wealthiest, most powerful fossil fuel companies on the planet.

The new analysis by *350.org* finds that, just over a month into the war, consumers and businesses have lost between \$104.2 billion and \$111.6 billion to rising oil and gas prices—an estimate that the environmental group acknowledges is likely conservative, given it doesn't account for "wider knock-on effects, such as rising fertilizer and food costs, declines in economic output and employment, or broader inflation driven by fossil fuel price volatility."

The more than \$100 billion, *350.org* said, "has been siphoned from ordinary people to oil and gas companies."

"On top of the incalculable suffering of families and communities torn apart by the war, ordinary people around the world are paying an extraordinary price through fossil fuel-driven energy spikes," said Anne Jellema, *350.org's* chief executive. "Over \$100 billion has gone straight into the pockets of fossil fuel companies, while families struggle to afford energy and basic necessities."

"The case for windfall taxes," Jellema added, "has never been clearer."

The analysis was published as global oil prices rose again following a weekend missile attack on Israel by Yemen's Houthis and Trump's threat to "take the oil in Iran," signaling another potential escalation in a war that has already killed thousands, sparked an appalling humanitarian crisis, and destabilized the global economy.

One key beneficiary of the chaos is the fossil fuel industry, which is set to reap billions in windfall profits thanks to rising oil and gas prices. Reuters reported late last week that analysts covering Chevron, Shell, and Exxon-Mobil have significantly raised earnings estimates for the fossil fuel giants in response to war-fueled price surges.

"U.S. shale producers and other companies without major operations in the Middle East should gain the most, benefiting from higher prices without costs associated with shut-in production, stranded tankers, or expensive re-

pairs to war-hit facilities," Reuters noted. "Still, executives said the big profits will probably not boost their planned capital spending on new production."

Earlier this month, Democratic lawmakers in the U.S. Congress introduced legislation that would impose a windfall profit tax on large American oil companies and return the money to consumers in the form of quarterly rebates. The bill stands no realistic chance of getting through the Republican-controlled Congress, which is awash in Big Oil campaign cash.

"American consumers are once again getting squeezed at the gas pump as President Trump's war of choice in Iran sends gas prices soaring and money flowing to his Big Oil donors," said U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), the bill's lead sponsor in the Senate. "We should send any big windfall for Big Oil back to the hardworking people who paid for it at the gas pump."

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

- Isaac J. Stern, a preacher of bad repute of Leavenworth, Kan., has been sentenced to imprisonment at Indianapolis, Ind., for vagrancy.
- Ten more of the "boodler" aldermen of New York's board of 1884 were arrested on the 13th inst.
- Colored citizens of several southern cities contemplate organizing a base ball league. The idea originated in Jacksonville, Fla.
- Another of the New York aldermen, W.H. Miller, has been arrested at Palatka, Fla.
- Judge Birdsall, proprietor of the Hartford, Ct. *Telegram*, has had two reporters, Fletcher and Carlin, arrested on a civil process.
- An invalid named Valentine Kinsler committed suicide at Albany, N.Y., on Monday, with rough on rats.
- About seventy-five of Geronimo's band of Indians are on the way to Fort Mason, Fla., from Fort Bowie, Ari., in [the] charge of United States soldiers.
- The London Socialists, Burns, Hyndman, Champion, and Williams, charged with start-

New Trump Rule Would Let Private Equity, Crypto 'Endanger Retirement Savings of Millions'

by Jake Johnson

U.S. President Donald Trump's Labor Department on Monday unveiled a proposal that would welcome private equity and cryptocurrency investments into Americans' 401(k) plans, the culmination of an aggressive Wall Street lobbying push that could leave the retirement savings of millions vulnerable to the wild swings of so-called "alternative assets."

The proposed rule, now subject to a public comment period, was issued at the direction of a Trump executive order from last year that was characterized at the time as "the holy grail for private equity."

In addition to giving employers a green light to include private equity and crypto investments in 401(k) plans offered to workers, the new rule would establish a "safe harbor" allowing retirement account administrators to avoid legal action from employees who believe their funds were steered into excessively risky products.

"The legal immunity created by this safe harbor will incentivize financial advisers to pitch these toxic products, which will become ticking time bombs in tens of millions of retirement accounts, which will no doubt result in significant losses,"

warned Benjamin Schiffrin, director of securities policy at the advocacy group Better Markets. "There are good reasons why 401(k) plans have been considered closed to private markets and cryptocurrencies, and those reasons have not changed. The only thing that has changed is the administration's support for these industries and regulators' willingness to do their bidding."

"This is no reason to endanger the retirement savings of millions of Americans," Schiffrin added.

Oscar Valdés Viera, senior policy analyst at Americans for Financial Reform, similarly warned that "opening 401(k)s to these products risks turning workers' retirement savings into a Ponzi-like scheme that throws a lifeline to an industry scrambling for fresh cash."

"This isn't about advancing the interests of retirement savers, it is about opening a new profit center for crypto and Wall Street," said Viera. "Retirement savers should not be bailing out these high-risk industries and subsidizing the Wall Street and crypto billionaire class."

"Private equity firms should not get a free pass to loot workers' 401(k)

retirement savings."

Americans currently hold over \$10 trillion combined in 401(k) plans, a huge trove of wealth that the private equity industry has been working for years to access. The Labor Department indicated that its proposed rule would apply to over 720,000 retirement plans covering roughly 118 million workers.

The American Prospect reported Tuesday that the managers of private equity firms are "already pressuring companies, third-party administrators, and the consultants who advise them to list their offerings" among workers' retirement plan options.

"One staffer at an institutional investor who is not authorized to speak to the media told the *Pros-*

pect about their primary worry: that private equity will stick their most overvalued companies into continuation funds exclusively for 401(k) plan holders, or 'retail investors,' as they are known," the outlet continued. "Private credit firms are retailing their funds for 401(k) plans as well, and some of the biggest have already struck deals with asset managers like Voya and Vanguard. I'd be shocked if the industry doesn't attempt to dump their garbage onto retail," the staffer said."

One recent analysis by the Private Equity Stakeholder Project (PESP) found that private equity funds for retail investors "dramatically underperformed publicly listed stock indexes" in 2025 while charging much higher fees.

Jim Baker, PESP's executive director, said Monday that "private equity firms should not get a free pass to loot workers' 401(k) retirement savings."

"The bar for including private equity in 401(k)s should be extremely high," said Baker. "Private equity

funds have lagged public markets while charging much higher fees, and public pension funds are pulling back from the asset class. Instead, this rule risks shifting more financial risk onto workers who rely on their retirement savings for long-term security."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) also ripped the Labor Department rule, saying in a statement that "Americans facing an uncertain future in Trump's economy will now have more reasons to question the security of their retirement savings—all so that Trump's Wall Street buddies have another pile of cash to play with."

"Anyone who cares about the financial security of working people," said Warren, "should oppose this proposed rule."

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Bannon Calls ICE at Airports a Good 'Test Run' for Midterms

by Brad Reed

Right-wing podcaster and former Trump White House political strategist Steve Bannon on Monday said that President Donald Trump's deployment of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to airports was a preview of what could be expected later this year at polling places across the country.

During a Monday episode of his "War Room" podcast, Bannon said that the Trump administration "can use what's happening with these ICE [agents] at the airports, we can use this as a test run, as a test case, to really perfect ICE's involvement in the 2026 midterm elections."

Bannon's guest, MAGA influencer Mike Davis, agreed that ICE should be sent to polling places during this year's midterms to ensure no undocumented immigrants are casting ballots.

"If you're an American citizen, you should be happy ICE is there," Davis said. "So you don't have illegal aliens canceling out your vote."

There is no evidence that undocumented immigrants vote in any significant numbers in U.S. elections.

As *The New York Times* reported in January, the Department of Homeland Security during Trump's second term has been conducting a wide-ranging review of voter reg-

istration data and so far has found almost no evidence of non-citizens voting in past elections.

"Out of 49.5 million voter registrations that have been checked, the department referred around 10,000 cases to Homeland Security Investigations for further investigation of noncitizenship, or roughly .02 percent of the names processed," reported the *Times*, which added that the administration didn't specify how many of the potential "illegal" voters had actually cast ballots in elections.

Even so, Bannon and other Trump allies have been floating sending ICE agents to serve as election monitors, even though they have no legal jurisdiction to do so.

In February, Bannon predicted that "we're gonna have ICE surround the polls come November,"

which many critics warned was a signal for a coming mass voter suppression campaign.

"This is a red alert moment," said U.S. Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) in the wake of Bannon's comments last month. "We have to start working to protect polling places from Trump's paramilitary ICE goons before it's too late."

Trump has also floated getting the U.S. military involved in elections, telling the *New York Times* in January that he regretted not ordering the National Guard to seize voting machines after his 2020 election loss to former President Joe Biden.

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Nearly four years ago, CSX took over the absurdly-named Pan Am Railways. The changes since are obvious. Under the former owner, hereditary rich kid and funder of nutso right-wing causes Timothy Mellon, maintenance was deferred to the point that, looking west from the Maplewood Avenue grade crossing, the old rails snaked sinuously into the sunset. Now, with new ballast and ties, the new rails are straight as a string. Naturally, a serious enterprise takes steps to protect such investments. While snooping around recently, our Wandering Photographer discovered that CSX has also added a new level of security: behold—the Rail Shark!

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

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ing the London riots, have been declared not guilty and discharged from custody.

• A few days ago Frank Endy, employed on a farm near Reading, Pa., was scratched on the hand by a cat, and Saturday night he died in great agony from blood poisoning.

• The easterly gale of Tuesday left the spire and vane of the Middle street

Baptist church in a very demoralized condition.

• The royal commission of Benning Wentworth, governor of the province of New Hampshire from 1741 to 1767, has recently been found in the Athenæum. It appears that it was deposited in that institution in 1827, enclosed in a box made expe-

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GOP May Kick 300,000 More Off Healthcare to Help Fund \$200 Billion for Trump's Iran War

by Jessica Corbett

“Republicans won't think twice about *literally* sacrificing you to get their way.”

That's how Democrats on the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee responded to Axios' Monday reporting on congressional Republicans considering more healthcare cuts to help fulfill President Donald Trump's request for \$200 billion to continue partnering with Israel for an unconstitutional war on Iran—including a potential ground invasion.

Other critics said:

“Is this America First?”

“You know who isn't (sic) losing their government subsidized healthcare over this war that their government started? Israelis.”

“Republicans would rather set money on fire than try to help a single American see a doctor.”

“Cutting healthcare to pay for another regime change war in the Middle East. It's like GOP want to lose in November.”

“Are they calling this strategy Project Blue Wave?”

“This should surprise no one: MAGA wants to pay for a war that no one wants by chipping away at your healthcare.”

Michael Hardaway, a geopolitical strategist who has worked for top Democrats, argued that they “must convert this into a House AND Senate majority in November,” noting that Republicans “took healthcare away from millions of Americans to pay for tax cuts for the one percent.”

That was last year, when congressional Republicans and Trump used the budget reconciliation process to pass their so-called One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Between \$1 trillion cuts to Medicaid over the next decade and failing to extend expiring Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits, the OBBBA is expected to strip healthcare coverage from up to 15 million Americans.

While the impacts of the OBBBA will play out over years, already, “in red states and blue states alike, Republican healthcare cuts are hitting communities like a wrecking ball,” Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) said last week, while releasing a related report with House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone Jr. (D-N.J.).

Wyden and Pallone found that over half of the people who reenrolled in an ACA plan this year have had to or plan to reduce spending on other essentials; at least 19 health facilities have closed across 11 states; and nearly 500 employees were laid off in four states because of the GOP's healthcare cuts last year.

“Despite attempts by Trump and his allies to cast blame elsewhere, the stories and facts are rolling in from across the country,” Wyden said. “Democrats will not stop elevating the voices of Americans whose health is in harm's way as a result of Republicans' healthcare cuts.”

One proposal that the GOP considered but ultimately did not include in the OBBBA related to ACA cost-sharing reductions.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the specific policy considered last year would save \$31 billion but leave 300,000 more Americans uninsured through 2034.

Reporting emerged last week that House Budget Committee Chair Jodey Arrington (R-Texas) wants to bring back the push for that policy. It quickly spurred criticism, with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) saying: “Republicans in Congress want to cut Americans' healthcare to pay for more war in Iran. Let that sink in.”

“Republicans ransacked \$1 trillion from Medicaid, and then they more than doubled premiums for over 20 million Americans in order to fund tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations,” Leslie Dach, chair of the advocacy group Protect Our Care, said in a statement last week. “Now, care for 15 million working Americans will be ripped away, nursing homes and hospitals are on the chopping block nationwide, and Americans are buried under skyrocketing healthcare hikes.”

“But that's not enough for Republicans who have been at war with working families' healthcare for decades—now they want to slash

healthcare even more to bankroll the war in the Middle East and to fund ICE, Trump's unaccountable, lawless paramilitary force,” Dach continued, referring to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. “The American people reject these Republican priorities and will make their voice known in November.”

Axios reported Monday on Arrington's preferred timeline for a new budget package: “60 to 90 days,” he said.

Arrington is also eyeing some potential changes to Medicare, which provides health insurance coverage to Americans age 65 and older, according to Axios:

One, known as “site-neutral” payments, would equalize payment across hospital outpatient facilities and doctors' offices. A second would crack down on what critics say is insurance company gaming of the Medicare Advantage system through “upcoding” of patients' medical conditions. Arrington expressed skepticism that either would be included, saying they'd open up “a false narrative that we're cutting Medicare.”

As for Medicaid, one of the programs attacked by the OBBBA, Arrington told the outlet that there is hesitancy “to open that back up,” but some policies considered in 2025

could be revived.

In a Monday statement, Democratic National Committee rapid response director Kendall Witmer called out Trump and Vice President JD Vance for past and possible future GOP healthcare cuts, accusing them of breaking their campaign promises.

“Donald Trump and Republicans already made the largest cuts to healthcare in history, causing healthcare costs to skyrocket for millions of Americans while billionaires and big corporations get massive tax cuts,” Witmer said. “Now, Republicans want to slash even more healthcare funding for working families to pay for their war with Iran.”

“After promising on the campaign trail to stop the endless wars, reduce the national debt, and lower costs,” Witmer added, “Trump and JD Vance have done the opposite: putting everyday Americans on the chopping block to wage their deadly and costly war of choice.”

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

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cially for it. It was placed in a drawer or alcove, and was known only to a few of the officials. It is in a perfect state of preservation, about thirty inches square, with a pendant seal of solid wax five inches in diameter. It will be framed and hung upon the walls of the reading room.

• It is claimed that a new kind of telephone has been invented which just knocks the Bell machine higher than a burnt boot. It comes just in time to save the Pan-electric crowd a deal of money.

• Twelve lawyers stood at the windows in the Circuit Court room recently watching a sparrow-hawk plucking the feathers from a sparrow which he had captured for his breakfast. The scene was very interesting to the lawyers. — *Warsaw (Va.) Herald.*

• “Some one in England has put the Salvation Army into a novel.” This must be an agreeable change for the army. Heretofore the rule seems to have been to put it into a

station-house. — *Norristown Herald.*

• Once upon a time a certain man got mad at the editor and stopped his paper. The next week he sold his corn four cents below market price. Then his property was sold for taxes because he didn't read the sheriff's sales. He was arrested and fined \$8 for going hunting Sunday. He then paid a big Irishman to kick him all the way to the newspaper office, where he paid for four years' subscription in advance, and made the editor sign an agreement to knock him down and rob him if he ever ordered his paper stopped again. Such is life without a newspaper — *Abilene (Tex.) Review.*

• Samuel Davidson of Corydon, Ind., failed to supply his family with enough wood to keep them warm. A lot of his neighbors seized him, the other evening, hitched him to a sled, and forced him to haul wood all night. When he lagged he was well whipped with limber switches.

• Patrick Sheehan, the old stand-by, for being drunk was fined \$5, and costs taxed at \$6.90. Brentwood.

William Clark, for a similar offence, was let off with a \$3 fine, and costs \$6.90. He, also, will sojourn at Brentwood.

• Capt. Cheney's gondola, the *Hard-chance*, was on the flats at Noble's island Tuesday receiving a coat of paint.

• Mrs. E. Whitcomb of Monroe, N.H., committed suicide on Saturday last by taking Paris green.

• Tobias Garvin of Rollinsford, a farmer who sends milk to Boston every morning from the Salmon Falls station, was knocked down on Sunday last by a bundle of newspapers thrown from the newspaper train as it was rushing past, and had his collar-bone broken besides other injuries.

• What astonishes the pension bureau is that there are now on the rolls the names of 17,212 women, widows of soldiers of the war of 1812.

The New Hampshire Gazette

April 15, 1886

• The [8th] Earl of Shaftsbury shot

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Their outrage unabated, thousands of local citizens joined millions of other Americans in one of about 3,000 “No Kings” rallies held around the country on Saturday, March 28th. What things were they protesting? “Too many to fit on one sign,” of course. Our Wandering Photographer offered this observation as his favorite: “A Felon Married To An Immigrant Is Telling Us That The Problem Is Immigrants & Felons.”

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

“Robert Mueller just died. Good, I'm glad he's dead.”

— President Donald Trump

“Some day the Earth will weep, she will beg for her life, she will cry with tears of blood. You will make a choice, if you will help her or let her die, and when she dies, you too will die.”

— Oglala Lakota chief John Hollow Horn (March 1850-March 15, 1913)

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National Vietnam Veterans Day!

Dear Alleged Editor & [Actual] Vietnam War Veteran,

I just learned that today (March 29th) is National Vietnam Veterans Day. According to the U.S. Department of Interior's Facebook page: "Today, on National Vietnam War Veterans Day, we honor the strength, service, and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans and their families. Their stories are etched into the landscapes we protect, places of memory, reflection, and healing."

I just now looked out my window, but I don't see any stories etched in the landscape around here. Moreover, I looked it up, and unless I want to go find a Mission BBQ restaurant, where they will give me a free sandwich, or go find a military PX, where I can apparently receive a free commemorative lapel pin, nobody seems to be honoring me in any tangible, practical, or useful way.

So WTF am I supposed to do with National Vietnam War Veterans Day? You got any good ideas?

Bill Ehrhart
formerly Sergeant, U.S.M.C.
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Dear Bill,
Roll it up and smoke it?

Seriously, we're concerned that your comments might play into the stereotype of "the ungrateful Nam vet." After what we've been through, that would be unfortunate. Let's recap.

First we were lured, in your case, or coerced, in ours, into a war to defend San Diego against rice farmers on the other side of a very wide ocean. Surprise, surprise! In a grand bait-and-switch, we'd been dragooned into a much larger crusade to defend capitalism. Our mission was, of course, a bloody failure, for which, for a time, we were blamed. It is well worth noting that, paradoxically, capitalism has somehow survived. After an indecent interval, we became useful pawns in a cynical ploy to rehabilitate warfare as a tool of empire; a service for which we were rewarded with an all-you-can-eat buffet of false consciousness. As intended, that perversion of history helped create whole new generations of veterans whose political salience has rendered us quaint and practically irrelevant.

But let us not be bitter. Instead, let us "Be Better," emulating the First Lady, whose husband created National Vietnam Veterans Day. After all, he has done us a great service, not once, but twice.

Back in the day, he spared us the burden of protecting his useless ass. Then, on March 28, 2017, he caused the words, "National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29," to be inserted into Section 6(d) of Title 4, U.S. Flag Code, which begins, "The flag should be displayed on all days, especially. . . ." A list of special days follows. Formerly there were eighteen, now there are 19.

Does that not fill your heart with gratitude?

The Editor

Draft Barron Trump

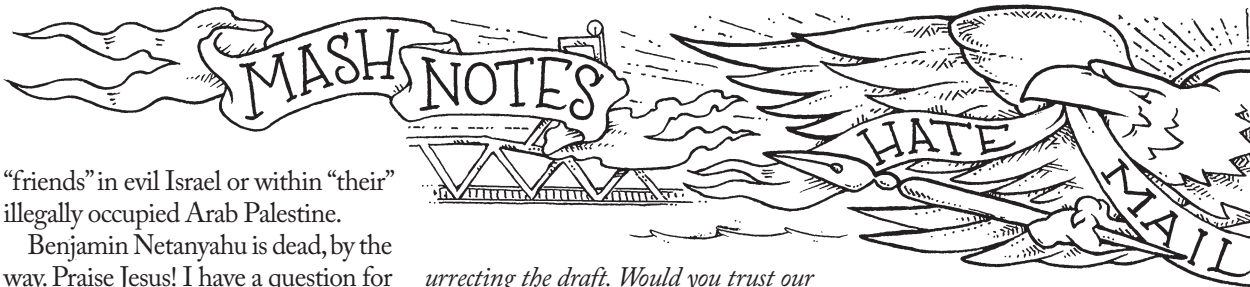
To the Editor:

Twenty-year-old Barron Trump is the latest of a long line of cowards going back to his great-grandfather Frederick who infamously fled Bavaria in order to dodge the German military draft at that time in 1885. Upon Frederick Trump's subsequent return in 1905, he was banished from Germany for life for cowardice.

This lunatic lineage, of course, includes Barron's brain-damaged father the demented Mad King Donald Trump himself with his five Vietnam War Era military draft deferments. Draft dodger Donald said he can't remember which foot he claimed to have his fake bone spurs in. What a liar! 25th Amendment time.

Pernicious Jewish supremacist "Israel Firsters" like psycho Stephen Miller (R-Santa Monica High School) and Lady Lindsey Graham (Closeted Homosexual Republican Senator-South Carolina) have cooked up a war that you don't want and have no rational reason to fight. How does this war benefit you personally?

This is a purposefully disastrous debacle in the Persian Gulf region to deflect from public attention on "The Diddler" Donald Trump's staggeringly sick, alleged sex crimes against numerous children detailed to a grotesque extent in the Epstein Files. Operation "Epstein Fury" must end immediately without delay or one unwanted word from our problematic, pro-pedophile



"friends" in evil Israel or within "their" illegally occupied Arab Palestine.

Benjamin Netanyahu is dead, by the way. Praise Jesus! I have a question for Israel Firsters. Are you alright with the "Jewish State" of Israel being henceforth internationally known for only two things in the 21st Century: mass murder and pedophilia? What a cruel combination of attributes for God's former "Chosen People." Let's be brutally honest about the horrifically homicidal nature of Jewish supremacy, shall we? Jesus was.

Jesus Christ called it "The Synagogue of Satan" for good reason, as you may recall from Revelation 3:9 and your hometown church. New Testament Jesus was never one to pull his rhetorical punches against evil and greed. Israel is an idiotic fascist popsicle stand with illegal nukes and ridiculous religious zealots whose failed philosophy of the far-Right in Tel Aviv is doomed to total defeat and retreat due to Israel's unavoidable reliance on the unofficial, counterproductive military "alliance" with America, which will be coming to an inglorious end sooner rather than later if American voters have anything to say about it officially in the next couple of scheduled biennial national elections.

Just another reason why deranged Donald Trump the wannabe dictator is desperately attempting to cancel the midterm election this November for Congress, state, and local offices. (Trump will of course fail, like usual.) End this war, folks, then no more money for child-molesting Israeli war criminal thieves ever.

Jake Pickering
Arcata, Calif.

Jake:

Come on, Jake—tell us how you really feel. In our opinion, drafting Barron would literally be a huuge mistake. As noted above, his father would have been a liability in a war zone due to his unique blend of personality disorders. His last-born son would be equally unsuitable, for a different reason. Do you really want to make some poor son-of-a-bitch serve alongside a six-foot-nine-inch bullet magnet? Also, your proposal would require res-

urrecting the draft. Would you trust our current crop of yahoos with that power?

We did not, in fact, "recollect" Revelation 3:9, so we looked it up. Sure enough, it's a legit excerpt from the Bible. Here's the King James version: "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

The Editor

Who Are the Terrorists?

To the Editor:

Let me state this clearly. I believe Bibi Netanyahu and Donald Trump are terrorists and war criminals.

They both have used extreme violence to cause fear in people, including mostly civilians, in their attempts to change the map of the Middle East regarding Lebanon, Syria, Iran, and possibly Jordan and even Yemen. It should be obvious that Netanyahu wants to acquire more land to achieve what the early Zionists sought, the creation of a "Greater Israel."

For the convicted felon and supreme grifter, his goal is also to acquire land, Gaza for example, to build more luxury hotels and make the beaches of Gaza a new resort for the wealthy of the world.

Both have issued orders to their militaries to bomb Iran in their efforts to punish Iran for its "terrorism." As the late Howard Zinn said, "How can you have a war on terrorism when war itself is terrorism?" Will Israel and America's use of weapons of mass destruction "end terrorism?" I think not, as it seems to me that there will be "blowback" from such hostile actions.

We already know about the terrible killing of over 150 young Iranian girls in a school but let us remember that it is estimated that perhaps as many 20,000+ children in Gaza have been murdered by Israel with the assistance of Biden and Trump's bombs and missiles.

Finally, as Professor Zinn commented, "There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent

people." Agreed, and I hope you do, too.

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

Will:

You'll get no argument on this matter from us. Not only is Bibi guilty of conducting genocide in Gaza, he's on trial for corruption. The war may be all that's keeping him out of the slammer. Last December he had the gall to ask for a pardon. Our own Dear Leader may do him one better by pardoning himself.

The Editor

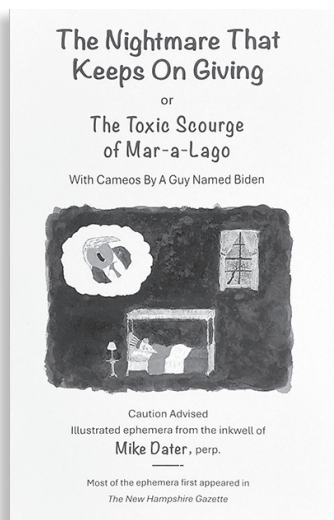
Hegseth Ignorant of Scouting America

Open Letter to Secretary Hegseth:

It has been reported that the Pentagon has made a deal with Scouting America that maintains the partnership between these two organizations. While details of the deal have only been partially disclosed, I am suspicious that this deal is meant to destroy the current mission/vision of Scouting America to exclude girls entirely. Your attempt to rewrite this mission seems to be based only on your personal views and would do a great disservice to Scouting America. This organization should be congratulated for providing equal opportunities for all scouts. After a few rough years of controversy, Scouting is now welcoming boys and girls since 2019, and allowing LGBTQ youth and adult leaders to be part of Scouting.

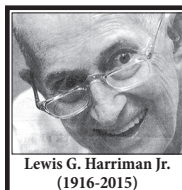
As an Eagle Scout with a family history of scouting going back 80 years, I am proud of the transition that Scouting CEO Roger Krone has facilitated. My father was a Boy Scout in Hungary in the 1930s attending many jamborees in Europe. The Order of World Scouting started in the UK in 1911, and had a mission statement much like Scouting America which reads: "prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime and instill in them values such as responsible citizenship and self-reliance" among others. The scouting movement was not planned to be

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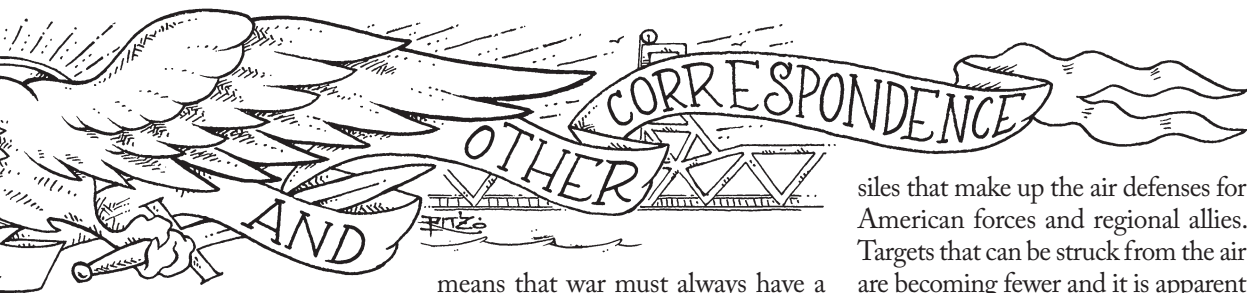
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a pipeline for any country's military, but instead attempted to foster peace among nations.

When my family came to America as refugees, my father soon joined a local boy scout troop as an assistant scoutmaster. That is why I also became involved in scouting and reached the rank of Eagle Scout in 1963. I still believe in the values of Scouting, e.g., honesty and respect.

Unfortunately, Mr. Secretary, I do not see you or President Trump modeling these values to young people today. That is why I urge Mr. Krone not to compromise the values of his organization that have made scouting such a valuable experience for boys and girls in our country.

Dr. Peter Somssich, Eagle Scout
Portsmouth, N.H.

Cc: Mr. Roger Krone,
CEO Scouting America

Peter:

Congratulations on having achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. We never made it past Cub Scout. Somehow the nebulousity of Webelos derailed us.

Nevertheless, we have retained enough respect for the organization to have been horrified when, on July 24, 2017, while addressing that year's Jamboree, the President of the United States said, "Who the hell wants to talk about politics... in front of the Boy Scouts?" Then, because his dementia was already showing, more than eight years ago, he proceeded to talk politics in front of the Boy Scouts.

The Editor

Trump Didn't Do His Homework? No!

To the editor:

Carl von Clausewitz was a Prussian general who fought in the Napoleonic Wars but is better known as an eminent author on military strategy. His book *On War* is still a basic part of the curriculum wherever strategy courses are taught. His commentary provides a penetrating critique of Trump's Iran War.

One of Clausewitz' most repeated quotes is "War is the continuation of policy by other means." By this, he

means that war must always have a clear political goal, and military strategy must be subordinated to specific political objectives. Without a clearly defined aim, the conflict becomes focused entirely on combat operations leading to an endless war. Neither Trump nor Secretary of Defense Hegseth has been able to articulate what their war is intended to achieve. If it was to decapitate Iranian leadership and accomplish regime change, it hasn't worked. The Ayatollahs and Revolutionary Guard seem to be deeply entrenched in Iran and continue to control the population. It is unclear how continued air strikes alone would dislodge current leadership.

Clausewitz discusses at length the concept of "friction," which refers to unexpected factors that actual warfare generates to impede progress toward goals. It explains why the reality of war is always different from what was planned. The most brilliant plans of generals are always subject to unforeseen realities. The ability of the Iranians to shut down the Strait of Hormuz is a "friction" that was apparently discounted by the Administration's war planners. Despite overwhelming U.S. air superiority and a series of devastating attacks, the Iranian leadership has successfully disrupted shipping through the strait causing a global economic upheaval. While customers of mid-east oil suffer shortages and rapidly rising energy prices, Iran continues to ship oil to China thereby ensuring a source of revenue to aid its war efforts.

The Iranian strategy of using their strategic leverage over Hormuz has shifted the focus of the war from a military to an economic encounter that may give Iran the long-term advantage. All military offensives eventually reach a point of diminishing returns after which they can no longer be justified (Clausewitz calls this the "culminating point"). There are signs that the U.S. offensive is reaching this point. Despite protestations to the contrary, it appears that the U.S. is running out of the sophisticated mis-

siles that make up the air defenses for American forces and regional allies. Targets that can be struck from the air are becoming fewer and it is apparent that air strikes alone have been ineffective in eliminating Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium and their supply of low-tech drones and missiles which they can easily use to attack shipping in the Strait. Meanwhile, global economic distress will build sentiment for ending the war, especially among the sixty percent of American voters who view the war negatively.

Trump faces difficult decisions regarding his imprudent war. He is faced with quickly finding an offramp which Iran has not been willing to provide or escalating the war by putting American boots on the ground to secure the Hormuz strait. This is an escalation fraught with danger. Invasion of Kharg Island, the Iranian port for shipping oil, would place American troops in a shooting gallery for Iranian drones and missiles and would undoubtedly cause significant casualties. To secure the entire Iranian coast from Hormuz would require thousands of ground troops and still not guarantee safety for shipping from easily concealed drones or pick-up trucks carrying short-range missiles. Additionally, Americans who already disapprove of the war would likely recoil at the reports of U.S. casualties that would result from an invasion.

Trump finds himself between a rock and a hard place in Iran that is entirely a result of his arrogant impetuosity. He has started a war that he does not know how to get out of. The tragedy is that his ego has caused enormous damage at a huge cost both in economic terms but, more importantly, in needless loss of American and Iranian lives. Meanwhile, lickspittle Republicans in Congress double down on Trump's incompetence through their support of a misguided war.

Robert D. Russell, PhD.
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

Let us not forget what set this calamitous sequence of events in motion: eight years ago this May 8th, El Genio Es-tablished tore up the Iran nuclear deal.

The Editor

War in the Middle East!

To the Editor:

On one side is a country that unwittingly elevated an unhinged tyrant into office by popular demand, who then handed the reins of power to a fringe minority of extremists, hellbent on refashioning society into a draconian dystopia governed by a cult that worships a hateful God and ostracizes all those who refuse to submit to its corrupt feudal oligarchy, arresting, and even murdering, people in the streets for exercising their fundamental rights of assembly and political expression—a country where cadres of secret police, employing ruthless tactics, roam neighborhoods, rounding up targeted minorities and dissenters, and imprisoning them without trial—a country which arms its proxies in the region with weapons of terror to indiscriminately kill innocent civilians while seeking to exterminate disfavored ethnic enclaves and their protectors—a country which boasts of the power to wipe out any who oppose it, even floating veiled threats of nuclear conflagration in the course of proselytizing a heretical, fiery apocalypse in which only its chosen survive.

And on the other side, there is Iran. Theodore Bosen
Berlin, N.H.

Theodore:

May we take this to mean that your personal views do not necessarily align with certain Administration policies?

The Editor

Imagine...

Dear Editor:

Imagine a nation at war doing the following to give aid and comfort to their enemy:

Removing oil sanctions, in place since 1979, thus giving your enemy, Iran, \$14 billion in oil sales revenue to help them fight us? That is more than eight times the \$1.7 billion of Iran's money that Obama released in 2016, in exchange for a verifiable 15-year nuclear reductions and restrictions agreement. Funds that were Iran's, and which the International Court was about to order we repay.

Trump stated in a 2018 tweet that

he has, "Never gotten over the fact that Obama was able to send \$1.7 Billion Dollars in CASH to Iran and nobody in Congress, the FBI or Justice called for an investigation!" Trump later stated that the 2016 Iran payments, referring to them as "terror money," would find their way to terrorists. How much of the \$14 billion the Trump administration has given to Iran will "find its way to terrorists?" How much of it will be used to kill American service members?

Trump has also de-sanctioned Russia, now reaping billions of dollars' worth of oil and gas revenues, thereby aiding our enemy Iran with intelligence and weapons, as well as fighting our ally Ukraine?

Not since Reagan sold weapons, including Hawk anti-aircraft missiles, to Iran—directly contravening the U.S. government's stated policy of not negotiating with terrorists, and violating a U.S. arms embargo against Iran—has our government given such aid and comfort to our enemies. If an American citizen or business did this, they would rightfully be prosecuted. In an interview, Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) stated, "Every single day, this war makes less and less sense. We're going to give Iran \$14 billion to fund this war with the United States, we're going to give Russia billions of dollars to fund their war with Ukraine. We're literally putting money into the pockets of the very nations we're fighting right now." I wonder if this was part of the excellent planning that was considered in preparing for this war?

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

You're making us nostalgic for the days of our youth, when the theatre of the absurd was confined to theaters.

The Editor

Who Will Trump Blame For His Failure?

To the Editor:

President Trump has gone from bragging that he had already won the war with Iran to begging China, France, the UK, South Korea, and now NATO to send warships to open the

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from previous page

Strait of Hormuz. Iran has prevented ships from safely passing through the Strait, stopping the flow of 20 percent of the world's oil.

Why beg for help? Is our navy not equipped to do the job? If it is not, then Trump should not have started this war. If it is, then Trump wants to sacrifice the lives and ships of other countries who were not involved in this fight instead.

Trump and his incompetent Secretary of Defense thought they could drop a few bombs, kill Iran's leadership, declare victory, and leave. They thought Iran did not have a vote. It did. It has proved it can stop traffic through the strait without a navy or air force or million-dollar weapons and the U.S. cannot stop them with a navy, air forces and million-dollar weapons.

Trump never admits he is wrong. He will try to find a scapegoat. Blaming Biden won't work. Nor will blaming NATO or China. He may resort to blaming Israel.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

You say Trump "may resort" to blaming Israel. We won't argue that Bibi "made him do it," but he's certainly been shoving Trump in that direction. And Israel apparently determined the timing of the attack. Our closest ally in the Middle East is hardly innocent in this debacle.

There can be no good outcome from this self-imposed catastrophe. The best we can hope for is something from the less-worse menu.

Whatever the outcome, we can't see Trump mustering the personal courage to criticize Israel. More likely he'll call anything short of nuclear armageddon a "win."

The Editor

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Donald and Bibi's Excellent Adventure
To the Editor:

If you are waiting for the administration to address "affordability," you

may have a long wait. Prices may be higher for a long time.

The president failed to notify Congress before attacking Iran. He has not yet explained the goals of the war to our allies or the American people. After years of threatening and belittling our NATO allies, Trump is outraged by their refusal to help him deal with consequences of his Mideast adventure. He rages against their failure to clear the Strait of Hormuz for shipping traffic. He forgets that NATO is a mutual defense pact, not an agreement to wage war at the behest of one member.

These failures are a result of the president's inability to plan for consequences of his actions and to recognize that others have agency. Trump now claims he planned for a disruption in shipping traffic and that the resulting rise in energy prices "won't be that bad," will be short-lived, and a "small price to pay" for the war.

Unfortunately, the rise in energy prices will continue, as energy production is curtailed by the war. It will take weeks, perhaps months, to restart production and restart refineries. Prices will continue to rise because energy prices affect the cost of almost everything.

Trump brags he "won" his war in the "first hour" and can "end" it "whenever he wants." If so, why is he requesting \$200 billion to finance an extended war?

Lorraine L. Hansen
Rollinsford, N.H.

Lorraine:

Not content to let our fantastically expensive military-industrial complex sit tight at the 800-plus bases it maintains worldwide—idling, spewing more carbon into the atmosphere than any other entity on Earth—our Executive Branch has violated the Constitution to jam up the global oil supply. There's a time-bomb under the global economy, and Congress is twiddling its thumbs.

The Editor

Washington Has Nothing To Offer Cuba

by Richard M. Balzano

The Trump regime is itching to invade Cuba. Rambling to the press, Trump claimed it would be an "honor" to "take Cuba," adding, "Whether I free it, take it, I think I could do anything I want with it." Secretary of State Marco Rubio has called to topple Cuba throughout his career, and recently Texas Senator Ted Cruz called this "the most promising time in our lifetime to see the communist regime fall," suggesting that intervention and foreign investment will transform it into an "island paradise."

With no sense of irony, these would-be liberators' recent oil embargo has manufactured a humanitarian crisis. Prior to this escalation, Cuban society was managing comparatively well despite the 64-year U.S. economic war—which begs the question: how do you "liberate" a nation from a government that meets its citizens' needs better than the alleged liberators?

In December 1956, 80–90 revolutionaries landed in Cuba aboard the barely seaworthy *Granma*. Two years later, the U.S.-backed Batista regime was gone. Fidel Castro's government nationalized foreign holdings from giants like United Fruit, Standard Oil, and Goodyear. Contrary to popular myth, compensation was offered—at the rates those companies had previously undervalued for tax purposes. American capital declined the offer, and Washington launched the embargo that still strangles the island today.

That embargo outlived the Cold War. Despite brief thawing under Obama, it remains entrenched—propped up by Florida electoral politics and Cuban-American hostility. Since 1992, the UN General Assembly has voted annually to condemn it (save the COVID-interrupted 2020 session). The consistent defenders? The U.S. and Israel, with occasional backup from right-wing populists and aid-dependent allies.

Worth noting is that the Rubio and Cruz families did not flee the Castro government—they fled the Batista regime that preceded the Revolution.

Trump claims Cuban-Americans can return after he "takes" the island. In reality, Cuba has allowed expats to return since the 1980s. Americans, meanwhile, were largely barred by their own government from visiting for decades under threat of fines

and prosecution. Trump reinstated travel restrictions that had been relaxed under Obama.

The Revolution endures—not as a moment, but a process. If Rubio and Cruz want to "liberate" Cuba, it's fair to compare Cubans' alleged suffering with the state of affairs in their home states.

Start with healthcare. Cuba's universal system has improved outcomes despite the embargo. Life expectancy rose from 62 in 1959 to 79.5 in 2025. By comparison: Texas 76.5 (2020), Florida 77.5 (2022), U.S. 79 (2024). Infant mortality fell from 60–70 per 1,000 in 1959 to 4.2 in 2024; Texas sits at 5.83, Florida 6.10, U.S. 5.61. Cuba has 9.5 doctors per 1,000 people; Texas has 2.3, Florida 2.7. Medical debt burdens 10.7 percent of Texans and 8.7 percent of Floridians. In Cuba, healthcare is a human right. In the U.S., it's a business opportunity—and the leading cause of bankruptcy.

Cuban society is safer. In 2021, its homicide rate was 4.8 per 100,000; Florida hit 5.0 and Texas 6.7. Homelessness? Florida has over 31,000 (134 per 100,000), Texas over 50,000 (166 per 100,000). Cuba, by contrast, has near-zero homelessness, the eighth-highest homeownership rate worldwide, and treats housing as a human right. Neither Texas nor Florida faces foreign economic siege, yet 16.6 percent of Florida's children and 18.4 percent of Texas's live in poverty—roughly 1 in 5.

Education tells a similar story. Cuban literacy rose from ~76 percent in 1959 to 99.8 percent at present. In the U.S., 21 percent of adults (about 43 million) are functionally illiterate, and 54 percent read at or below a sixth-grade level. Florida ranks 48th in literacy at 80.3 percent, Texas 47th at 81 percent.

"But Americans have democracy?" So do Cubans—it just looks different. Cubans cannot "vote away" the Communist Party any more than Americans can vote away two-party hyper-capitalism. Cuban candidates undergo state vetting; American candidates require approval from billionaire donors and AIPAC. Systemic change isn't on the ballot in either system, though many Americans still fall for the illusion (delusion?) of choice. The difference is that one system prioritizes social welfare, while the other installs anti-homeless spikes on public benches. Americans might consider that our corrupted system is hardly the benchmark with which to measure, legitimize or delegitimize others.

Globally, the contrast sharpens. U.S. sanctions have contributed to

about 38 million deaths since 1970, and physical interventions are responsible for 10–15 million more. Despite the embargo, Cuba aided anti-colonial struggles and helped defeat U.S.-backed apartheid South African forces in Angola—a contribution Nelson Mandela never forgot. Symbolically, Mandela remained on a U.S. terror watch list until 2008.

Where Washington sends bombs, Cuba sends doctors. It has deployed 600,000+ healthcare workers to 160+ countries, and currently fields 20,000+ in 50+ nations. Rubio has pressured countries like Honduras, Jamaica, and Guatemala to expel these missions—cutting off care for millions.

Cuba is criticized for political repression and limits on expression, but American critics throw stones from glass houses. American police killed over 1,250 citizens last year, 98 percent of whom were unarmed. The U.S. leads the world in incarceration—both aggregate and per capita. Texas boasts the largest for-profit prison system, and Florida's is rapidly expanding with nearly 14 percent of inmates in private facilities. These systems operate with quotas that law enforcement obliges. Cuba's incarceration rate is lower than both states, and its prisons emphasize rehabilitation. From 1976–2024, Florida executed 105 prisoners; Texas, 591—including a man with an IQ of 61. Cuba hasn't executed anyone since 2003 and maintains a moratorium. Protest repression remains routine practice in the U.S., and nonviolent protesters in Texas were recently convicted on charges of "terrorism." The worst human rights abuses on Cuban soil take place at Guantanamo Bay.

American liberals often cite Cuba's past repression of LGBT people. Fair—but Texas and Florida criminalized sodomy until 2003. Today, Cuba has recognized same-sex marriage since 2022 with full rights, including adoption. In Texas and Florida, private adoption agencies can still refuse gay couples, and anti-discrimination protections remain patchy. It should be noted that while sodomy was illegal in Texas, bestiality was not—Texan men were free to fornicate with farm animals, but not each other. That's an interesting take on freedom.

By most metrics, Cubans enjoy better public services, and social and economic rights than their northern neighbors. What Texas and Florida do have is extreme inequality. No Cuban is rich enough to buy an election—or to profit from the suffering of others. Perhaps that's the "freedom" Washington has in mind.

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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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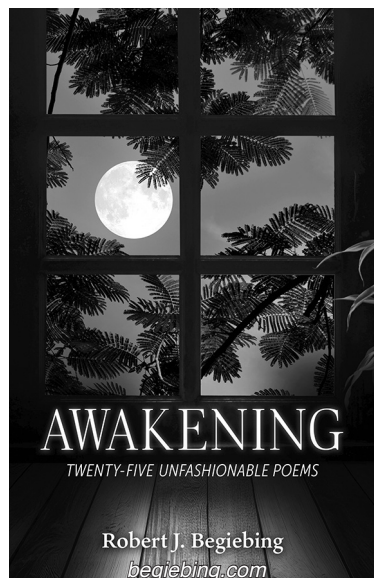
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My father, the KC-135, and me

by Ed Palm

If you have been keeping up with the war news, you know that our first major setback was the crash of a KC-135 jet tanker, killing all of the six crew members aboard. Not to make light of that tragedy, but the airplane itself—the KC-135—has long held a special place in my heart. It was on a KC-135 that I once chanced to have an impromptu flying lesson.

In July of 1966, my absentee Air Force officer father invited me up to his duty station at the time—the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He wanted me to get to know him better and to make his case for why he and my mother split up when I was two. (The whole time I was growing up I saw him maybe three times.) He also wanted me to meet my half-siblings and his second wife. I was a snuffly at the time, a mere Marine lance corporal. He was a lieutenant colonel and a pilot in the Strategic Air Command. Pardon the pun, but the high point of the trip was when my father got permission to take me along on a training flight in a KC-135A jet tanker.

I was in a jump seat in the cockpit—enjoying the view of the setting sun on Lake Superior—when the co-pilot summoned me forward, had me put on a set of headphones, and motioned for me to sit in his seat. He actually had me take the yoke and proceeded to coach me in how to go in to and out of 15-degree banks without losing or gaining altitude. He told me I did well at it, and I chose to believe him.

Again, that was in 1966—60 years ago—and I was astounded to learn the KC-135 is still the standard jet tanker of the Air Force, flown by regular, reserve, and Air National Guard units alike. I've read that most of the B-52 jet bombers now in service are older than the pilots flying them. I have to wonder if the same is true of the KC-135s still being flown.

During that heady flying lesson, I noticed an emblem in the middle of the yoke designating the plane as a Boeing 707. My father later told me the KC-135 is indeed a modified 707, and this plane reportedly went out of production in 1991. Today's KC-135 air frames can't be as old as that, can they?

What I have since learned about the recent crash also gives me pause. At first, we were told the plane was on a "combat mission," but that the crash was "not a result of hostile or friendly fire." Later, we were told a second KC-135 was involved in the same mission and that it landed safely. And only recently has the Air Force revealed that the second plane was involved in an "incident" with the downed KC-135. Is "incident" Air-Force-speak for a collision?

The website *AeroTime* has since published a photo of that second KC-135, which landed safely at Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport. The plane's horizontal stabilizer is damaged, and the letters "AFRC" are visible on it—signifying the plane was assigned to the Air Force Reserve Component. There is also a Beale Air Force Base decal on the stabilizer. Beale is home to the 940th Aerial Refueling Wing—a component of the Air Force Reserve. And three of the dead did belong to the 121st Aerial Refueling Wing—an Ohio Air National Guard Unit. They were on the KC-135 that crashed. It also belonged to the Air Force Reserve's 940th Aerial Refueling Wing. They must have been temporarily assigned to the 940th.

All this makes me wonder about the wisdom and the efficacy of our total-force dependence on reserve units and personnel. Granted, I don't know—we may never know—what caused this crash. But at the risk of ruffling some feathers, I'll pose this question: Are the training and maintenance standards of Air Force Reserve Component units every bit as sound as that of regular Air Force units? I have to believe reserve and National Guard pilots, in general, do not get as much flying time as regular Air Force pilots.

You Air Force pilots, past and present, out there: Correct me if I'm wrong here. I owe it to my father to keep an open mind about this.

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A former enlisted Marine and a Vietnam veteran, Ed Palm retired from the Marine Corps as a major and went on to an academic career. He lives in Forest, Virginia, and can be contacted at majorpalm@gmail.com.
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Here's to the Cardinal Puff

My wife and I put out seeds to feed the little critters in our courtyard: wrens and juncos, mourning doves, squirrels, chipmunks, now and then a rabbit. This morning a cardinal.

That reminded me of Cardinal Puff, a drinking game we used to play on Okinawa back in 1968; I've no idea why that came to mind. I haven't thought of it in years, decades even, but there the memory was.

This was after Vietnam, but I still had time on my enlistment, so I got sent to Okinawa. Back then, Okinawa for a young enlisted man was something like the armpit of the universe: MPs everywhere, little to do off base but pay too much for drinks and hire prostitutes.

So we just stayed on base, where at the NCO Club, you could drink Heineken beer for 35 cents a pop. We went there every night, night after night after evening chow for three straight months: Fat Pat, Smitty, the Big Swede, and me, stayed each night 'til closing time, and drank to the Cardinal Puff, staggered back to the barracks, and the next night did it again.

It's what you do, or at least what we did after our little piece of that war was over, and we'd no idea what we'd done or what we were supposed to do with the rest of our lives.

Fifty-eight years later, I'm feeding seeds and nuts to little critters on a cold and snowy winter day, and here's a cardinal. And I can't resist the urge to ask out loud: "Is your name Puff?"

W.D. Ehrhart

Why Corporations Pay Millions for Executive Mediocrity

by Jim Hightower

Most people believe the American economy is being rigged by and for bankers, CEOs, and other superrich elites, because... well, because it is!

With their hired armies of law-makers, lobbyists, lawyers, and the like, they fix the economic rules so even-more of society's money and power flows uphill to them. Take corporate CEOs. While the economy is somewhere between a downer and devastating for most people, the CEO class made out like bandits, with each of the three top paid corporate honchos pocketing as much as a billion dollars in personal pay!

Are they geniuses, or what? What. All three of their corporations ended with big financial losses and declining value. So how can such mediocrity produce such lavish rewards? Simple—rig the pay machine.

Today's corporate system of setting compensation for top executives is a flimflam disguised as a model of management rectitude. On its face, it sounds good—"Pay for performance," it's called, meaning the CEO does well if the company does well.

But who defines "doing well?" The scam at most major corporations is that the standard of corporate performance the chief must meet to quality for a huge payday is set by each corporation's board of directors. Guess who they are? Commonly, board members are the CEO's handpicked brothers-in-law, golfing buddies, and corporate cronies. So, they set the bar for winning multimillion-dollar executive paychecks so low that a sack of concrete could jump over it.

Well, insist these flimflammers, corporate shareholders are the ultimate stopgap against CEO greed. These "owners" can just vote "no" on any executive pay they consider excessive. However, even "shareholder democracy" is rigged—corporate rules decree that votes by shareholders are merely "advisory," meaning top executives can simply ignore them, grab the money, and run. This system is fixed... and we need to break it!

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

himself dead in a cab in London on the 13th inst., leaving a widow, son and five daughters. [*In his father's lifetime... he was a disappointing heir apparent, constantly running up debts with his extravagant wife.*] — Wikipedia. *The 8th Earl of Shaftsbury held the title for just six months. His son the 9th Earl inherited the title at 15 and held it until his death in 1961, at the age of 91.* — The Ed.]

- One of the barbers who was arrested in Washington the other day for keeping his shop open on Sunday had employed a part of the day of rest in shaving President Cleveland.
- Four persons lay claim to several acres of land in the heart of St. Louis, worth millions of dollars. A Spanish grant is the ground of their claim.
- There are 2,000 tailors in Milwaukee who are about to strike.
- An Atlanta cow fell into a deep well, and her owner was unable to hoist her out, so he brought many loads of shavings from a neighboring planing mill and dumped them into the well. As fast as they fell the cow trampled them under her feet, and thus she came to the surface and

walked away.

- Charles D. Clark, editor of the Bath, Me., *Independent*, was assaulted on the streets of Bath on the 10th inst. by H.A. Huse, a prominent citizen. Shortly after, Clark was again attacked by E.P. Donnell, a member of the city council. The assaults grew out of an article published in the *Independent*.
- Will the disgraceful revelations in New York ever cease? The *Sun* has charged the editor of the *World* with eating cheese with a fork.
- The Oak Hill church, near McDade, Ill., was burned recently, and a man named Christian was tried and acquitted on a charge of setting it on fire. Sunday night last, while walking

with his wife, he was met by a mob and riddled with bullets.

- The salvation army propose to keep up the war on Satan until he is driven from this city. If the old buffer has any ear for music we should think he would scoot for Agamenticus at once on hearing some of the cornet playing they sometimes indulge in.
- The *Dover Democrat* says that "Suspicion points very strongly now towards Chas. Armstrong, ex-chief of police of Farmington, not only as the party who stole the gold watches from Safford's jewelry store, Farmington, and burglarized the safe at the railroad depot at Wolfeboro, but also as the murderous assailant of John D. Parshley of Rochester,

and the party who robbed Sander-son's drug store in the same town. It is said a stolen gun taken from a Farmington house has been traced to Great Falls, where it was sold by Armstrong."

- M. de Lesseps says the Panama canal will surely be open for the passage of vessels by 1889. [*His pronouncement was 28 years premature.* — The Ed.]

The New Hampshire Gazette
April 22, 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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Death to Rats,
Mice, Roaches, Water-Bugs, Beetles, Ants and all vermin. Hotels, dwellings and granaries cleared in one night. Safe to have round. No arsenic. **Parson's Exterminator 15c.** Mail 20c. **WEEKS & POTTER, Boston, Mass.** tj23

Smart Fish Don't Bite
new poetry by
W.D. Ehrhart
<https://tinyurl.com/5f82utt9>

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ADMIRAL FOWLE'S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

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

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

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

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

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

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

| SUNDAY, APRIL 5 | MONDAY, APRIL 6 | TUESDAY, APRIL 7 | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 | THURSDAY, APRIL 9 | FRIDAY, APRIL 10 | SATURDAY, APRIL 11 |
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| <p>2018—Revealed: a 30-year old report showing Shell knew in 1981 that burning oil was wrecking the climate.</p> <p>2014—Jack Kimball, ex-Chairman of N.H.'s GOP, calls upon Arizona's Sheriff Joe Arpaio to put President Obama "in an orange suit...and drag his butt out of that White House."</p> <p>2010—W.Va.'s non-union Upper Big Branch coal mine explodes, killing 29 miners. After a year in prison, its owner, Don Blankenship, will run for the U.S. Senate as a Republican.</p> <p>1995—Sen. Bob Smith [R-N.H.] presciently asks, "How do you stop an elephant if it goes berserk on the grounds of the Capitol?" Alas, his motion to ban pachyderms is defeated.</p> <p>1967—In Palo Alto, as Robert Jones' students embrace the Third Wave movement, others clamor to join.</p> <p>1962—A grand jury indicts LBJ crony Billie Sol Estes for selling fake mortgages on non-existent fertilizer tanks.</p> <p>1956—Victor Riesel, crusading labor columnist for N.Y.C. papers, virulently anti-racket and anti-communist, is blinded in a hired thug's acid attack.</p> <p>1955—The Farmers Home Administration announces it will begin issuing mortgages on home bomb shelters.</p> <p>1952—H. Hughes briefly shuts down MGM—all 11 movies in production are scripted by suspected commies.</p> <p>1943—The Bath-built U.S. destroyer <i>O'Bannon</i> defeats the Japanese sub <i>Ro-34</i> in close battle, partly by pelting its deck gunners with spuds.</p> | <p>2016—For each of the 29 miners killed in his explosive death trap, coal mine owner Don Blankenship is sentenced to serve 12.5 days in jail.</p> <p>2013—Vince McMahon's Hall of Fame for fake wrestlers inducts fake businessman Donald J. Trump.</p> <p>2009—A year before it blows up, BP's Deepwater Horizon gets relief from oppressive federal over-regulation.</p> <p>1992—Donald E. Harding gasps, moans, and makes obscene hand gestures for five minutes before dying in Arizona's gas chamber.</p> <p>1977—"If the president does it," Richard Nixon tells David Frost, "that means it's not illegal."</p> <p>1968—Bobby Hutton, 17, shirtless, hands up, surrenders. Oakland cops shoot him 10 times—he's a Panther.</p> <p>1967—Knocked overboard three miles off North Vietnam, U.S. sailor Doug Hegdahl is saved by fishermen. Two years later he's set free, having memorized details of 256 POWs.</p> <p>1954—"The time has come," says JFK, "for the American people to be told the truth about Vietnam."</p> <p>1917—Woodrow Wilson, the peace candidate, declares war on Germany.</p> <p>1909—Matthew Henson, Black sharecropper's son, is the first non-Inuit to set foot on the North Pole. Admiral Peary stays in the sled but later takes credit.</p> <p>1712—Twenty-three enslaved Africans revolt in New York, killing nine whites and injuring six others; 21 are eventually convicted and hanged.</p> | <p>2003—U.S. troops take Baghdad. It is a great victory.</p> <p>2003—SCOTUS reduces the <i>Exxon Valdez</i> settlement by 99% because punitive damages violate Exxon's rights.</p> <p>1990—Once and future Bush appointee John Poindexter is found guilty of multiple Iran/Contra felonies; he later wriggles free on appeal.</p> <p>1972—With a toy grenade and empty pistol, Nam vet Richard McCoy, Jr. hijacks a 727, then parachutes out the back with \$500K. McCoy, a National Guard chopper pilot, is arrested days later while searching for himself.</p> <p>1970—California's Governor Reagan announces his highly nuanced position on student demonstrations: "If it takes a bloodbath, let's get it over with."</p> <p>1967—In Palo Alto, Robert Jones tells his students that they've been part of an experiment in fascism, then screens a documentary about Nazis. [See 4/5.]</p> <p>1966—The U.S. discovers an H-bomb it had lost off the coast of Spain.</p> <p>1926—In Rome, Violet Gibson, 49, the tiny, frail, and deranged daughter of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, shoots Mussolini in the face.</p> <p>1922—Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall, a Republican, leases the federal Teapot Dome oilfield to his pal Harry Sinclair, who, coincidentally, loans Fall \$25,000.</p> <p>1860—Challenged by Rep. Roger Pryor [D-Va.], Rep. John F. Potter [R-Wisc.] proposes dueling with Bowie knives; Pryor's seconds decline.</p> | <p>2018—Fox "News" accidentally broadcasts a graphic showing results of a poll: Fox is the least-trusted network.</p> <p>1984—R. Nixon gripes, "It's the media's responsibility to examine the President with a microscope...but when they use a proctoscope, it's going too far."</p> <p>1974—Hank Aaron breaks Ruth's homer record; death threats ensue.</p> <p>1970—Defying bosses and their own leaders, Teamsters go on a wildcat strike. After 12 weeks it pays off big.</p> <p>1956—USMC recruits are marched into a Parris Island swamp for disciplinary purposes. Six of them drown.</p> <p>1952—With the steel industry adamantly opposing wage increases, Truman orders its nationalization.</p> <p>1947—Frederick von Hayek, Ludwig von Mises, Milton Friedman, et al. issue a manifesto at Mont Pelerin obfuscating their goal: neo-feudalism.</p> <p>1945—Allied planes hit a German ammo train next to a train full of prisoners going to Bergen-Belsen; 100s of survivors are shot trying to escape.</p> <p>1917—At the U.S. Embassy in Bern, future CIA head Allen Dulles gets a call from V.I. Lenin begging for an immediate meeting. Dulles, who has a date with buxom Swedish twins, puts him off. Lenin boards a train to Petrograd and starts a Revolution.</p> <p>1885—U.S. troops invade Panama, "to defend our national interests."</p> <p>1826—To uphold their honor, Sec. of State Henry Clay and Sen. John Randolph [D-R-Va.] shoot at each other.</p> | <p>2018—Other networks report that the FBI raided the office of President Trump's lawyer; Fox reports that pandas—a non-native species, let's recall—are aggressive and sex-crazed.</p> <p>2006—"Scooter" Libby says "W" OK'd leaks of secret CIA intel.</p> <p>1967—"We appeal to North Vietnam," says a veteran-bought ad in the <i>N.Y. Times</i>, "if they really want peace, to stop bombing the United States—or else get the hell out of Vietnam!"</p> <p>1961—The two top planners of the Bay of Pigs invasion, now eight days off, tell their boss Dick Bissell that it is bound to fail. He says do it anyway.</p> <p>1948—Violating a recently-signed peace pact, Zionists attack Deir Yassin and massacre up to 140 Palestinians.</p> <p>1927—In Massachusetts, death sentences issued against Nicolas Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are upheld. Judge Webster Thayer, during their trial, called them "anarchist bastards."</p> <p>1923—SCOTUS says a minimum wage would violate women's rights to negotiate terms with employers.</p> <p>1906—American Pentecostalism first erupts at William Seymour's Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles.</p> <p>1892—In a Wyoming cabin, shot at by black barons' 22 hired guns, Nate Champion writes a note to his pals. When the cabin's torched, he comes out shooting and dies from 28 slugs.</p> <p>1866—The Civil Rights Act affirms that all citizens have equal rights under the law—at least in their dreams.</p> | <p>2018—Goldman Sachs warns clients of a downside to gene therapy: there is no cash flow from a cured patient.</p> <p>2017—The State Street Saloon burns.</p> <p>2005—Huge mobs of Iraqis mark the 2nd anniversary of Saddam Hussein's fall, shouting "No, No to Satan!" and demanding that U.S. troops leave.</p> <p>1972—Crooked financier Robert Vesco slips \$200,000 to Nixon's re-election campaign; Attorney General John Mitchell then cuts him slack.</p> <p>1970—Dick "Dick" Nixon's lawyers backdate a deed giving his papers to the National Archives so he can illegally claim a tax deduction.</p> <p>1963—Lee Harvey Oswald takes a shot at U.S. Army General Edwin Walker because he's leader of a "fascist organization." Fact check: True.</p> <p>1963—The USS <i>Thresher</i> implodes 220 miles east of Boston killing 16 officers, 96 sailors, and 17 civilians.</p> <p>1947—Actors Guild head Ronald Reagan rats out members to HUAC.</p> <p>1945—Doctors at Oak Ridge inject Ebb Cade, a Black car wreck victim, with plutonium to see what happens.</p> <p>1928—Illinois holds the "Pineapple Primary," named for the 62 bombings which preceded the balloting.</p> <p>1919—Deceived by a colonel being blackmailed by a general, Emiliano Zapata is ambushed. His killers are cheated out of half of their bounty.</p> <p>1865—Rioters in Portsmouth destroy the office of Joshua Foster's Copperhead newspaper <i>The States and Union</i>.</p> | <p>2011—Pres. B. Obama mocks birther Donald Trump at the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Uh-oh....</p> <p>2006—Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney's first pitch at the Nationals' home opener draws jeers and catcalls.</p> <p>2002—Venezuelan generals replaced elected President Hugo Chavez with CIA-approved Pedro Carmona.</p> <p>1985—Reagan, it's said, will lay a wreath at Bitburg, where American and German soldiers lie buried. Nope—that's Waffen SS-only.</p> <p>1968—Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968 into law.</p> <p>1966—Set out as bait at Xa Cam My by the CO of the Big Red One, Charlie Co., 2/16th Inf., 134 strong, is ambushed. Relief plans go awry, friendly fire happens; 36 KIA, 71 WIA.</p> <p>1955—Chiang Kai-shek, the GOP's pet warlord, bombs an airliner. Target Zhou Enlai is not on board, though.</p> <p>1951—President Truman fires General MacArthur for insubordination.</p> <p>1950—A nuclear weapon's high explosives go off when a B-29 crashes near Albuquerque. Luckily no fissile core had been installed.</p> <p>1938—Richard Whitney, President of the New York Stock Exchange, gets five to 10 for larceny.</p> <p>1913—President Wilson orders federal agencies to segregate by race.</p> <p>1862—An errant balloon takes Portsmouth's own Gen. Fitz John Porter over Confederate lines, then back to safety during the Siege of Yorktown.</p> |
| 1:51 2:23 8:07 8:14 | 2:29 3:04 8:48 8:54 | 3:10 3:49 9:32 9:37 | 3:55 4:39 10:20 10:27 | 4:47 5:35 11:14 11:22 | 5:44 6:35 12:12 | 6:46 7:33 12:22 1:10 |
| SUNDAY, APRIL 12 | MONDAY, APRIL 13 | TUESDAY, APRIL 14 | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 | THURSDAY, APRIL 16 | FRIDAY, APRIL 17 | SATURDAY, APRIL 18 |
| <p>2007—#43's minions say official emails about fired U.S. Attorneys, sent from RNC servers, are now "lost."</p> <p>2001—Veep Dick "Dick" Cheney files his 2000 return; 14% of his adjusted gross came from Halliburton.</p> <p>1937—Sixty thousand U.S. students demonstrate against war.</p> <p>1933—In Oakland, brothers George and William Bessler test fly a Travel Air biplane powered by a Doble steam engine; nearly silent, it works fine.</p> <p>1927—Shanghai's Green Gang begins slaughtering as many as 10,000 Communists on orders from Chiang Kai-shek—famous hero of our GOP.</p> <p>1888—When D.C. cops raid his soirée, William Dorsey Swann, born into slavery, becomes the first recorded female impersonator ever arrested.</p> <p>1867—William Bullock, inventor of the revolutionary web-fed rotary press, dies of complications after his leg is crushed in one such marvel.</p> <p>1864—At Ft. Pillow, Tenn., hundreds of surrendered Union soldiers—a few white, but mostly Black—are slaughtered by rebels under Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, future Klan Grand Wizard.</p> <p>1862—Union spies steal <i>The General</i>, a Confederate locomotive, in Georgia and head north. Conductor William A. Fuller, on foot, on a handcar, and finally in another locomotive, chases down and retrieves <i>The General</i>.</p> <p>1782—American militia troops massacre 100 neutral, Christian Indians of the Delaware Nation.</p> | <p>2002—Venezuelans overrule the generals and their CIA advisors; Hugo Chavez is restored to the Presidency.</p> <p>1989—A Senate investigation reveals that the State Dept. paid more than \$806,000 to narcotic traffickers who were supplying Nicaraguan Contras, contravening the will of Congress.</p> <p>1963—At an anti-nuke Easter Parade, a "Spies for Peace" pamphlet exposes a government plan: if there's a nuke strike, elites would govern the UK from a series of bunkers.</p> <p>1953—CIA boss Allen Dulles says it's MKUltra time: start washing brains.</p> <p>1919—British troops massacre at least 379 unarmed Indian men women and children at Amritsar, India.</p> <p>1917—President W. Wilson establishes the Committee on Public Information, 67 years prior to 1984.</p> <p>1901—French anarchist Clement Duval, after 14 years on Devil's Island, begins his 20th escape attempt. This time he makes it to New York City. He lives to be 85 and inspires <i>Papillon</i>.</p> <p>1873—Easter Sunday, Grant Parish, La.: the White League and the Klan kill 280 African-Americans in the Colfax Massacre.</p> <p>1788—A medical student waving a disembodied human arm out the window of New York Hospital scares a child who then squeals to his Papa.</p> <p>1204—The Fourth Crusade ends victoriously: Christians take Constantinople. Murder, rape, looting, and the burning of the Imperial Library ensue.</p> | <p>2006—Six retired generals sign an Op-Ed calling on Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to resign.</p> <p>2004—Attorney General John Ashcroft blames Bill Clinton for terrorist attacks that took place seven months after Clinton left office.</p> <p>1999—Dan Quayle throws his cute little propeller beanie into the ring.</p> <p>1994—Over Iraq, U.S. fighter jets shoot down two U.S. helicopters.</p> <p>1988—An Iranian mine nearly sinks the missile frigate <i>USS Roberts</i>.</p> <p>1975—Idaho's Bunker Hill Mining Co. says all female workers at its smelter must get sterilized to keep their jobs.</p> <p>1945—A new high-tech head floods <i>U-1206</i> on its 1st patrol. Commandeer K.A. Schlitt scuttles the boat; four crewmen die, the rest are captured.</p> <p>1939—John Steinbeck's <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> is published.</p> <p>1935—A windstorm carries away vast amounts of Great Plains topsoil.</p> <p>1865—J.W. Booth shoots A. Lincoln.</p> <p>1861—Cannons salute the lowering flag at Fort Sumter. One explodes, giving Private Daniel Hough the honor of being the Civil War's first casualty.</p> <p>1860—The first Pony Express rider arrives in San Francisco.</p> <p>1788—A mob, led by the widower of a snatched and dissected woman, ransacks New York Hospital.</p> <p>1772—The County Sheriff tells South Weare, N.H. sawmill owners he's there to collect fines for their theft of the King's trees. They beat him up.</p> | <p>2024—D.J. Trump becomes the first U.S. president charged with 34 felonies to fall asleep during his own trial.</p> <p>2015—Doug Hughes, a USPS mailman, lands a gyrocopter on the Capitol lawn to deliver 535 letters to Congress: "Overturn <i>Citizens United</i>."</p> <p>2015—Texan and safari guide Ian Gibson is crushed to death in Zimbabwe by the elephant he was stalking.</p> <p>1994—Dick "Dick" Cheney splains on C-SPAN why G.H.[H.]W. Bush didn't topple Saddam: that would have created a "quagmire" in Iraq.</p> <p>1974—Press lord William Randolph Hearst's gun-totin' granddaughter Patty helps the Symbionese Liberation Army rob a San Francisco bank.</p> <p>1970—Rep. Gerald Ford: "Impeach Justice William O. Douglas."</p> <p>1961—The CIA bombs and strafes Cuban airfields with falsely-marked American B-26s.</p> <p>1953—Two grunts become the last U.S. ground troops killed by an enemy air strike: a bomb dropped by a North Korean flying a Russian Po-2 biplane.</p> <p>1874—A judge having ruled in his favor, election loser Joseph Brooks and his militia evict Gov. Elisha Baxter from the Arkansas State House.</p> <p>1788—Five thousand rioters storm a N.Y.C. jail to attack grave-robbing doctors. The militia restores order by firing on the mob, killing eight.</p> <p>1532—Richard Roose, a cook accused of poisoning a bishop, is boiled to death to satisfy English justice.</p> | <p>2008—"Thank you, your holiness," George W.[MD] Bush says to Pope Benedict, "Awesome speech."</p> <p>1992—Afghanistan's commie President Najibullah resigns, making way for a more enlightened government.</p> <p>1992—The House Ethics Committee—no laughing, please—releases the names of 303 check-kiting Reps.</p> <p>1969—Reverend Billy Graham advises Nixon: bomb North Vietnam's dikes; estimated casualties: 1 million.</p> <p>1963—Martin Luther King, Jr., writes "Letter From Birmingham Jail," defending civil disobedience.</p> <p>1954—"There is no reason why French forces should not remain in Indo-China and win," says Richard Nixon, three weeks before the Viet Minh overrun Dien Bien Phu.</p> <p>1953—Ike says militarism hangs humanity "from a cross of iron."</p> <p>1951—Hiroshima survivor Shigeki Tanaka wins the Boston Marathon.</p> <p>1951—Use nuke waste to create an "Atomic Death Belt" across Korea, says Rep. Albert Gore [D-Tenn.].</p> <p>1947—The fertilizer-laden SS <i>Grandcamp</i> explodes in Texas City, Texas; 581 die in the 3-kiloton blast.</p> <p>1862—Lincoln emancipates the enslaved in the District of Columbia, and pays reparations to the oppressors.</p> <p>1848—In Washington, D.C., 77 Blacks board the <i>Pearl</i> to flee north. Ill winds and a betrayal foil the largest escape attempt in U.S. history. Opponents of abolition celebrate by rioting.</p> | <p>2013—A fertilizer plant located next to a middle school in West, Texas, uninspected since 1985, explodes. Fifteen are killed, mostly volunteer firemen, 250 others are injured.</p> <p>1986—Peace is declared between the Netherlands and the Isles of Scilly, ending a bloodless 335-year war.</p> <p>1986—Channeling his inner Nixon, Reagan pulls a limited hangout: yes, our Contra allies smuggled coke.</p> <p>1970—<i>Apollo 13</i> makes it home.</p> <p>1967—"The defeat of the Communist forces in South Vietnam is inevitable," says ex-Veep Richard Nixon. "The only question is, how soon?"</p> <p>1966—Timothy Leary is busted for pot possession by G. Gordon Liddy.</p> <p>1965—In New York City, 25,000 march against the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1961—The CIA escorts 1,511 Cuban exiles to the Bay of Pigs for slaughter.</p> <p>1959—In Times Square, 22 weirdos are arrested for declining to participate in an air-raid drill.</p> <p>1958—The Brussels World's Fair opens, complete with a "human zoo" populated by 598 "evolved" Congolese, paradoxically dressed in "primitive clothing." The spectacle is overlooked by a bust of Leopold II, whose reign was fatal to 10 million in Congo.</p> <p>1905—SCOTUS: the amendment giving rights to slaves denies states the right to limit the length of work days.</p> <p>1850—In the U.S. Senate, Henry S. Foote (D-Miss.) pulls a pistol on Thomas Hart Benton (D-Mo.).</p> | <p>2002—A U.S. F-16 pilot on "go pills" drops a 500-pounder: Four are KIA, eight are WIA in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry regiment.</p> <p>1986—"When you meet...President [Reagan]," says Henry Kissinger, "you ask yourself, 'How did it ever occur to anybody that he should be Governor, much less President?'"</p> <p>1985—President Ronald Reagan says Waffens SS troops buried at Bitburg were "victims, just as surely as the victims in the concentration camps."</p> <p>1977—The federal frame-up of Leonard Peltier succeeds.</p> <p>1974—As Professor Irwin Corey accepts Thomas Pynchon's National Book Award for <i>Gravity's Rainbow</i>, a streaker dashes across the stage.</p> <p>1968—The Army admits that nerve gas from Dugway Proving Ground killed 6,400 Idaho sheep.</p> <p>1942—Eighty men in 16 B-25s, led by Jimmy Doolittle, take off from the USS <i>Hornet</i>, bomb Tokyo, and ditch their planes in China; 90 percent survive.</p> <p>1930—The BBC newscast reports "there is no news," then plays music.</p> <p>1906—San Francisco gets shook up.</p> <p>1891—The Toledo Express hits a mail train in Kipton, Ohio; eight die because a watch was four minutes off.</p> <p>1844—Believers in William Miller's Doomsday prediction are disappointed—for the second time.</p> <p>1689—A mob of Bostonians overthrow Sir Edmund Andros, Governor of the Dominion of New England.</p> |
| 7:45 8:26 1:23 2:05 | 8:40 9:12 2:20 2:54 | 9:30 9:56 3:12 3:39 | 10:18 10:38 4:01 4:22 | 11:04 11:20 4:48 5:05 | 11:49 12:00 5:35 5:48 | 12:03 12:36 6:21 6:33 |

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