

The Fortnightly Rant

Out of the Mouth of a Moron

Two weeks ago today, a person whose name has become nearly impossible to avoid spoke to a gaggle of other geriatrics at The Villages, a Golfer's Valhalla in Florida. We refer, of course, to the President of the purportedly United States of America, who, lest we forget, inexplicably won a second term in 2024, despite having ended his terrible first term by fomenting an insurrection to overthrow an election he lost.

Since the median age of the residents there is 73 years, and 97 percent of them are white, our Chief Executive must have felt right at home in this peculiar institution. For the record, we have no objection to that. We'd be happy to see any institution take him, just so long as they keep him.

Clearly he felt free to speak his mind, such as it is. But then, where does he not? Some say he is the most garrulous geezer who ever bored anyone to tears while simultaneously frightening them out of their wits.

Under the unfortunate terms of their employment, some journalists are forced to pore over the flood of gibberish which seems to constantly emanate from this man's pie-hole. Every day we send heart-felt thanks to the Flying Spaghetti Monster that we are not among them.

As befits the dignity of The Nation's Oldest Newspaper,™ we rely instead on an Acme Irony Detector which is firmly bolted to the bedrock in a sub-basement under our newsroom. A fortnight ago exactly, this rugged, cast-iron device shuddered and broke when, some 1,200 miles away, Donald J. Trump spoke. He said, "... you get a guy, he gets in there, he's got a good line of crap, he gets in, and all of a sudden you're stuck with a man who's a moron. This is not good. This is not good."

Replacement parts for the Acme are now on order. Unfortunately, they're stranded aboard a ship trapped in the Strait of Hormuz. However—and let us be perfectly clear about this—we are not in the least bit worried. We expect those parts will arrive soon, along with shiploads of oil, fertilizer, rare earths, helium, and all the other raw materials upon which our global economy depends.

Why do we say this? Because during his speech warning us of the dangers of having himself for a president, he also said that when people say "we're not winning," that "It's actually, it's actually... I believe it's treasonous. You wanna know the truth? It's treasonous."

Frankly, when it comes to being arrested for treason by a boozed-up FBI director, and prosecuted by an Acting Attorney General subpoenaing journalists as we write this for simply doing their jobs... well, we side with Bartelby—we would prefer not to.

We have highlighted these snippets of Presidential rhetoric first and foremost to assure that they will be retained in the historical record. To do this we had to overcome a certain reticence; it requires us to expose an irrational hope, to wit: that despite current trends, there will be a future.

Also, we wanted to take advantage of a unique opportunity to calculate, to an exact degree, the prescience of the Sage of Baltimore. On July 26, 1920, H.L. Mencken wrote:

"The Presidency tends, year by year, to go to such men. As democracy is perfected, the office represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of

the people. We move toward a lofty ideal. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last, and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron."

We can now state that Mencken was exactly 105 years, 9 months, and 5 days ahead of his time. [That's 2,759.28 fortnights, by the way, according to our in-house calendar. —Ed.]

Also, we did this to prove a mean and petty hunch: that, before we published this paper, some avalanche of unknowable things would have happened that were so bizarre that, by today, May 15th, these things will have been forgotten. In retrospect, we must admit that we were wrong. Far from being forgotten, these things barely registered in the first place. Steve Bannon may not currently be hanging out in the White House, but his "Flood the Zone with Bullshit" strategy has triumphed.

Let's take a quick run-through of recent events anyway. If nothing else, we can replace old objects of dread with new and novel ones.

Take the hantavirus, for example. Seriously. Please, take it—we sure as hell don't want it.

We apologize for sounding like a third-rate Borscht belt comic, but we're only hearing about this deadly exotic disease because of an outbreak on the cruise ship *Hondius*—and what's a cruise ship but The Villages, afloat?

Samuel Johnson famously said, "No man will be a sailor who has contrivance enough to get himself into a jail; for being in a ship is being in a jail, with the chance of being drowned... a man in a jail has more room, better food, and commonly better company." Of course, today's cruise ships are nothing like Johnson's 18th century floating jails; the odds of drowning are far lower now. But they are floating Petri dishes.

From being barely a blip on the news radar on the first of the month, a week later hantavirus had the WHO's top pandemic-preventer saying, "this is not SARS-CoV-2 and not the start of a COVID pandemic." Of course it's not Covid—it's hantavirus. Covid barely kills five percent of those infected. The rate for hantavirus is as much as ten times higher.

Oh, but don't worry, we're told. It doesn't transmit as easily. That's reassuring, since lab staff at a Dutch hospital lab had to quarantine for six weeks after mishandling samples, and known contacts have reportedly been seen hobnobbing about Europe.

It's a free country, so anyone who wants to can trust their health to HHS Secretary Robert "Brainworm" Kennedy, Jr. and the empty desk recently vacated by Dr. Jeannie Morazzo, former Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

As an alternative to that, we'll offer this URL to our readers: tinyurl.com/k4z4zt9a. It's an 87-second clip in which Professor Joseph G. Allen, of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, warns that the so-called "prolonged contact" we're being told it takes to transmit the disease could be as little as passing someone in a hallway.

Let's call that a relevant public service, since, according to news reports, two refugees from the *Hondius*, though currently under quarantine at an undisclosed location, are from New Hampshire.

In cheerier news, a brand-new statue of the golden bullshit artist himself was just unveiled at Mar-a-Lardo.



THE REPUBLICAN'S LATEST ATROCITY ?

Trump Confesses He Doesn't 'Think About Americans' Financial Situation' When It Comes to Iran War

by Jon Queally

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday confessed he is not concerned about the increasing level of economic hardship tens of millions of Americans are facing due to rising costs related to the war of choice he launched against Iran over two months ago.

Despite inflation hitting a three-year high and the average price of gasoline in the U.S. now averaging over \$4.50 per gallon, Trump was asked by a reporter outside the White House about how much "Americans' financial situations" were on his mind as he tries to negotiate an end to the war he initiated with a preemptive attack by U.S. and Israeli forces on February 28.

"Not even a little bit," Trump said in response. "The only thing that matters when I'm talking about Iran—they can't have a nuclear weapon. I don't think about Americans' financial situation. I don't think about anybody. I think about one thing—we cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon. That's all."

"And they still want you to believe he's fighting for you," said Rep. Summer Lee (D-Pa.) in reaction to the president's comments.

While both the U.S. and Israel do have nuclear weapons, the Iranians contend their nuclear program is not designed for military purposes. In 2017, during his first term, Trump ripped up the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), brokered by the Obama administration, which experts agree put in strong safeguards to prevent Iran from

furthering any unchecked ambitions toward a nuclear weapon.

With peace talks largely stalled due to Trump's maximalist demands and refusal to admit he started the war without a plan on how to end it, frustration is growing in the United States, where a large majority of the population say they oppose the conflict, disapprove of the president's handling of it, and want it brought to a conclusion as soon as possible.

While Trump's comments were predictable to an extent, they still stirred outrage among those concerned about the economic headwinds Americans are facing due to the war in Iran.

"The sky is blue and water is wet," said the Groundwork Collaborative of the confession. "Nice of him to say it out loud though."

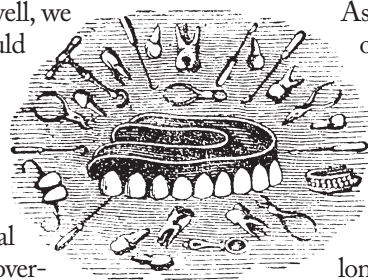
"Prices are up on gas, groceries, rent, utilities, healthcare, and just about everything else," said the AFL-CIO. "Shit's too expensive and workers' wages aren't keeping up. America's unions worry about this 24/7. Our president of the United States should, too."

"It's no surprise," said Sen. Peter Welch (D-Vt.), with a look of disappointment. "That should be job one for him."

"Trump says he doesn't think about Americans' financial situation at all," asserted Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.). "We can tell."

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Jon Queally is managing editor of Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).



BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

- William Hamilton, a prominent young "society man" of Pittsburgh, Pa., has stolen \$5,000 and departed.
- Carrie Dodge, the sixteen-year-old girl of Stoneham, Mass., who was supposed to have gone off with a band of gypsies, has been found in Medford. She is believed to have married the gypsy chief, but refuses to tell.
- In Lincoln County, W. Va., Mrs. Margaret Donnan, a widow, while crazy from religious excitement murdered her three daughters and then killed herself.

- The grand jury at Belleville, Ill., found no bills against the deputy sheriffs who fired upon a mob in East St. Louis during the railroad strike, and killed six persons.
- Zenas F. Welber [sic], one of the examiners of the patent office when Bell secured the patent on his telephone, now confesses that he (Welber) helped Bell defraud Prof. Elisha Gray, the real inventor of the telephone. To this the Bell

Trump 'Extrajudicially' Blocks All New U.S. Wind Projects

by Stephen Prager

As oil prices soar, driving up gas and electric bills and straining Americans' wallets, the Trump administration is "extrajudicially blocking" all new wind energy projects in the United States through the U.S. Department of Defense, according to recent reports.

The *Financial Times* reported earlier this month that as part of the president's "crusade against renewable energy," the department had stalled approvals for about 165 onshore wind projects on private lands—including ones awaiting final sign-off, others in the midst of negotiations, and some that would not typically need oversight from the department at all, according to the American Clean Power Association (ACP).

The Associated Press then reported on May 7th that the number of blocked projects was as high as 250 and that they spanned more than 30 states.

In total, the projects could produce about 30 gigawatts of energy, enough to power 15 million American homes, according to *FT*.

Trump, who has called wind power the "worst form of energy" and said his "goal is to not let any windmill be built" in the U.S., has tried many methods to kill the industry, all of which have been struck down in court.

"His Day 1 executive order against the wind industry was found uncon-

stitutional. Each of his stop-work orders trying to shut down wind farms was overruled. Numerous moves by his Interior Department were ruled illegal," explained *Heatmap* senior reporter Jael Holzman.

But she said that even amid these failures, "renewable energy industry insiders have been quietly skittish about a potential secret weapon: the Federal Aviation Administration" (FAA).

Structures over 200 feet must be approved by the FAA before construction, which involves an assessment by the Defense Department.

Holzman wrote that according to industry insiders, including those at the ACP, "the issues started last summer but were limited in scale, primarily impacting projects that may have required some sort of deal to mitigate potential impacts on radar or other military functions."

But over the past few weeks, Holzman said ACP told her that "this once-routine process has fully deteriorated, and companies are operating with the understanding FAA approvals are on pause because the Department of Defense... refuses to sign off on anything."

The group said the refusals have been indiscriminate and that they have affected projects where there are "no obvious impacts to military operations."

Tony Irish, a former career attorney for the Department of the Interior who served during Trump's first term, told *Heatmap* that amid

continued legal failures, the administration is trying to "find ways to avoid courts altogether" and acting upon "a unilateral desire to achieve an end regardless of the legality of it, just using brute force."

The administration's attempt to strangle the wind industry comes amid ongoing but fragile negotiations between Democrats and Republicans in Congress over permitting reforms that the GOP hopes will speed up approval of fossil fuel projects.

Democrats previously shut down talks in response to the Trump administration halting construction of several wind projects, but said they'd be open to a compromise if the administration agreed to treat renewables fairly.

Last month, Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), a leader of the negotiations on the Democratic side, told Interior Secretary Doug Burgum that if any deal is to be reached, the Trump administration must create confidence that it will not "slow walk" wind and solar permits.

Heinrich told *Heatmap* on Thursday that the administration's apparent action to halt wind approvals entirely "undercuts their credibility and bipartisan permitting reform."

Heatmap correspondent Matthew Zeitlin remarked: "At no point did Congress say, 'We want to make new wind power illegal.' If someone presented such a bill, it would lose overwhelmingly. But the president is pulling every possible administrative lever he has to functionally ban it."

The Pentagon acknowledged to *Heatmap* that it is "actively" reviewing land-based wind projects. However, the FAA declined to comment on whether it was effectively banning new wind projects. White

House deputy press secretary Anna Kelly said the Pentagon's statement "does not confirm" that a *de facto* ban is in place.

Efforts to crush clean energy loom especially large amid the ongoing fuel crisis caused by Trump's war in Iran. In addition to causing gas prices to spike to about \$4.50/gallon on average, wholesale electricity prices surged by 8.5 percent in March after the war was launched, according to The Associated Press.

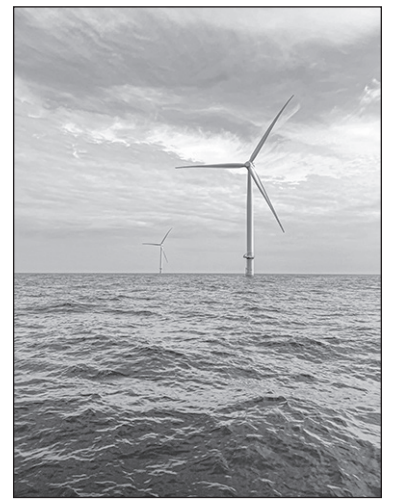
Countries with large amounts of renewable energy production have proven more capable of avoiding massive spikes in energy costs, while the U.S. has seen some of the worst in the world despite Trump's claims that "energy independence" is saving the day.

Wind energy already accounts for about 10 percent of America's electricity use and is often cheaper to produce in the long run than fossil fuels, not to mention better for the climate.

As high energy prices and inflation have driven the president's approval rating to its lowest level ever, Jordan Weissmann, the editorial director at the Progressive Policy Project, marveled that "Trump is actively raising voters' electric bills because he hates wind turbines."

"This isn't energy dominance," agreed Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.). "This is sacrificing American jobs, weakening the American grid, and forcing American families to pay even higher prices."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) said that "electricity costs are slamming Americans, as a result of a not-so-covert Trump plan to stall or block inexpensive clean energy. Every blocked kilowatt of clean energy comes instead from fossil



Two wind turbines, in Federal waters, 27 miles off Virginia Beach, part of the Coastal Virginia Off-shore Wind project. Photo by U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

fuel. Customers' rates go way up, and all that extra cost families pay goes to (cue drumroll) Trump's corrupt fossil fuel donors. It's on purpose."

The Sunrise Movement argued that Trump's war on wind energy is quite consistent with his method of governing, which has often explicitly involved taking actions meant to maximize the profits of the fossil fuel interests that have backed him and his political movement.

"Trump's energy policy has one priority: help his Big Oil donors make a final cash grab before their industry goes extinct," the group said. "If energy prices spike and the climate crisis worsens... well, that's working people's price to pay."

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Last fortnight in this space we ran a nearly identical photo of this scene. Two things are different: where once there was a woman with a dog, we now see a couple with a baby; while previously gas was \$4.09 a gallon, now it is \$4.49. In the time it took us to put this paper together, the cost of gas went up \$0.40. That's 9.77 percent, right there. Annualized, that is a 254 percent rate of inflation. No wonder that poor little tyke looks so sad.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page one

people reply that Welber is a proved perjurer and self-confessed liar and fraud. [Note: In another item on this topic, on the same page, our then-editor Washington Freeman spells the name in question "Wilbur." Neither is correct. The name is spelled "Wilber."]

- The amendment to the constitution declaring polygamy unlawful will be reported favorably to the house of representatives.
- In the house of representatives last

week the bill removing the charge of desertion from the record of Frank Thompson, the woman soldier of Michigan, now Mrs. S.E.E. Seely, was passed. [Note: Again, brother Freeman struggles; Sarah Emma Edmonds' final last name was spelled Seelye.]

- Peterborough almost monopolizes the thermometer and barometer manufacturing business, and over 400 kinds of thermometers are made there. No wonder New England has assorted weather.

On the White-House Grounds *An Old Custom at the Nation's Capital—An Annual Lesson*

There are just two days in the year when one may see true Democracy at the White House. One is on New Year's Day, when the people of all classes, colors and conditions shake hands with the president, and for an hour or two take possession of the state parlors with an air of ownership that makes them the prop-

to next page

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Beware of Cruise Ships
— a Bar Harbor reader

Following Pattern Set by Venezuela and Iran Assaults, U.S. Surveillance Flights Off Cuba Surge

by Jake Johnson

U.S. surveillance and reconnaissance flights off the coast of Cuba have surged in recent months as President Donald Trump has issued increasingly belligerent threats to seize the island nation by force.

CNN reported Sunday that the U.S. Navy and Air Force have conducted more than two dozen surveillance flights—mostly of them near Havana and Santiago de Cuba, the country’s largest cities—since early February, after the Trump administration invaded Venezuela and kidnapped its president. The outlet noted that “similar patterns, in which ramped-up rhetoric by the Trump administration coincided with an uptick in publicly visible surveillance flights, occurred in the lead-up to U.S. military operations in both Venezuela and Iran.”

“The flights are notable not only for their proximity to the coast, which puts them well within range of gathering intelligence, but for the suddenness of their appearance—prior to February, such publicly visible flights were exceedingly rare in this area—and for their timing,” CNN reported.

CNN published its story days after U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced new sanctions targeting a conglomerate operated by Cuba’s military and a natural resources firm, intensifying the United States’ decades-long economic war

against the island nation.

“Our people already know the cruelty behind the actions of the U.S. government and the viciousness with which it is capable of attacking us,” Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel said in response to the sanctions. “They understand, just as the rest of the world does, that this is a unilateral aggression against a nation and a population whose sole ambition is to live in peace, masters of their own destiny and free from the pernicious interference of U.S. imperialism.”

In a *New York Times* op-ed on Monday, U.S. Reps. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) and Jonathan Jackson (D-Ill.) wrote that the Trump administration’s “blockade of fuel to Cuba, on top of the longest embargo in modern U.S. history, defies the norms of international law that provide for state sovereignty, non-intervention in domestic affairs and the right of nations to trade freely.”

“It amounts to an economic assault on the basic infrastructure of Cuba, designed to inflict collective punishment on the civilian population by manufacturing a humanitarian crisis in which healthcare, running water, agriculture and transportation are no longer available,” wrote Jayapal and Jackson, who visited Cuba in April and witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of U.S. economic warfare.

“During our visit, we spoke with a wide range of Cuban citizens—political dissidents, religious

leaders, entrepreneurs, and members of civil society organizations and humanitarian aid groups,” the Democratic lawmakers wrote. “We also met with the families of Cuba’s political prisoners. Everywhere, there was agreement: America’s blockade must end, and a U.S. invasion must not take place.”

Trump has repeatedly threatened a military assault on Cuba in the months since his administration

illegally attacked Venezuela and abducted its president.

“Cuba is next, by the way,” Trump declared at a Saudi-backed investment summit in Miami in late March. “Pretend I didn’t say that, please.”

Citing unnamed U.S. officials, The Associated Press reported last week that the Trump administration “is not looking at imminent military action against Havana” as the two sides continued

to negotiate a diplomatic agreement.

AP added that the administration officials cautioned “that Trump could change his mind at any time and that military options are still on the table.”

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Are Trump’s nuclear plans illegal?

WASHINGTON - The so-called “Rubber-Stamp Rule,” an effort by the Trump administration to “Make America Nuclear Again,” violates key components of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) and Energy Reorganization Act, according to comments filed this week by 13 organizations including the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) and Beyond Nuclear. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) proposed rule will allow reactor designs that the Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Defense (DOD) have approved to bypass required safety reviews by the NRC.

In a separate comment filing in March, 11 state attorneys general concurred with the organizations’ findings that the Department of Energy’s new policy to exclude “pilot reactors” from both NRC licensing and environmental reviews violates existing law. In that case, the Department of Energy announced, in violation of federal law, that it would exempt previously untested reactors that it approves to be built and operated from any review of their environmental impacts.

“Along with the DOE’s environmental ‘free pass’ policy, the whole ‘expedited licensing’ regime the administration is attempting to set up appears to be illegal,” said Tim Judson, executive director of NIRS and co-author of comments filed to the NRC. “The White House is trying to create a ‘regulatory tunnel’ around NRC’s safety regulations. That would mean DOE’s biases and obviously false assumptions about the safety of nuclear power plants become the new normal, exposing the public to unacceptable dangers

to our health and safety.”

The NRC’s proposed regulation would allow companies that want to build a nuclear reactor of the same design as one DOE has previously approved to merely submit documentation of that approval and claim that the previously built reactor “is safe.” Such companies would likely never have to go through a detailed safety review by NRC to build and operate such reactors. In 1974, Congress amended the Atomic Energy Act to prohibit such a scheme.

“Fifty years ago, the Atomic Energy Commission was abolished because they became too much of a promoter and lost the confidence of Congress and the public over safety,” said Paul Gunter, director of the reactor oversight project at Beyond Nuclear. “The NRC was established to provide a regulator that prioritizes safety and is obligated not to take shortcuts for a production agenda. Instead, half a century later, we are on the same dangerous collision course, casting aside the NRC in favor of the DOE, which doesn’t have the experience or the staff to get the industry in line with safety and security. This capitulation to the Trump agenda could lead to the NRC being abolished altogether, because nobody will have confidence in them.”

The groups also told NRC that it cannot simply “rubber-stamp” reactors that the military builds, either. “And while the law allows the DOD to build its own nuclear reactors,” said Tim Judson of NIRS, “it does not allow the NRC to skip safety reviews for civilian nuclear plants just because they use the same designs. The military routinely exposes its personnel to dangers that civilians are supposed to be protected from.”

“In its eagerness to short-circuit reactor safeguards, the Trump administration is once again doing what it does best—demonstrating a complete disregard for the law,” said Linda Pentz Gunter, executive director of Beyond Nuclear. “But nuclear technology is too inherently dangerous to operate as an outlaw. Ignoring those dangers will put millions of Americans at risk of another catastrophic nuclear accident.”

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Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abandon both to safeguard our future. Beyond Nuclear advocates for an energy future that is sustainable, benign and democratic. beyondnuclear.org.

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When the Flag Police rose from their seasonal torpor Tuesday, what to their wondering eyes did appear but a dump truck sporting a rolling tarp showing, to paraphrase the Flag Code, the colors, stars, and stripes which the average person might believe to represent the flag, colors, standard, or ensign of the United States of America. Naturally they were immediately shocked right out of their Kevlar™-laced tactical footwear.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from previous page

etors, for the time, of the executive mansion. The other is Easter Monday...

Growing Uglier and Commonplace
William Morris, an artist and designer of London, deplores that in spite of the efforts of people for for-

ty years to raise the taste in art, the world is growing uglier and more commonplace.

• A man rigged out in Japanese dress of the “Mikado” pattern was distributing hand-bills about town on Thursday. He walked into our

to page seven

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote

“I simply cannot accept that there are on every story two equal and logical sides to an argument.”

—Edward R. Murrow (1908-1965) journalist

“Reality is that which, when you stop believing in it, doesn’t go away.”

— Philip K. Dick

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What’s Going On

It’s time to revisit
Marvin Gaye’s
soulful classic from
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John Sununu — Man of the People
To the Editor:

As a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran, I will not sit idly by while Republican U.S. Senate candidate John Sununu sells out Granite Staters to support a war that is not important or critical for our national security, is directly hurting the lives of Granite-Staters, and has been boosting his personal wealth.

As of May 11th, 15 of my brothers and sisters have died and hundreds more have been wounded in Trump's ill-planned war in Iran which involves our New Hampshire Air National Guard 157th Air Refueling Wing.

Mr. Sununu has repeatedly expressed support for Trump's war, calling it "important and critical" and saying Trump's approach has been "very effective," even as the conflict makes life harder and more expensive for Granite Staters.

While the "excursion" rages on in Iran, prices for gas and heating oil are skyrocketing here in New Hampshire, adding to an assortment of rising costs that make it even more challenging to put food on the table.

Rather than representing our troops or the residents of our state, Mr. Sununu seems to only be representing his investments.

Reporting shows Mr. Sununu had significant investments in Big Oil corporations when the Trump administration struck Iran.

As oil and gas stocks skyrocketed following the attack, the value of Sununu's stock holdings swelled. Mr. Sununu's wealth keeps expanding at the expense of Granite Staters.

WMUR recently calculated that Sununu could have as much as \$36.3 million in assets right now, at least \$35 million more than the maximum he reported when he left office.

We don't need more wars without clear objectives and we certainly don't need any more "leaders" that value their wealth more than their constituents.

Curtis Register
Durham, N.H.

Curtis:

Barring big upsets in both primaries, the general election will likely come down

to Chris Pappas against John Sununu. Pappas has a slight edge in the polls now, but at this point that's meaningless. Come November, this could go either way.

Needless to say, based on Supreme Court nominations alone, the last thing Congress needs is another Republican. So, we thank you for this rather eye-popping detail about Sununu's net worth.

It really is incredible. Every fortnight since he left the Senate—while his would-be constituents have watched in dread as their property taxes, health care premiums, and child care costs have soared—this guy's net worth has gone up an average of \$80,000.

The Editor

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**Wonderful Things**

To the Editor,

Donald Trump was elected in 2024 because he promised a number of wonderful things. Among them: immediately bring consumer prices down, quickly lower the rate of inflation, and perhaps most importantly, keep us out of foreign wars. Sixteen months into his presidency prices are up, inflation is up, and, somehow, we are involved in a foreign war that few in this country support. Additionally, Trump has threatened to exit NATO, alienated most of our long-term allies, threatened to attack Cuba, and apparently decided to abandon Ukraine, all positions that run counter to prevailing public opinion. And, Trump and his family members appear to be raking in huge amounts of cash and other valuables from inside deals.

This coming November there is a very important election. If you are pleased with what has transpired over the last 16 months, love waking up each morning to a new manufactured crisis, and enjoy unending chaos, by all means vote to keep the same crew in charge of the Congress for the next two years. These are the folks that, by rubber stamping everything the administration does, have brought us to this new upside down world. If, on the other hand, you would like a return to some form of normalcy, you might want to consider electing candidates who will abide by their sworn oath to follow the Constitution, and who value principle over allegiance to some



wannabe dictator.

Arlo Gambell  
Rye, N.H.

Arlo:

*A "return to some form of normalcy" is not high on our wish list. "Normalcy" is what brought us here. We need a radical change of direction. And we're not just talking left and right, here. We're talking up and down.*

The Editor

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It Takes a Village...

To the Editor,

Israeli Holocaust and genocide scholars—Amos Goldberg, Omer Bartov, Daniel Blatman, Raz Segal and Shmuel Lederman—have all identified Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide. Yet, I can find no evidence that any of these scholars, including Bartov, who teaches at Brown University, has been invited to testify before Congress.

Moreover, according to Adam Johnson, author of *How to Sell a Genocide: The Media's Complicity in the Destruction of Gaza*, in the two-year period after October 7th, major Sunday morning news shows like Meet the Press, ABC's This Week with George Stephanopoulos, and CNN's State of the Union with Jake Tapper and Dana Bash featured no Palestinian guests at all. Face the Nation had just one, with the Palestinian Authority's British ambassador appearing on November 5, 2023.

It takes a village to sell a genocide.

Terry Hansen
Grafton, Wisconsin

Terry:

Sometimes it seems there's an unasked question in the air, suitable for aiming at both politicians and journalists: "Are Palestinians human beings?"

The Editor

~~~~~  
**The Destructive Child**

Dear Editor,

Trump has paid two billion dollars of our tax money for contractors to stop building wind-power stations off our coasts. While energy prices explode, like bombs in the unplanned, unnecessary Iran war, trump canceled new, non-polluting energy sources. Destruction with no plan.

Now, as the climate crisis reaches irreversible proportions, trump increases our dependence on oil-based energy. Is he purposely destroying our air and our climate? We won't know for sure because he closed down four major atmosphere observatories that were measuring CO2 pollution.

The White House East Wing's rubble, destroyed with no rebuilding plan, is another remnant of this destructive child's tantrums that we taxpayers must pay for. So is DOGE's trail of useful government agencies gutted and shuttered.

Democracy itself is being destroyed by trump and his billionaire backers, but they do have a plan: to rule as oligarchs in a dictatorship based on coercion, not cooperation.

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

*He didn't just shut down observatories. Because of budget cuts at the weather service, meteorologists have had to cut back on the number of forecasting balloons they can use. Predictably, that's putting the lives of his own constituents in Tornado Alley at greater risk.*

The Editor

~~~~~  
What We Remember on Memorial Day

To the Editor:

Memorial Day means different things to different people. For some, it's attending a military parade or visiting a cemetery or grilling burgers or going to the beach.

As a U.S. Navy veteran, on this solemn day, I will be remembering all those who have "fallen" in America's wars. Moreover, I will honor those who have had their lives taken from them while being sent overseas to participate in illegal, immoral or unjust actions.

Gene Glazer, a World War II medic, and a member of Veterans for Peace, as I am, once said, "We have a responsibility to educate the public on the human cost of war, the lives shattered, broken, and lost. We stand as witnesses to this terrible cost and we say to our fellow citizens there is a better way.

Join us as we walk the path of peace."

WW II General Omar Bradley stated that "It is easy for those of us who are living to honor the sacrifices of those who are dead. For it helps to assuage the guilt we should feel in their presence. Wars can be prevented as surely as they can be provoked, and therefore we who fail to prevent them share in guilt for the dead."

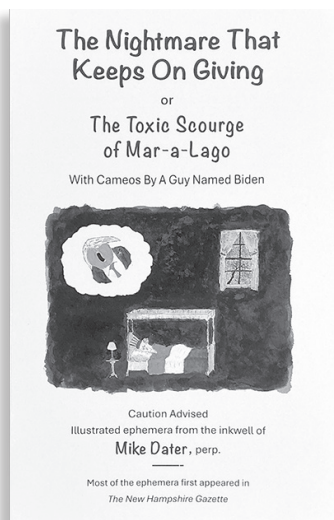
While we mourn our dead, who pauses to remember the innocent civilians, especially children, whose lives were also taken during our military actions? Remembering Dresden, Hamburg, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Vietnam, Panama, Afghanistan, Iraq (twice) and now Iran. I recall a quote that reads "Memorial Day is a day when the horrors of war are wrapped in flags to justify them." I concur, and also agree with former member of the British Parliament Tony Benn that "All war represents a failure of diplomacy."

If one looks at post WW II wars/ conflicts, there really hasn't been a single war or conflict that was about protecting our freedoms. Lest we forget, we have a Constitution that protects our freedoms though we have a president and Congress and Supreme Court that seem intent on curtailing some of those freedoms.

In 2026, as we commemorate Memorial Day, we also note that war and preparation for war has resulted in enormous profits to the weapons makers and their political allies. Does it matter to these war profiteers as to which side wins or loses? Bob Dylan's "Masters of War" starts with "Come, you masters of war, You that build the big guns, You that build all the bombs...". Dylan exposes the war profiteers who manufacture weapons but who never wear the uniform and are never held accountable for millions of deaths, ours and others, including innocent civilians.

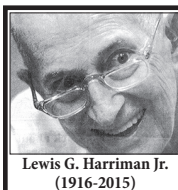
WW II veteran Professor Howard Zinn once said that "Memorial Day will be celebrated by the usual betrayal of the dead, by the hypocritical patriotism of the politicians and contractors

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A New Sherman Act – Or a New Sherman
To the editor;

For millennia, the sole source of sustenance and growth for human societies was the earth. The food, timber, and minerals that contributed to wealth all came from natural resources. Value was created by the labor of peasants, serfs, and slaves who cultivated crops, mined minerals, and exploited forests for energy and shelter. The Industrial Revolution in the late 18th century introduced a new source of wealth generation in the form of capital. Capital, invested in factories and new manufacturing technologies, combined with an industrial labor force to produce massive quantities of diverse products. This form of economic organization, capitalism, substantially boosted the material welfare of industrial societies and still characterizes much of modern life today. Both modes of wealth generation provided products and services that increased the material well-being of society.

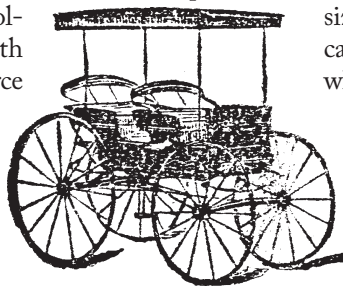
We have entered a third era of wealth creation defined by internet technologies and the emergence of large online platforms such as Meta, Alphabet, and Amazon. Unlike factories which purposely combine technology and labor to create useful products, cyber platforms do not produce anything, rather they serve as virtual locations which enclose the activities of platform users. For example, users of social media platforms generate content such as videos and information about friends and relatives that attract other users. Moreover, users generate data related to their online activities that can be collected and sold by platform owners to advertisers. Thus, owners collect rent from users who create the value of the platform in the form of direct fees and valuable user data.

In the land and capital modes of wealth generation, parties emerged to extract wealth without adding social

value. The feudal system was a means of wealth extraction by kings and lords who claimed ownership of the land and expropriated rent from serfs' labor. In the era of capital, control of markets was seized by monopolies that extracted value in the form of excess profits, as illustrated by Gilded Age railroads and Rockefeller's Standard Oil. In these cases, the ability to extract wealth led to massive riches for royal families and landed aristocracies and for the industrial monopolists of the Gilded Age.

The modern online platform offers exceptional opportunities for wealth extraction. Platforms like Meta, Alphabet, and Amazon achieved their size and influence because of network effects which increase the value of the platform as new users join. Amazon provides an example: as more buyers join the platform, more sellers are attracted, and with more sellers, more buyers become members, creating a virtuous cycle increasing the size of the network. Industries characterized by network effects have been referred to as natural monopolies since the process eventually leads to only one competitor. As platforms move towards monopoly status, lock-in occurs, when the cost of leaving the network in terms of lost contacts or opportunities becomes too high. The owners of today's technology platforms do not generate profits by introducing new and better products or services but by collecting rents from users who have become locked into the platform. In this sense, they are little different from feudal landlords.

The ability to extract wealth from the ownership of platform technologies is impressive. Apple, Alphabet, Microsoft, and Meta rank in the top ten for business profitability; eight of the ten richest people in the world have derived their wealth from related technology endeavors. The tech barons are not shy in flaunting their wealth, nor are they reticent about boasting of their technological brilliance. Yet the enormous profits of their platforms



are based on the monopoly power inherent in the structure of digital platforms. Rather than brilliant entrepreneurs, our digital overlords more resemble lottery winners.

In the late 19th century, legislators passed the Sherman Act to reign in the excesses of industrial monopolies. Subsequent enforcement efforts were successful in breaking the Standard Oil monopoly and restoring competition in other industries. The monopoly power of the digital Robber Barons is at least as threatening as the industrial barons. It is past time for Congress to pass a modern-day Sherman Act to control the digital monopolies. As part of this legislation, control over their own data must be restored to the users of digital platforms.

Robert D. Russell, PhD
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:
What you propose would certainly be welcomed by us. Please don't be offended if we don't hold our breath as we wait.

Your mention of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act over-heated our editorial thinkbox: if only William Tecumseh Sherman could come back from the dead and sort these bastards out!

The Editor

==~==

Where Is the Justice for USS Liberty?

To the Editor,
On June 8, 1967, the USS *Liberty*, a U.S. Navy intelligence ship, was attacked by Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats while operating in international waters off the Sinai Peninsula during the Six-Day War. The assault killed 34 Americans, wounded more than 170, and nearly sank the ship. A Navy court of inquiry convened soon after the attack concluded that it was a case of mistaken identity, though the incident has remained controversial ever since.

One matter of contention is whether the American flag was clearly visible to the attackers. However, a declassified National Security Agency document states: "Every official interview of numerous *Liberty* crewmen gave consistent evidence that indeed the *Liberty* was flying an American flag—and, further, the weather conditions were ideal to ensure its easy observance and identification."

Importantly, in a 2004 signed affidavit released at a Capitol Hill news conference, retired Navy Captain Ward Boston, chief counsel to the Naval Court of Inquiry, stated that Admiral Isaac Kidd told him President Lyndon Johnson and Defense Secretary Robert McNamara had ordered the inquiry to conclude that the attack was a case of "mistaken identity." Boston added that this conclusion was reached despite "overwhelming evidence to the contrary."

Admiral Thomas H. Moorer served 41 years in the U.S. Navy, including as Chief of Naval Operations and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was the only officer in Navy history to command both the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets. Admiral Moorer also chaired the Independent Commission of Inquiry into the 1967 attack on the USS *Liberty*, introduced into the Congressional Record on October 7, 2004 by Rep. John Conyers, Jr., of Michigan.

The Moorer report, a damning indictment of the official narrative, concludes that Israeli aircraft attacked the USS *Liberty* for about 25 minutes using napalm, cannon fire, and rockets, while jamming U.S. distress channels. It also asserts that Israeli torpedo boats machine-gunned firefighters, stretcher-bearers, and life rafts. It further states that the White House recalled military rescue aircraft while the ship was under attack,

Crucially, the Moorer report contends that crewmembers were threatened with court-martial and imprisonment if they revealed the truth, and that "to this day, *no surviving crewmember has been permitted to officially and publicly testify about the attack.*" (Emphasis mine.)

According to USS *Liberty* survivor Glenn Oliphant: "I specifically remember... Admiral Kidd coming over to us and saying, 'I don't ever want you guys to talk about this again.' That was a terrible tragedy for many of us because, when you go through this traumatic stress syndrome, you need to talk about it."

An October 2, 2007 feature article on the *Liberty* incident in the *Chicago*

to next page

preparing for more wars, more graves to receive more flowers from future wars. The memory of the dead deserves a different dedication. To peace, to defiance of governments."

In the 21st century, the U.S. has been involved in wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, in Syria, Libya, the Balkans, Yemen, Somalia, and now in Iran. Who has gained the most? It is firms such as Lockheed Martin, Northrup Grumman, RTX (formerly Raytheon), L3Harris, Boeing, General Dynamics, and BAE Systems. They and their shareholders have profited immensely from wars and for preparing for future ones. They and politicians often remind us that "freedom isn't free" and that some heroic Americans paid the price. If the dead could talk, they would deny that, as almost all wars are based on lies. Those would include the Spanish-American War, World War I, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, even Iran today.

William Hartung and Ben Freeman's recent book, *The Trillion Dollar War Machine* exposes the perfidy of our War Department as it details the profligate spending of this unaudited entity. And, in 2026, the 47th president has asked for a new war budget of \$1.5 trillion dollars!

Yes, let us honor our dead on Memorial Day, but also reflect on the millions who have died in many countries as a result of U.S. military actions. According to an analysis by the Cost of War Project at Brown University's Watson Institute of International and Public Affairs, U.S.-led wars since 2001 have directly caused the deaths of about 940,000 people across Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and other post-9/11 conflict zones.

Isn't it time to Wage Peace and to stop erecting memorials to War?

Will Thomas
Auburn, N.H.

Will:

As it says on the T-shirt, "The first casualty of war is the truth. The rest are mostly civilians."

The Editor

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from previous page

Tribune notes that, even after four decades, many of the more than two dozen survivors interviewed were unable to discuss the attack “without shouting or weeping.”

Furthermore, USS *Liberty* Captain William McGonagle was severely wounded early in the attack, suffering heavy blood loss. Yet he commanded his ship for over 17 hours, maneuvering her while directing damage control, fire suppression, and care for his wounded crew.

Although it is customary for the Congressional Medal of Honor to be presented by the President in a public ceremony, Captain McGonagle instead received the United States’ highest award for military valor from the Chief of Naval Operations in an unpublicized ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard.

Returning to the Mooter report, it concludes that “Fundraising and election pressures have prevented an honest investigation from being conducted for the past 36 years.”

That sentence still rings true today. The

same political currents that shaped the original inquiry have continued to shape the silence that follows.

The report also calls for a new Court of Inquiry by the Department of the Navy to take public testimony from surviving crewmembers and thoroughly examine the attack, as well as for June 8th to be proclaimed USS *Liberty* Remembrance Day. These are not radical demands; they are minimal steps toward accountability and closure.

If we claim to honor all who wear the uniform, then we must also have the courage to confront the full story of the USS *Liberty*. Our military veterans, and the integrity of our democracy, deserve nothing less.

Terry Hansen

Grafton, Wisconsin (home to the USS *Liberty* Memorial Public Library)

Terry:

It makes the mind boggle that this attack happened in the first place, but the record is right there—thanks first and foremost to the surviving crew members. Their courage made the record available for all to see. Like many horrors, once seen, it cannot honestly be denied.

Honesty is a funny thing, though. It has great value, but somehow people without political power seem to be the only ones who can afford to use it.

The Editor

Don't Fund ICE, CBP, or the East Wing

To the editors:

I believe all voters should be **strongly opposed** to the legislation, as currently proposed, that would fund ICE and CBP and provide \$1B for the replacement of the East Wing.

There should be **no funding** whatsoever for ICE or CBP without stronger requirements and regulations regarding the human and legal rights of detainees.

And there should be absolutely **not one dime** authorized for the

construction of whatever building that replaces the former East Wing of the White House. Trump demolished the former building and said that the replacement would be paid for by his supporters. We don't need his garish ballroom. National Security Issue? B*****T! We have other Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities [SCIFs]. **Not one cent** of tax payer's dollars for the replacement structure or a SCIF beneath it! He wrecked it and Congress should make him fix it. Any member of the U.S. Congress who votes for this should be forced to face his/her constituents regarding their vote on this legislation.

Paul Cully
Dover, N.H.

Paul:
Tell'em.
The Editor

Our Human Rights Boomerang

by Richard Balzano

The United States is often called the “world police,” and with reason. Washington tries to police the globe with decreasing success and a brutality that mirrors its own police state, yet framing U.S. foreign policy in legal terms implies, absurdly, that those subjected to “justice the American way” are criminals. Western media backs this up across a spectrum from overt jingoism to reluctant nuance, but the hyperbolic accusations railed against our caricatured adversaries almost always include the charge of human rights violations. Hypocrisy abounds, and the U.S.’s relationship with human rights casts an irony so dark it may yet kill us all.

There is much chatter about Iran, Cuba, and Venezuela’s human rights records, but the U.S. is unqualified to claim moral high ground. Its relationship with human rights since the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been contemptuous at best—the United States rejected and continues to reject most internationally recognized human rights. A segregated society with a vast wealth inequality, the U.S. scoffed at social, economic, and political rights revered by the Global South. Washington spun self-serving pseudo-human rights ideology that political scientist David Forsythe coined Dullesism—“[t]he moralistic preoccupation with Soviet-led communism solidified the notion that by contesting the USSR one was contributing to human rights.” Intoxicated with American exceptionalism and innocence, and the belief that what was good for America was good for the world, the U.S. waged the Cold War, pursued global hegemony and economic primacy, obstructed self-determination, and wrote off collateral damage—all under the auspices of defending human freedom.

Post-colonial nations embraced social and economic rights that challenged colonialism’s inequitable legacy, and political rights—democracy and self-determination—provided the mechanisms for change. These nations often looked to the socialist camp or threatened western interests by exercising resource sovereignty. In the American mindset, these economic rights sounded like communism. “Real” economic rights meant (Americans’) right to profit.



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Washington and Western European allies clinging to their empires obstructed Global South self-determination through subversion, destabilization, and regime change.

Washington maintained a paradoxical relationship with political rights. Respect for national self-determination was off the table; the U.S. repeatedly rejected that principle at the UN. Postwar decolonization was welcomed so that Washington could claim the spoils, but coups or boots on the ground appeared when states flirted with Marxism. Individualistic Americans argued that real self-determination took place at the ballot box. This stance enabled Washington to denounce the global left’s alleged totalitarianism, and later to denounce theocratic governments. Fraudulent elections were fine if “our guy” won; ousting democratically elected leaders was fine if American interests were at stake.

Security interests cast a wide net. The postwar Paley Commission enshrined critical resources as national security objectives, and the relationship between extractive corporations and government became intrinsic. Ousting democratically elected leaders, obstructing self-determination, and controlling critical resource flows were justified as national security pursuits... in the name of democracy.

The U.S. entertained human rights in the 1970s. Rights-minded Congress introduced provisions into foreign assistance legislation to prevent the White House from aiding nations committing “gross and consistent human rights violations.” Jimmy Carter made an inconsistent but comparatively noble attempt to reconcile rhetoric with reality. Then Reagan happened.

Reagan initially rejected human rights, but Congress prohibited him from partnering with rights-abusing pariah states, forcing a pivot. Future-war criminal Elliot Abrams at the Human Rights Bureau crafted a

“conservative human rights policy,” institutionalizing neo-Dullesism and re-igniting the Cold War under the veneer of democracy promotion—Reagan pursued human rights once he’d changed their definition to accommodate pre-existing policy goals. The New Democrats spent the 1990s demonstrating that Democrats can be Republicans too on economic and foreign policy, canonizing “democracy promotion” as moral cover for imperialism. Human rights provisions in foreign assistance legislation have died on the vine every time.

Americans are denied basic human rights at home, thrown to the wolves of the profit motive. We’ve hypernormalized dystopia: the world’s largest prison population—an incarcerated class, daily police killings long before the ICE brownshirt epidemic, failing public education, poison food, an inaccessible healthcare racket where most Americans are one medical bill from homelessness, which is itself an epidemic. Whoever said “America is the richest country in the world” doesn’t understand the difference between mean and median income, and conflates debt with ownership. In 2017, the UN investigated American poverty and was shocked. It hasn’t gotten better.

Washington brands its adversaries as human rights violators, but the phrase “every accusation is an admission” has entered the lexicon of those who have ingested enough atrocity gore and contradicting discourse to reach such conclusions. Many can spot foreign policy contradictions, but how bad must it get at home before they realize the imperial boomerang has come around?

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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A Bit Silly versus Dangerously Silly

by W.D. Ehrhart

During the recent visit of Britain's King Charles III to the U.S., I was fascinated to see that in almost every photograph of him, he is sporting a chestful of medals—eight or ten or a dozen of them—and one around his neck the way an American would wear the Medal of Honor, America's highest decoration for heroism. I found myself wondering what Charles, who at age 77 is a few weeks younger than me, had done to amass such a spectacular array of medals.

Charles did serve on active duty in both the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy for a total of five years between the ages of 23 and 28, and among other duties, flew helicopters and even commanded a minesweeper. But he never experienced combat or served in a war zone. So what are all those medals for?

It turns out that they are pretty much like the American National Defense Service Medal, which we Marines used to call the Sioux City Occupation Award or the Geedunk Badge. A Thanks-for-Showing-Up award that everyone got after 90 days of military service. At the age of 4 & 1/2, Charles was awarded a Coronation Medal when his mother was crowned queen in 1953. And he got additional medals for his mother's 25th, 50th, 60th, and 70th anniversaries on the throne.

Charles was awarded other medals for "distinguished service in the armed forces, science, art, literature, or the promotion of culture" from various British commonwealth nations including Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. And he has been awarded medals from Britain,

Canada, and New Zealand for "long service" of a dozen years or more in their militaries.

I had to scratch my head at that since he only served five years in the British armed forces, but I guess when you're the Prince of Wales, which he was for years and years until he finally got to be king himself, you get stuff from other countries who recognize the British monarchy as being theirs, too.

And I guess that if you're royalty, it's kind of like being a general or admiral in the U.S. military where you're never really considered "retired," and can be called back to active duty at any time. So maybe that's how Charles gets credit for "long service" in spite of the fact that he never actually served twelve years in the Canadian armed forces or fifteen years in the armed forces of New Zealand.

In any case, when he's wearing all those decorations, he brings to mind Audie Murphy, the most decorated serviceman of the Second World War, or Smedley Darlington Butler, the most decorated U.S. Marine in the history of the Corps (though some might say that honor belongs to Lewis "Chesty" Puller, who never was awarded the Medal of Honor—Butler was awarded two—but earned five Navy Crosses and a Distinguished Service Cross).

So how come King Charles III decks himself out to look like some kind of—I don't know—warrior hero or something when pretty much he got all that stuff just for being the heir to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II? It strikes me as a bit cheesy, like trying to make himself look more impressive than he actually is.

I mean, okay, he's the King of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. I guess he's still considered the King of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and maybe of Bermuda and Gibraltar and some other places like that. The British Virgin Islands? I don't really know how that sort of thing works. I stopped paying attention to the British monarchy back in about 1776. Figuratively speaking at least.

After all, we here in this country have our own problems with monarchists who insist on inflating their importance. Or rather, to be more direct, a president who wants to be, thinks he is, and behaves as if he were a king. He's more than once expressed a desire to receive the Purple Heart Medal, and may yet award himself one. He's put his name on the Kennedy Center, wants it on U.S. currency, is getting his photo put on U.S. passports, and has proposed a triumphal Trump Arch.

Our imperial president has ordered his personal Gestapo—in the form of ICE agents—into the towns and cities of America to arrest, abuse, and murder illegal and legal immigrants and even U.S. citizens. He's invaded at least one foreign country and launched a major war against another foreign country entirely on his own imagined imperial authority alone. And he's alienated almost every other country on the planet, including some of this country's oldest and closest allies.

At least King Charles, as a young man, did serve on active duty in the military, did learn to fly a military helicopter, and served at sea on military ships while our King Donald weaseled his way out of any military service at all when the podiatrist



who was renting an office from Fred Trump got Fred's son a medical deferment for bone spurs (which, one cannot help noting, have never inhibited his ability to play golf multiple times a week throughout his life).

And I haven't heard that Charles intends to rename the Albert Hall or Big Ben or the Tower of London. Nor has King Charles started any wars since his mother died, or ordered the kidnapping of any foreign heads of state, or told any of Britain's allies and treaty partners to go piss up a rope, or threatened to invade Greenland if he's not given the Nobel Peace Prize.

All things considered, I find myself wishing that those Founding Fathers of ours had maybe been a little less hasty in getting rid of the British monarchy. Right about now, I'd say we could use a little dignity and decency in our leadership. King Charles may seem a bit superficial with his chestful of largely meaningless medals, but at least he's not malignant or dangerous or despicable.

====

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

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

composing room, solemnly laid a hand-bill on each case, and walked out without saying a word. The office demon was so startled by the apparition that for over twenty minutes he could not think of any new mischief to get into.

- Some gentleman a day or two ago left his cane in this office. As it doesn't fit the editor, the owner can have it on application.
- Peter Nelson and Lizzie Tracey departed from the city on Monday, without waiting for formalities. They had been arrested for keeping a disorderly house, but on their promising to rid the city of their presence at once if allowed, they were let off without trial.
- James Twombly and wife of

Durham, both over eighty, died on Friday evening, May 14th, within a few minutes of each other.

The New Hampshire Gazette
May 27, 1886

- The bondsmen of Best, who horse-whipped Editor Cox of the Boothbay (Me.) Register, last year, and "skipped his bond," have been ordered by Judge Foster to pay \$1,000. Served them right.
- The body of Henry Osborne, who had been missing since Thursday morning, May 13th, was found on the shore of the Cabot farm, North Salem, Mass., on the 24th. He had tied a stone weighing fifteen pounds about his neck, and evidently jumped off Parker's wharf, near where he was found.
- The drying house of a dynamite manufactory at Tom's River, N.J.,

was blown up May 27th, and two men were scattered in fragments hundreds of feet in every direction.

- It is beginning to be admitted that the increase in cyclones is real and not apparent. A great many theories have been advanced to account for it. Electricity generated by railroads, denudation of forests, cultivation of the soil and other causes have been assigned.
- Anarchists have been discovered in New England. Police raided a saloon in New Haven, Conn., Sunday, and after a hard fight arrested four men known to be socialists.
- Avery Jones, a wealthy farmer of Pelham, Mass., had a \$500 experience with bunco men in Lowell.
- The Portsmouth correspondent of the Manchester Union writes that paper that "A leading railroad man connected with the Boston & Maine management, says the north pond will undoubtedly be filled in

before five years more have elapsed."

- A woman of high standing in St. Lawrence county, Ark., gave the alarm that her seven-year-old stepson had fallen into the well. A neighbor soon rescued the little fellow, who was in a dying condition. He lived long enough to tell that the woman beat him nearly to death, and then threw him into the well.
- In consequence of the pump on Miller avenue having been a second time this season tampered with and a part of it stolen, the public drinking facilities hitherto maintained there, for man and beast, are discontinued.

The New Hampshire Gazette
June 3, 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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Democrats: Don't Forget That You're Supposed to Be a Party!

by Jim Hightower

Washington's Democratic Party establishment keeps demanding that progressive members tone down their criticism of billionaire oligarchs and corporate autocrats. Why? Because the insiders want to rebrand the party as ideologically moderate. "Time to get serious," they bark.

Two things: First, on the ideology question, I'm with Woody Guthrie: "Right-wing, left-wing, chicken wing," he said. I think Woody meant that most workaday people don't put 10-cents worth of faith in doctrinaire promises of political ideologues. Rather, they're looking for honest answers to the old labor song: "which side are you on"—the bosses, bankers, and billionaires, or the rest of us?

Second, on the matter of seriousness, I find that both the Democratic party and the larger progressive movement have gotten way too serious. They've become lost in their latest 21-point plan, email "outreach" strategies, hourly fundraising targets, zoom meet-ups, and other digitalized corporate metrics of how-to-manipulate politics.

But wait—what is "politics?" My dictionary says it's "The science and art of forming a community effort to seek and exercise power in public affairs." Why would we try to make such a spirited, unifying, social pursuit into a rote, tedious, manipulative "game"? Instead, what if Democrats actually brought people together, not to recite pre-cut positions, but around community interests? And let's create events that people (especially newcomers) might want to go to—mix the politics and issues with a little food, beer, and wine, live music, and... well, fun.

When I first ran for office, my lifelong co-conspirator, Susan DeMarco, came up with the perfect expression for such politicking. She said, "Let's put the party back in politics!"

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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, MAY 17	MONDAY, MAY 18	TUESDAY, MAY 19	WEDNESDAY, MAY 20	THURSDAY, MAY 21	FRIDAY, MAY 22	SATURDAY, MAY 23
<p>2017—Learning his election will be investigated for Russian involvement, President Trump says, "Oh my God. This is terrible. This is the end of my Presidency. I'm [bleeped]." Sadly, no.</p> <p>1987—Its weapons officer away from his duty station, its Phalanx gun operator absent "on personal business," and its radar countermeasure system unarmed, the frigate USS <i>Stark</i> is hit by two Exocets from an Iraqi plane; 37 sailors die on the Gipper's watch.</p> <p>1976—R. Reagan, in <i>Time</i>: "Fascism was really the basis of the New Deal."</p> <p>1974—Six members of the Symbionese Liberation Army armed with full-auto M-1 carbines, hopped-up in a small house in L.A., fire 4,000 rounds at 400 cops surrounding them. Hitting none, they all die, shot or burned.</p> <p>1973—To help Continental Oil develop a new gas drilling technique, the AEC detonates three nuclear gizmos underground in western Colorado.</p> <p>1968—Nine people break into Catonsville, Md.'s draft board and burn 600 files with homemade napalm.</p> <p>1954—The Supreme Court rules in <i>Brown v Board of Education</i> that "separate but equal" is no good.</p> <p>1954—Border Patrol agents begin deporting a million people from five states in "Operation Wetback."</p> <p>1954—President Eisenhower creates the notion of "Executive Privilege."</p> <p>1934—Thousands of Friends of the New Germany rally under a swastika in Madison Square Garden.</p>	<p>1992—The 27th Amendment, barring any Congress from raising its own pay, is ratified after a 202 year process.</p> <p>1982—Sun Myung Moon, a Reverend, is now a convicted tax cheat, too.</p> <p>1980—Korean students in Gwangju, protesting closure of their university, are beaten and shot by paratroopers.</p> <p>1980—Mount St. Helens cuts loose for the first time in 123 years.</p> <p>1974—Operation Smiling Buddha is a success: now India has a nuke.</p> <p>1969—The commander at Hamburger Hill orders helicopters out of the area to hold down friendly fire deaths.</p> <p>1935—The propaganda plane Maxim Gorky, equipped with a printing plant and loudspeakers audible from the ground, crashes after it's hit by an escorting fighter plane; 45 die.</p> <p>1927—Edwin Hughes, last Charge of the Light Brigade survivor, dies at 96.</p> <p>1927—Anti-tax pest Andrew Kehoe blows up the Bath, Mich. school, killing 39 kids and four others. After murdering his wife, he blows up himself and the school superintendent with a truck full of dynamite and nails.</p> <p>1918—Congress creates the draft. Emma Goldman protests, for which she's soon arrested.</p> <p>1896—The Supreme Court rules in <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> that "separate but equal" is just dandy.</p> <p>1842—Thomas Dorr and a landless mob wanting to vote grab a cannon from Rhode Island's arsenal. Its damp powder won't fire; jail time ensues.</p>	<p>2017—Big game hunter Theunis Botha, 51, dies in Zimbabwe when an elephant shot by a client falls on him.</p> <p>1956—A 15-megaton bomb test in the South Pacific raises radiation levels in the U.S. to 10 times normal.</p> <p>1954—The U.S.P.O. OKs HTLINGUAL, a CIA mail-opening op.</p> <p>1953—Fallout from our dirtiest-ever nuke test, Upshot-Knothole Harry, hits St. George, Utah—H. Hughes's location for <i>The Conqueror</i> a year later.</p> <p>1950—Four barges carrying 467 tons of ammo explode in South Amboy, N.J., killing 30 and injuring 350.</p> <p>1945—U-234 arrives at Portsmouth carrying cargo the Nazis intended for Japan; 1,232 lbs. of uranium eventually does arrive—at Hiroshima, on 8/6.</p> <p>1943—U.S. submarine-chaser PC-815, L. Ron Hubbard, Cmdr., battles phantom Japanese subs off Oregon.</p> <p>1941—Founding of the Viet Minh.</p> <p>1932—Rep. Claude Fuller (D-Ark.) introduces a bill requiring that Civil Service employees be able to "sing, write or recite the words to the Star Spangled Banner" from memory.</p> <p>1925—Malcolm Little, later Malcolm X, is born in Omaha, Neb.</p> <p>1920—In Matewan, W. Va., seven coal company stooges and four locals die in a main street shootout.</p> <p>1918—For protesting her husband's lynching the day before, Mary Turner, eight months pregnant, is lynched in Lowndes County, Ga.</p> <p>1890—Ho Chi Minh is born.</p>	<p>2009—The FBI entraps four Muslim men in a bogus Bronx bomb plot.</p> <p>2004—U.S. and Iraqi troops raid the home and offices of Ahmed Chalabi, formerly the neo-cons' most trusted source of Iraqi intelligence.</p> <p>1978—Mavis Hutchinson, 53, arrives in New York City after running across America in 69 days.</p> <p>1973—The Camden 28, who broke into a draft board office, are acquitted.</p> <p>1969—After 11 bloody assaults in 10 days, American troops take Hamburger Hill at a cost of 70 dead and 372 wounded. It's abandoned 16 days later.</p> <p>1937—George Orwell takes a bullet in the throat while fighting against Franco's fascists in Spain.</p> <p>1927—Charles Lindbergh leaves Long Island by air, heading east.</p> <p>1918—A tornado hits Codell, Kan.</p> <p>1917—A tornado hits Codell, Kan.</p> <p>1916—A tornado hits Codell, Kan.</p> <p>1899—For going over 12 mph, New Yorker Jacob German gets the first speeding ticket—from a cop on a bike.</p> <p>1874—A month-long war in Arkansas ends with nearly 200 dead.</p> <p>1856—Pres. Franklin Pierce recognizes Tennesseean William Walker's pro-slavery government in Nicaragua.</p> <p>1631—Unpaid soldiers first conquer Magdeburg, then loot it. Disappointed with their booty, they slaughter 20,000 Protestants for the greater glory of the Holy Roman Emperor and the Mother Church.</p>	<p>2016—In Houston, hundreds rally to support Islam. Hundreds more rally, armed, to oppose it. Both sides have been duped by a Russian troll farm.</p> <p>2001—GAO refutes the GOP: Dems <i>did not</i> vandalize the White House.</p> <p>1981—The Senate OKs \$20 billion to resume full-scale production of nerve gas and other chemical weapons.</p> <p>1980—In Gwangju, Korea, students using weapons looted from armories drive troops from downtown.</p> <p>1975—Responding to a FOIA request, the CIA debuts its "neither confirm nor deny" non-response.</p> <p>1952—Blacklisted actor John Garfield dies of a heart attack at 39.</p> <p>1946—A screwdriver slips; the same plutonium core that killed Harry Daghlian the previous August gives Louis Slotin a lethal burst of radiation.</p> <p>1945—Bogie, 45, marries Bacall, 20.</p> <p>1924—Nathan Leopold, 19, and Richard Loeb, 18, murder Robert Franks, 14, for the fun of it.</p> <p>1894—"<i>Courage, comrade, vive l'anarchie!</i>" Emile Henry tells the crowd, moments before he's guillotined.</p> <p>1871—To correct the Paris Commune's errors, the French Army kills 15,000 during "Bloody Week."</p> <p>1870—State Sen. John W. Stephens is killed by the KKK in the Caswell Co. courthouse, Yanceyville, N.C.</p> <p>1823—Portsmouth's 200th anniversary is "celebrated with great éclat."</p> <p>1766—<i>Raleigh</i> is launched from Badger's Island in Kittery.</p>	<p>2022—Southern Baptists reveal their leaders have been conspiring for years to protect hundreds of sex abusers.</p> <p>2004—Portsmouth's Leftist Marching Band debuts in Market Square.</p> <p>1989—Vice President Dan Quayle says, "I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy—but that could change."</p> <p>1980—The U.S. tells South Korea it's OK to move two paratrooper brigades from the DMZ to Gwangju to "restore order" among unruly civilians.</p> <p>1977—Gun rights fanatic Harlon Carter takes over the NRA—46 years after murdering Ramón Casiano, 15.</p> <p>1968—<i>Scorpion</i>, its nuclear torpedos, and 99 crewmen are lost at sea.</p> <p>1962—Thomas G. Doty buys dynamite and flight insurance, then boards Flight 11, which explodes. Instead of \$300K, his wife gets a \$3.00 refund.</p> <p>1949—Ex-Defense Secretary James Forrestal ambiguously defenestrates from a 16th floor hospital window.</p> <p>1944—<i>Life</i> runs a photo: an American girl looking at a souvenir from her boyfriend in the Pacific: "a Jap skull."</p> <p>1920—Henry Ford's newspaper, the <i>Dearborn Independent</i>, begins publishing anti-semitic articles based on the bogus <i>Protocols of the Elders of Zion</i>.</p> <p>1903—Nikola Tesla, broke, makes the rent by plugging Triscuits—"the only biscuits baked by electricity."</p> <p>1856—Rep. Preston Brooks (D-SC) beats Sen. Charles Sumner (R-Mass.) nearly to death on the Senate floor.</p>	<p>2012—A mentally-unstable PNSY employee sets a fire that destroys the billion-dollar USS <i>Miami</i>.</p> <p>1999—Wrestler Owen Hart drops 78 feet to his death in the ring; 15 minutes later, the show resumes.</p> <p>1976—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports that Rep. Wayne L. Hays' (D-Ohio) mistress, on his payroll at \$14,000 a year, admits she "can't type...can't file, [and] can't even answer the phone."</p> <p>1971—Nixon meets with the milk cartel. His campaign gets \$2 million, they get a \$100 million price hike.</p> <p>1969—Sgt. Paul Meyer steals a C-130 from Mildenhall, UK and heads for Langley, Va. He crashes into the English Channel—possibly shot down.</p> <p>1950—The Treaty of Detroit gives better benefits to workers, but they lose power over corporate decisions.</p> <p>1939—USS <i>Squalus</i> sinks off the Isles of Shoals with 59 aboard. Within 40 hours, 33 are rescued; 26 die.</p> <p>1934—A deputy beats on an old picker at the Auto-Lite plant; 6,000 of his comrades start throwing rocks. The Battle of Toledo has begun.</p> <p>1934—Cops in Louisiana ambush and kill Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. Their bullet-riddled corpses are mauled by gawkers as they are hauled through town, still in their shot-up Ford V-8.</p> <p>1908—In Calif., 16 passengers survive a fall from an exploding dirigible.</p> <p>1849—In Haverhill, N.H., thousands watch as Rev. Enos Dudley is hanged for strangling his wife.</p>
<p>6:01 6:08</p>	<p>6:52 6:59</p>	<p>7:44 7:52</p>	<p>8:39 8:49</p>	<p>9:35 9:49</p>	<p>10:34 10:53</p>	<p>11:34</p>
SUNDAY, MAY 24	MONDAY, MAY 25	TUESDAY, MAY 26	WEDNESDAY, MAY 27	THURSDAY, MAY 28	FRIDAY, MAY 29	SATURDAY, MAY 30
<p>2005—"See," mansplains G.W.[MD] Bush, "in my line of work you got to keep repeating things over and over and over again for the truth to sink in, to kind of catapult the propaganda."</p> <p>1989—Being killed by Texas state employees, Stephen McCoy has a violent drug reaction. A male witness faints, knocking over another witness.</p> <p>1978—Looking to spring skyjacker Garrett B. Trapnell, Barbara Ann Oswald tells Allen Barklage, at gunpoint, to land his helicopter in the Marion, Ill. prison. Barklage grabs her gun and shoots her dead instead.</p> <p>1976—Formerly-oppressed drug companies are liberated by SCOTUS: now they can advertise all they want.</p> <p>1971—After a ski pole punctures his heart in a fall from a ski lift, actor Clint Walker is declared dead. A dissenting M.D. postpones his death to 2018.</p> <p>1964—Barry Goldwater says let's drop some nukes on Vietnam.</p> <p>1961—Law-abiding Freedom Riders are arrested in Jackson, Miss. as per agreement between Sen. James Eastland and A.G. Bobby Kennedy.</p> <p>1959—The first home bomb shelter is introduced in Pleasant Hills, Pa.</p> <p>1861—Shot while removing a Rebel flag from a hotel roof in Alexandria, Va., Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, friend of Abe Lincoln, becomes the first Union officer to die in the Civil War.</p> <p>1824—The Slater cotton mill in Pawtucket, R.I. tells workers they're going to be working more hours for less pay.</p>	<p>2020—A white cop in Minneapolis murders George Perry Floyd, Jr.</p> <p>2007—As U. Mass. hands an honorary degree to Andrew Card, George W.[MD] Bush's ex-Chief of Staff, students and faculty howl and boo.</p> <p>1988—Evicted from his crypt, Peter Lawford's ashes are scattered at sea; the <i>National Enquirer</i> covers the cost of the boat—none of his children will.</p> <p>1986—"Hands Across America" ends hunger and homelessness. Well done!</p> <p>1981—Kennebunkport native Dan Goodwin, 25, scales Chicago's Sears Tower while dressed as Spiderman.</p> <p>1979—Sitting in "Old Sparky," waiting for the juice, John Spenkelink says, "Capital punishment: them without the capital get the punishment."</p> <p>1953—At the Nevada Test Site, the U.S. fires a 15-kt nuclear warhead from a cannon called "Atomic Annie," previously seen at Ike's Inaugural Parade.</p> <p>1950—A speeding Green Hornet streetcar in Chicago collides with a gasoline truck, killing 34.</p> <p>1928—After circling the North Pole, Umberto Nobile's airship <i>Italia</i> crashes northeast of Spitsbergen. Eight crew members survive on the ice; six vanish as the balloon drifts away.</p> <p>1927—Jean-Paul Sartre, 21, dupes Parisians by declaring a double of Charles Lindbergh an Honorary Student of the École Normale Supérieure.</p> <p>1877—In Philadelphia, the Constitutional Convention convenes and proceeds to exceed its charter.</p>	<p>2004—<i>The NY Times</i> admits that its pre-war Iraq coverage was "not as rigorous as it should have been."</p> <p>1972—Nixon's "Plumbers" fail to break into Democrats Watergate HQ.</p> <p>1970—The FBI's L.A. office writes a memo: give intel on Black Panthers to rivals; with luck they'll be killed.</p> <p>1970—The destroyer USS <i>Richard B. Anderson</i>'s departure for Vietnam is delayed due to sabotage by the crew.</p> <p>1947—An FBI memo duly notes that <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> is communistic.</p> <p>1937—Ford's thugs beat hell out of Walter Ruther and three union colleagues in the "Battle of the Overpass."</p> <p>1924—Congress sets immigration quotas: Nordic? Cool. Eastern European? Maybe... "Oriental"? Nope.</p> <p>1916—Louis Thomas "Moondog" Hardin, composer, street musician, and all-around Viking-helmet-wearing blind eccentric is born.</p> <p>1824—Women workers in Pawtucket tell mill bosses, "No deal," and hold the nation's first factory strike.</p> <p>1647—In Hartford, Conn., where the State House now stands, Alice "Else" Young becomes the first American hanged for witchcraft.</p> <p>1637—At Mystic, Conn., Captains John Mason and John Underhill set fire to the Pequots' fort, burning alive about 600 men, women, and children.</p> <p>1608—King Phillip III of Spain decrees that it's OK to enslave Indians, as long as they aren't Catholic.</p>	<p>1994—Charles Rodman Campbell does his best to dodge it, but Washington State's hangman finally manages to get a noose around his neck.</p> <p>1980—Peace returns to Gwangju, South Korea the old fashioned way: troops kill thousands of civilians.</p> <p>1972—Nixon's "Plumbers" fail for a second time to break into Democratic National HQ at the Watergate.</p> <p>1962—Centralia, Pa. officials set a fire to clear an underground landfill. The fire spreads to a coal seam; the town is later abandoned. The fire is expected to burn another 250 years.</p> <p>1959—NBC's <i>Today Show</i> reports straight-faced on the Society for Indecency to Naked Animals' satirical campaign to clothe quadrupeds.</p> <p>1944—NBC censors Eddie Cantor: his song, "We're Having a Baby, My Baby and Me" is too lewd for radio.</p> <p>1941—Biplanes sink the <i>Bismark</i>.</p> <p>1940—As Brits evacuate Dunkirk, Captain Jack Churchill drops a Nazi with an arrow from his longbow.</p> <p>1923—Arch-fiend Heinz Alfred Kissing is born in Fürth, Bavaria.</p> <p>1902—Luna Park's owners poison then electrocute Topsy the Elephant. Edison's cameras film the event.</p> <p>1895—The Supreme Court perverts the Sherman Anti-Trust Act into a tool bosses can use to bust unions.</p> <p>1702—"I am about to—or I am going to—die," says the unsufferably pedantic French grammarian Dominique Bouhours, "either expression is used."</p>	<p>2024—A former U.S. President wishes a "Happy Memorial Day to all, including the Human Scum..."</p> <p>1986—The DOE calls off its search for a site to dump high-level nuclear waste from power plants; southwestern N.H. had been a candidate.</p> <p>1972—Third time's a charm: Nixon's "Plumbers" finally break into DNC HQ in the Watergate Office Building.</p> <p>1962—The stock market plummets 5.7 percent, the worst drop since 1929.</p> <p>1946—Workers in Rochester, N.Y. stage a general strike in support of municipal workers fired for unionizing. One day later they've won.</p> <p>1946—The Pentagon begins working on a long-range bomber to be powered by a nuclear reactor; 15 years and \$8 billion later it's declared impractical.</p> <p>1937—FDR pushes a button in Washington, D.C., opening the Golden Gate Bridge to cars.</p> <p>1868—"I like an Indian better dead than living." Delegate James M. Cavanaugh [D-Mont.] tells Congress, "I have never...seen a good Indian...except...a dead Indian."</p> <p>1830—Andy Jackson says all Indians must move west of the Mississippi.</p> <p>1754—Tanacharison, scout for Lieutenant Colonel George Washington, murders the wounded Joseph Coulon de Jumonville near Fort Necessity. The French and Indian War ensues.</p> <p>1291—Acre falls to the Mamluks; the Crusades end, a century after Richard I's 1191 slaughter of 2,600 captives.</p>	<p>2020—A U.S. President, scared by a protest against a Minneapolis cop's murder of George Floyd, hides for an hour in the White House bunker.</p> <p>2017—A U.S. President asks an aide, at a Memorial Day observance, "I don't get it. What was in it for them?"</p> <p>2015—The <i>Washington Post</i> prints ex-Gov. John H. Sununu's confession that in 1988 he bartered state assets—low-numbered license plates—to buy support for G.H.[H]W. Bush.</p> <p>2008—Senator (and candidate) John McCain [R-Ariz.] says "Mosul is quiet" on a day when 30 die there.</p> <p>2002—FBI head Robert Mueller says 9/11 might have been preventable.</p> <p>2001—The Bush twins, charged with underage boozing, plead <i>nolo</i>.</p> <p>1992—In Gibsonton, Fla., Grady Stiles Jr.—"Lobster Boy"—is murdered by a hit man hired by his family.</p> <p>1987—Michael Jackson attempts to buy the Elephant Man's bones.</p> <p>1968—Charles deGaulle flees the Paris insurgency. In Baden-Baden, French General J. Massu advises him, "You're in the shit and you have to stay in it a bit longer." He returns.</p> <p>1953—Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary summit Mount Everest.</p> <p>1941—Disgruntled Disney cartoonists vote to go out on strike.</p> <p>1932—WWI "Bonus Marchers" begin arriving in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>1922—The Supreme Court rules that baseball is not a business and is therefore exempt from anti-trust laws.</p>	<p>2024—A certain former U.S. President is found guilty of 34 felonies.</p> <p>2019—The state Senate overrides Gov. Sununu's veto: New Hampshire's out of the killing business—except for that one Black guy on death row.</p> <p>2007—Florida man Dale Rippey, a 'Nam vet, is attacked by a rabid bobcat. He strangles it with his bare hands.</p> <p>1962—Missionary Archie E. Mitchell, sole survivor of a Bly, Ore. picnic devastated by a Japanese fire balloon, is captured, along with two others, by the Viet Cong. He's never seen again.</p> <p>1961—Plotters using CIA-supplied weapons assassinate Rafael Trujillo. They fail to neutralize his secret police, though, and will pay with their lives.</p> <p>1937—Chicago cops attack strikers at Republic Steel: 10 are shot dead, 30 wounded, and 55 hospitalized.</p> <p>1927—In Queens, N.Y., Fred Trump, father of 'The Donald, is arrested for "refusing to disperse" from a KKK parade that devolved into a riot.</p> <p>1922—The Lincoln Memorial is dedicated. The ceremony is segregated.</p> <p>1854—President Franklin Pierce [D-N.H.] signs the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which he also co-wrote. It leads directly to "Bleeding Kansas."</p> <p>1806—Andy Jackson, dueling, takes a bullet near his heart, aims carefully, and shoots Charles Dickinson dead.</p> <p>1741—N.Y.C. burns 13 Black men at the stake and hangs 21 men and women, Black and white, for planning a revolt against slavery.</p>
<p>6:19 7:02</p>	<p>7:25 8:00</p>	<p>8:27 8:53</p>	<p>9:24 9:42</p>	<p>10:16 10:27</p>	<p>11:04 11:09</p>	<p>11:47 11:48</p>
<p>12:00 12:35</p>	<p>1:08 1:33</p>	<p>2:11 2:28</p>	<p>3:09 3:19</p>	<p>4:00 4:06</p>	<p>4:47 4:50</p>	<p>5:30 5:30</p>

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Portsmouth Democrats Coffee Meetup — Friday, May 22nd at 8:00 a.m.
Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable — Tuesday, May 26th at 6:00 p.m.

The monthly *Portsmouth Democrats Coffee Meetup* is held at a local Portsmouth restaurant, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. It's morning get together where people can drop in to enjoy camaraderie with fellow Dems. Bring a friend! There's plenty of parking.

The *Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable* is a monthly opportunity to socialize with Democrats and other friends from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. without any agenda or rigid structure. New residents of Portsmouth are welcome to meet local Democrats and learn of opportunities to get involved, suggest new ideas, or support planned initiatives.

For more information on either event, contact Peter Somssich: (603) 436-5382 (no texts, please) or peter.somssich@gmail.com, or Brian Wazlaw: (603) 988-9998, or briawazlaw@aol.com. Website: <https://seacoastfriends.org>.

"NO MAN IS WORTH HIS SALT WHO IS NOT READY AT ALL TIMES TO RISK HIS BODY, TO RISK HIS WELL-BEING, TO RISK HIS LIFE, IN A GREAT CAUSE."
— THEODORE ROOSEVELT



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