

The Fortnightly Rant

This Is a Stickup

We should be grateful. Despite our modest size, as the Nation's Oldest Newspaper™ we feel obligated to record, to the best of our ability, the essence of each fortnight as it passes. As everyone knows who has not yet retreated, for mental health purposes, to the wilderness or a bunker, current events have been, for the past decade or so, a constant barrage from every direction of the simply unbelievable. We are not complaining. As Hyman Roth said to Michael Corleone, "this is the business we've chosen."

We merely wish to establish how challenging it can be to winnow out, from this bizarre maelstrom of the criminal and the ridiculous, those outrages which are most salient and thus worthy of inclusion in our pages.

Which is why, from the catbird seat of a newspaper founded twenty years before the Declaration of Independence, we must acknowledge that our alleged President did us a huge favor by establishing a \$1,776,666,666 slush fund for traitors.

Even for this guy, that's bold.

To fully appreciate the audacity of this stickup, we need to recall its origin. In 2020, after four years of Trump, voters kicked the bum out. Once again he lost the popular vote, this time by twice the margin. Despite the Electoral College's inherent bias, he lost there, too.

What's a sore loser to do? Put out a call for armed troglodytes: "Come listen to a harangue from the world's most powerful liar!" Instigate the only insurrection in our nation's history ever to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power. Then watch on television as your pet goons assault police, invade the Capitol, smear shit on the walls, and threaten to hang your former running mate. Call them off only after hours of pleading from your staff.

And—one would have thought, *finally*, but one would be proven wrong—on your first day back in office, give them all pardons.

The irony of the top dog in the law and order party pardoning fifteen hundred cop-beaters under such circumstances approaches infinity. Yet, judging from an article in *The New Yorker* headlined, "Pardon Me," it's just business as usual in Trump-world. Ruth Marcus' May 4th piece, subtitled "Under Trump, clemency is big business," makes it clear that mere laws do not apply to him, or to those who are willing to sufficiently abase themselves before him.

All in all, Trump's abuse of the pardon power, bestowed upon him by our saintly, be-wigged, slavery-enabled Founding Fathers lo those many years ago, has been

mightily impressive. Before it we stood, dumbfounded in nauseated awe. "He'll never top this," we said.

What a puny imagination we have! As we plodded along, nit-picking various petty violations of the law and mundane transgressions of common decency, the man who has earned the right to call out Napoleon as a low-ambition punk was thinking big—thinking HUGE, in fact.

Since space is limited, here's the Escalator Pitch: All those schlubs who are dumb enough to pay taxes will collectively pony up \$1.766 billion, to be disbursed at the sole discretion of the Sage of Mar-a-Lardo.

Naturally our first thought was that Trump would tell the Secretary of the Treasury, "Make that check out to me." However, the administration has piously stated that we need not worry about any of this federal moolah going directly to him. Besides, you might say he got paid at the IRS office: this arrangement wipes away a \$100 million penalty for tax shenanigans that's been hanging over his head.

As for those poor kids... seriously. Put yourself in their place. Imagine being condemned for life to live in their father's orbit. But don't waste too much empathy on these lesser members of the Trump Crime Family. According to reliable sources their individual net worths have become positively engorged of late.

Somehow the Young Ogres, Donald Jr. and Eric, bumped their net worths by \$100 million and \$50 million respectively during their daddy's first term. This time, they had the range: each somehow clearing \$250 million in the sixteen months since January, 2025. Befitting their innate idiocy, they are far outshone by the apple of daddy's eye, sweet Ivanka. In that same span of time, she and her Ken-doll hubby have somehow raked in \$1.4 billion between them. His inner circle doesn't need the money, and Trump doesn't need them for what's ahead.

What he does need is to motivate those few, those rancorous few, that band of traitors who were there January 6th. He's got enough now to pay each one \$1,184,444.

Thinking strategically, though, why divvy it up evenly? Does someone who just busted a cop in the chops deserve as much as, say, Daniel "D.J." Rodriguez. He took the initiative to zap Michael Fanone with a Taser and nearly kill him. Now, that's committing to the bit! Give that man a promotion!

Brownshirts will sign up because they love to hate, but money is what it takes to keep them out on the streets, terrorizing the populace at large and scaring citizens away from the polls.



Trump Officials Pushed Plan to Ban Half of U.S. Voting Machines in Unprecedented Election Meddling Bid

The voting machines ban was part of a broader effort aimed at letting the federal government "take control over elections from U.S. states," reported Reuters.

by Brad Reed

A group of Trump administration officials last year pushed a plan to ban half of voting machines currently used in the U.S. based on disproven conspiracy theories about the 2020 election being stolen by former President Joe Biden.

According to a Friday, May 22nd report from Reuters, Trump adviser Kurt Olsen asked the U.S. Department of Commerce to declare components of machines produced by Dominion Voting Systems to be national security risks.

Reuters' sources said that Olsen's idea came as part of a brainstorming session "about how the federal government could take control over elections from U.S. states, an idea publicly aired by Trump."

Some officials at the Commerce Department began exploring legal justifications that could be used to ban half of all voting machines, but the effort ended because "Olsen and other administration staffers working with him failed to provide evidence to justify such a move," Reuters reported.

In place of the Dominion voting machines, Olsen pushed a scheme to force all affected states to hand count ballots, a process that some election experts say would be both more time consuming and prone to error.

Alex Halderman, a University of Michigan computer science professor, told Reuters that "changing to hand counting would be chaotic," adding that "it might facilitate cheating."

Olsen, a former Trump campaign lawyer who tried to overturn the results of the 2020 election, was hired by the White House last year to investigate that very same election,

which Trump lost to Biden by 4.5 percentage points in the popular vote and by 74 votes in the U.S. electoral college.

The report on the election machine-banning effort comes as Trump has pushed an unprecedented mid-decade gerrymandering scheme, which has resulted in an electoral map that elections analyst G. Elliot Morris projects could result in Republicans maintaining control of the U.S. House of Representatives while losing the nationwide popular vote by three points.

Democrats have accused the president of pushing to rig the 2026 midterm elections.

The president also issued an exec-

utive order that places new restrictions on mail-in voting, which the president has falsely claimed was used by Democrats to steal the 2020 election from him.

Additionally, Trump and allies such as right-wing podcaster Steve Bannin have suggested deploying federal immigration agents to polling places in November, a move that critics contend would be an unprecedented and unconstitutional federal voter intimidation campaign.

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

A mining settlement near Pottsville, Penn., is intensely excited over the disappearance of a priest, Rev. John S. Kent, with Mary McDevitt, a Philadelphia girl, whom he pretended he was going to put into a convent against her parents' wishes. He owes the parisoners about \$2,000.

• Col. Richard M. Hoe, of printing press fame, died suddenly of heart disease in Florence, Italy, June 8th.

• Joseph Crowcher, ticket agent at the South Boston station of the Old Colony railroad, shot the purchaser of a ticket after a dispute over the payment, June 7th, and was arrested. The wounded man was taken to the hospital.

• Benj. F. Bigelow, the embezzling bank official of Washington, D.C., confined in the state prison at Concord, was pardoned by President Cleveland on the 3rd inst., and was released from prison and left town

on the 4th.

• Forty Texas editors went on an excursion to St. Louis the other day, and a committee of home journalists escorted them "to the breweries and other places of interest," as the reports have it. The St. Louis brethren knew their men.

• "Nattie" Yeaton, the ancient and old-fashioned ferryman of Durham, pulled down the river to this city in his boat last week for the 4th time this season.

• On April 4th the house of Benjamin Downing on the Province road in Barnstead was broken into and robbed. On the 11th his barn was burned, and his house was set fire in two places; and on Monday, May 31st, his house was totally destroyed by an incendiary fire.

• Joseph Goehner, a peanut vendor,

'Keep Digging':

Progressives Welcome Jeff Bezos' Entrance Into Tax-the-Billionaires Debate

by Julia Conley

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' decision to wade into the tax the rich debate raised eyebrows Thursday as progressives, who have long demanded a wealth tax for billionaires said they'd be happy to include him in the ongoing discussion about how the U.S. tax system can be reformed to benefit working people.

In an interview with CNBC this week, the world's fourth-richest person claimed that doubling his taxes would do nothing to help working people, and attempted to shift the conversation on the tax system to a proposal that the bottom 50 percent of earners in the U.S. should pay nothing in income taxes.

"You could double the taxes I pay, and it's not going to help that teacher in Queens," said Bezos. "I promise you."

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani replied, "I know a few teachers in Queens who would beg to differ." The democratic socialist has been relentlessly focused on making the city more affordable for working people and last month announced his plan to tax second homes valued at more than \$5 million.

Critics of Bezos were quick to point out this week that the 1 percent effective tax rate the billionaire paid between 2014-18 was due to his avoidance of the income tax that

working Americans have to pay, with the executive "offsetting earned income with other investment losses and various deductions."

Progressive leaders like Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) have argued that billionaires including Bezos pay a lower effective tax rate than working people because a vast amount of their wealth comes from unrealized capital gains and other investments instead of income from labor.

Bezos has also not faced a tax on his immense overall wealth of \$275.4 billion, which U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and other progressives have long called for, saying that taxing a relatively tiny amount of the assets held by billionaires like Bezos, Tesla founder and President Donald Trump megadonor Elon Musk, and other tech and business executives could fund essential services for the rest of society—including many that have contributed to the affordability crisis for working families.

"Let's have that debate" regarding reforms to the U.S. tax system, Sanders said Thursday evening, addressing Bezos on Musk's platform X.

The senator has proposed a 5 percent annual wealth tax, which he said would leave Bezos still sitting on \$269 billion in total wealth, while providing enough revenue to fund guaranteed universal childcare,

an expansion of Medicare to cover dental, vision, and hearing care for senior citizens, a nationwide starting salary of \$60,000 per year for public school teachers, and more.

In his interview with CNBC and on social media this week, Bezos repeatedly attempted to shift attention away from his taxes and onto the income taxes paid by the bottom 50 percent of earners, claiming that the "top 1 percent pay 40 percent of taxes, the bottom 50 percent pay 3 percent of taxes."

"The United States has the most progressive tax system in the world," he asserted. "We can make it even more progressive by zeroing out taxes on the bottom half. It's a small amount of the total tax revenue but very meaningful to people in this group."

Paris School of Economics professor Gabriel Zucman, who has also called for a wealth tax and last month co-authored a *Guardian* op-ed with Mamdani explaining how the regressive tax system of the U.S. has helped ensure the top 0.0001 percent of the global population holds the equivalent of 16 percent of the world's wealth, said Bezos was misrepresenting the conclusions of global economists regarding the U.S. system.

"Your claim that the top 1 percent pays 40 percent of taxes and the bottom 50 percent only 3 percent is misleading: It captures just one tax—the federal income tax—and ignores all the rest: payroll taxes, state income taxes, sales taxes, excise duties, etc., many of which are regressive," said Zucman.

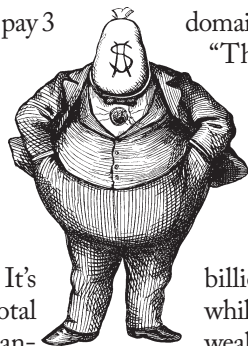
Bezos continued debating the issue on social media on Wednesday, sharing an article that explained how numerous analyses have determined he has paid an effective tax rate hovering around 1 percent.

"Great to see Bezos keeps bringing up his own massive tax avoidance. Keep digging! This travesty needs a real public debate," said historian Rutger Bregman, sharing a graph from Zucman's research, which shows how the average tax rate of the richest Americans has plummeted in recent decades.

At *Newsweek* on Wednesday, the magazine's editors wrote that Bezos was correct in his CNBC interview that "one billionaire's larger tax bill

will not fund a modern state by itself."

"The deeper issue is whether the tax system asks comparable civic seriousness from wages, capital gains, inheritances, consumption, and payroll," wrote the editors. "A nurse's paycheck is easy to tax because it is visible. A billionaire's wealth can grow through assets that may remain untaxed until sale, or perhaps sheltered safely in some offshore domain."



"The political danger in Bezos' argument" to allow the bottom 50 percent of American earners to pay nothing in income tax, the editors added, "is that it lets billionaires sound generous while leaving the structure of wealth largely untouched."

Thom Hartmann of *The Hartmann Report* said Bezos' push to eliminate income taxes for a huge swath of Americans benefits him and other billionaires in three ways, while ultimately harming those he claims to be trying to help save money:

First, it gets millions of Americans on the "we shouldn't ever pay any income taxes at all" train that's been rolling for billionaires ever since [former President Ronald] Reagan first gutted our tax code, leading to an explosion of the morbidly rich.

Second, it gets those same average, tax-paying voters on board with Bezos' second claim, that America's debt problem isn't because we're taxing too little but because we're "spending too much." If we just got rid of—or privatized/profitized—all those pesky "socialist" programs like Medicaid, food stamps, free public highways, fire and police departments, Social Security, food and drug regulation and inspection, air

traffic control and TSA, housing subsidies, Pell grants, free public schools, etc., then even billionaires could safely live tax-free.

Third, it means that Bezos will be able to reduce his own labor costs, because the marketplace in which pay rates exist are always exclusively reacting to "after tax" dollars.

Hartmann highlighted Bezos' resistance to a wealth tax and a fair tax rate with an anecdote about "a very wealthy German businessman" he once saw interviewed by an American reporter on *Bloomberg News*.

The businessman asked the reporter "how he could possibly live in a country" that taxes "very wealthy and successful people" at about 60 percent.

"Why don't you lead a revolt against those high taxes?" he asked, his tone implying the businessman was badly in need of some good old American rebellion-making.

The German businessman paused for a long moment and then leaned forward, putting his elbows on his knees, his clasped hands in front of him pointing at the reporter as if in prayer.

He stared at the man for another long moment and then, in the tone of voice an adult uses to correct a spoiled child, said simply, "I don't want to be a rich man in a poor country."

In contrast, Hartmann wrote, "the billionaires and foreign oligarchs who fund the Republican Party and right-wing media think it's perfectly fine to rip the financial and political guts out of their own nation and turn its people against each other if it lets them keep a few extra bucks."

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



Ona Judge gazes serenely over the throng gathered Saturday at the Black Heritage Trail on Court Street. They came for the unveiling of a mural in her honor, painted by Manuel Ramirez of Nashua. Born into slavery and just 23, Ona somehow found the courage to defy her enslaver, George Washington, the President of the United States, and claim her freedom. Despite Washington's continued efforts to, as he saw it, recover his lost property, she remained free for the rest of her long and fruitful life.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

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accompanying O'Brien's circus, was fatally beaten at Shamokin, Pa., on Wednesday night of last week. He had a habit of not giving the right change.

- Harry Dunham, eighteen years old, shot and fatally wounded Mrs. Austin Waite, near Oswego, N.Y., on Thursday, then committed suicide.

- Thomas J. Sweeney, an ex-liquor dealer of Holyoke, Mass., who disappeared a month ago leaving his hat and coat on the river bank, has been found working in a mill at Patterson, N.J. He was under heavy bonds in a liquor case when he ran away.
- Frank Hanscom, postmaster at Springfield, Me., left his house

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Beware of Cruise Ships
 — a Bar Harbor reader

A New Level of Corruption: DHS Bought ICE Warehouses From Trump Cronies For 10x Markup

“Folks very close to the White House... were sitting on properties that were causing them losses every year,” said a journalist tracking the purchases. “The decision was made to buy them at taxpayer expense.”

by Stephen Prager

In what *More Perfect Union* described as a “new level of corruption” for the Trump administration, an investigation by the progressive news outlet revealed how members of the president’s inner circle are cashing in on the Department of Homeland Security’s purchase of warehouses for immigrant detention.

It was reported earlier this year that under then-Secretary Kristi Noem, who has since been fired, DHS was planning to spend nearly \$40 billion to buy up dozens of warehouses around the U.S. to convert them into makeshift detention camps that could each hold anywhere from 1,000 to 10,000 people arrested as part of President Donald Trump’s mass deportation effort.

But when Mae Ryan, a reporter at *More Perfect Union*, looked into the contracts, she said she “noticed something weird.”

“Many of these warehouses had been sitting on the market for years,” she explained in a video posted last

week. “Now DHS was buying them at a massive markup.”

She pointed to one warehouse in Socorro, Texas, recently valued at \$11 million, which Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) purchased from the company El Paso Logistics II LLC for \$123 million—more than a 1,000 percent profit.

According to Michael Wriston, an ex-military analyst and investigative journalist who tracked the enormous markups for several of these warehouse purchases for his website *Project Salt Box* back in March, “across more than a dozen warehouse acquisitions, ICE paid prices that exceeded both prior property valuations and recent market comparables at nearly every site.”

For one warehouse in Surprise, Arizona, previously valued at just under \$12 million, ICE paid over \$70 million. For another in Social Circle, Georgia, valued at about \$30 million, the agency paid nearly \$130 million.

Many of the warehouses that raked in obscene taxpayer-funded

purchases by DHS were owned by financial institutions with deep connections to the Trump administration, Ryan explained.

One warehouse in Roxbury, New Jersey, valued at about \$54.6 million in 2025, inexplicably sold to ICE for over \$129 million, more than double. Its majority owner was the investment bank Goldman Sachs, where many Trump appointees during his first term—including former Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin and Trump financial adviser Gary Cohn—were formerly employed.

ICE paid double for another warehouse in Tremont, Pennsylvania, buying it for nearly \$120 million despite a valuation of about \$60 million. It was owned by the private capital firm Blue Owl, where at least 33 members of Trump’s administration have investments in its funds, including the president himself, who has about \$5 million invested in the firm.

Another in Salt Lake City, valued at just \$97 million, was purchased by ICE for \$145 million, and the agency now plans to convert it into a 10,000-bed facility. It was owned by Deutsche Bank, which has loaned Trump about \$2.5 billion over the past two decades.

Wriston told *More Perfect Union* that the financial payout to Trump allies was top of mind for DHS as it drew up the controversial warehouse plan.

“ICE doesn’t necessarily want to be using warehouses,” he said. “The plan came from folks very close to the White House who were sitting on properties that were causing them losses every year. And the decision was made to buy them at taxpayer expense.”

It’s part of a larger pattern of ICE contracts being distributed to companies that have given major financial support to Trump.

According to an investigation in March by *OpenSecrets*, the GEO Group and CoreCivic, two private prison companies that have collectively received more than \$2.8 billion in ICE contracts, each donated \$500,000 to Trump’s inaugural committee. The GEO Group’s employee-funded political action committee contributed \$1 million to the pro-Trump super PAC Make America Great Again, Inc. during his reelection campaign in 2024.

The vast majority of those who have been detained during Trump’s second term have had no criminal records, despite claims by the ad-



ministration that they are targeting “the worst of the worst” criminals for deportation.

Those who have been held in ICE detention centers—often without any due process or access to a lawyer—have consistently reported being held in horrendous conditions, denied access to basic food, sanitation, and medical care, and subject to torture and sexual assault by guards.

DHS has reportedly spent only about \$1 billion of the more than \$38 billion allotted for immigration detention warehouses so far. According to *The New York Times*, the administration is hoping to build a mass detention system that could stuff these warehouses with over 100,000 detainees at a time across

more than 20 facilities.

According to Wriston’s running tracker of ICE warehouse sales, at least 13 purchases have been canceled, in many cases due to public backlash. Still, the administration has already purchased enough warehouse space to hold more than 41,500 people at once.

“What we’re seeing happen now—I never in a million years envisioned seeing this happen on U.S. soil,” Wriston said. “Never. Never. Never.”

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At Memorial Circle in Washington, D.C., at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, drilling machines are apparently taking core samples in preparation for the construction of a gargantuan arch honoring the president’s hugely-unwarranted self-esteem. This, despite Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum having testified under oath on May 10th that there was no plan for an arch, merely a proposal. Should the federal government ever recover from the current crisis, it need look no further than Portsmouth’s North Cemetery to be reminded how heroes are properly honored.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

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about nine o’clock, Tuesday night of last week, and up to Saturday night no clue to his whereabouts had been discovered. No cause for his disappearance is assigned.

- The city government of New Bedford and the horse railroads are having a monkey and parrot kind of a time, the railroads laying track, and the city officials tearing them up.
- The coroner’s jury in New York found that F.R. Reed, the Yale divinity student found in the East river with a bullet hole in his head, was murdered.

The New Hampshire Gazette

June 10, 1886

- George K. Smith, of Malden, Mass., aged fourteen, left his home a fortnight ago, and since then no traces of him can be found. He told

several companions that he was going west to fight Indians, and showed the boys a revolver and long knife.

- Mr. Charles E. Boynton has commenced painting a part of Bow street red.
- Where does the profit come in if the salvation army save one burglar, and by their hideous racket cause 250 decent persons who never stole anything to use language which sends them to perdition?
- There was a disappointed wedding party in this city on Thursday evening. The bride-elect, the parson and the wedding guests were in readiness at the appointed time, but the groom failed to appear, owing it was said to his having been too earnest during the day in taking leave of his

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Murph’s Fortnightly Quote

“Young man marching helmet shining in the sun, polished and precise just like the brains behind the gun should be.”

— Bruce Cockburn (1945-), from the song, “Wondering Where The Lions Are”

“The country was founded on the principle that the primary role of government is to protect property from the majority.”

— Noam Chomsky

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What’s Going On

It’s time to revisit
Marvin Gaye’s
soulful classic from
1971

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Stand Up, People!

To the Editor:

When President Trump started the war with Iran, he said it would last two to four weeks. Then it was four to six weeks. Now he said it will not last as long as the ten-year long Vietnam war. He also said he does not care about the economic pain this war is causing the American people.

The pain is real, not just in the price of gasoline. Food, energy, electricity, rents, mortgages, and health care are all rising. The cost of living in March was 1.2 percent higher than in February and April was 0.9 percent higher than in March. This is an annual rate of 12 percent. Prices are still climbing in May.

Unfortunately, Trump's party in Congress is unwilling to stand up to him and for the American people. It is time for the people to stand up for themselves by ridding Congress of those that care more about Trump than those who put them in office.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

Just as brave Odysseus once navigated between rocky Scylla and the whirlpool Charybdis, today we, the beaten-up, trodden-down people, must find our way forward, though caught between Republican avarice and Democratic fecklessness.

Unfortunately, we've abdicated so much of our power for so long, many of us have forgotten how to citizen. Perhaps the energetic current effort to overturn democracy and reduce us all to serfdom will stir those vestigial impulses in enough of us to mount an effective defense.

The Editor

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The Department of What?

Gentlemen,

PLEASE stop referring to the Dept. of Defense as the Dept. of War. Only Congress has the ability to create depts and **NO CHANGE OF NAME** has been conveyed on the Dept. of Defense.

In the 6th, 7th, + 8th paragraphs of your front page article "An Unholy Fortnight" [April 17th] you continually used the name Dept. of War. **WRONG!**

Please refrain from continually us-

ing that term in the future.

Sincerely,
Linda A. Chiles
Phoenix, Ariz.

Dear Linda:

First, let us say most sincerely that we regret whatever distress you may have felt due to our use of the term in question. Our own experience tells us that these days life can seem like an endless succession of affronts, insults, and gratuitous indignities, and we sympathize completely.

In fact we find that the discordance between what the world is, and what we believe it could and should be, to be so grating and unpleasant that in order to live at peace with it, we are forced to publish this newspaper. By placing steady but manageable demands on our time, it keeps us out of the pool halls. Most importantly, its independence affords us the freedom to write as accurately and honestly as we can.

The points you make about Secretary of Defense Hegseth's transparent effort to hide his own, no doubt justified, insecurities by fiat, unsupported by the law, are, of course, accurate and relevant.

However, you have asked us, most emphatically, to voluntarily curtail our own freedom of speech. That is a request to which, on principle, we cannot and will not comply.

Respectfully,
The Editor

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Our Healthcare System is Sickening

Dear Editor:

One of the great debates in American politics is how to provide healthcare for the population. Almost every other industrialized and even many poorer nations provide universal healthcare through a national tax system where everyone pays in and everyone is covered. In America, most healthcare coverage is provided through an employer or a government program such as Medicare, Medicaid, the VA or the military. The argument that many politicians use to oppose a national healthcare system like other nations have is that it would be too expensive and it would require more taxes.

What the politicians fail to mention is that everyone is paying for healthcare, even those who do not have



health insurance themselves. When a person purchases any good or service, part of the cost of those goods and services include covering the healthcare insurance costs of almost everyone involved in providing those goods or services. For example, when you buy food at the local grocer, part of the price of every item purchased includes the cost to provide health insurance to those who were involved in getting you that product, from the producer to the grocery store worker.

When you pay taxes, either local, state or federal, part of those tax dollars are to provide health insurance for local, state and federal employees. Which they rightly deserve. When you pay rent, you pay for the health insurance of the property owner as well as their property taxes which help provide health insurance to government workers, or those receiving government supported healthcare.

So, what does that mean with regard to how much we are paying for people to get healthcare insurance? While no single percentage applies to every product, the GDP provides a good estimate. With healthcare representing 18 percent of GDP, that implies that for every \$100 in goods or services purchased, nearly \$18 supports the overall healthcare system. According to AI, health insurance (both private and public) covers the vast majority of total healthcare expenses in the United States, accounting for approximately 74 percent of all national healthcare spending as of 2024. As such, for every \$100 a person spends on goods and services, \$13.32 is to cover healthcare insurance. In effect, we are paying a 13.32 percent tax on goods and services to provide health insurance for people, even if the person paying the 13.32 percent tax does not enjoy health insurance because they cannot afford it and/or their employer does not provide it. And this 13.32 percent hidden tax is above any other state or federal taxes we pay.

Of course, in addition to this 13.32 percent hidden "healthcare tax" we also pay a great deal more for healthcare with insurance copays, deductibles, premiums and other out-of-pocket healthcare expenses people living in

nations with a national healthcare system do not directly pay for. Yes, those folks in other nations pay higher taxes, but when you account for the hidden tax, deductibles, copays and other expenses, we may pay much more. According to AI, as of 2023, U.S. out-of-pocket healthcare spending—including copays, deductibles, and coinsurance—averaged approximately \$1,514 per person, per year, over \$6,000 for a family of four! And beyond that, they never fear losing health insurance if they become unemployed, never have to worry about not being able to pay for healthcare, and never need to face bankruptcy because of healthcare expenses. The freedom from not having to deal with the stress of healthcare expenses, access and coverage is priceless. So, when a national politician claims that we cannot have a national healthcare system because it would be some kind of "Socialism" and/or "too expensive" ask them where their health insurance comes from and who pays for it.

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

Rich:

First of all, thank you for alerting us to the parts of this letter in which you relied on AI. We know you know the health care business. We hope you carefully evaluated the alleged facts provided by our new silicon overlords. We went ahead and published this because we believe it probably represents a fairly accurate assessment of the cost of the health care system with which we are currently saddled.

We are all paying for a so-called system that is so convoluted it makes Rube Goldberg's most extravagant contraption look like it was designed by Apple. Each element seems to be powered by its own barrel full of burning currency. Every doctor and patient enmeshed in the damned thing seems to hate it. Meanwhile millions are forced to do without it—but, as you say, have to pay for it anyway.

Have we all lost our minds? No. We're all just stuck in a political system that allows profitable enterprises to finagle elections and elect compliant politicians.

The Editor

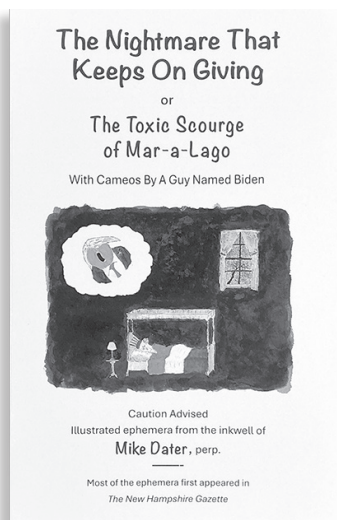
Watching China Eat Our Lunch

To the editor;

Trump's China visit offers the opportunity to compare his approach to geopolitical strategy with Xi Jinping's and to evaluate the current positions of China and America in terms of geopolitical rivalry. Trump's preferred bargaining posture is to negotiate from a position of power and bully an opponent using threats and intimidation to gain concessions. When he perceives that he has "the cards," Trump's decisions are often impulsive, ego-driven, and ill-considered. The initiation of the war with Iran is an example. With Xi, Trump was more circumspect. Weakened by failure in Iran, domestic economic issues and facing a powerful rival, Trump relied on personal diplomacy, using flattery and assumed friendship in an unsuccessful effort to gain concessions from Xi. As usual, Trump focused on short term, commercial bargains. In contrast, Xi's positions remained consistent with China's well-defined long-term strategy and core national interests. Xi took the initiative on the first day of negotiations by emphasizing that Chinese control over Taiwan was non-negotiable and warned against any U.S. action supporting Taiwanese independence. Moreover, Xi appeared confident throughout the meetings, secure in China's status as an equal to the U.S. While Trump sought commercial deals that would help him politically, Xi remained focused on long term stabilization that would consolidate China's economic and geopolitical goals.

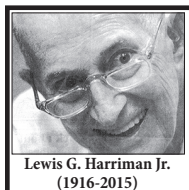
The contrast between Chinese and American methods of geopolitical strategy-making is striking. In 2026, Xi implemented China's fifteenth five-year plan to guide economic growth and stabilize social development. China's economic and geopolitical strategies are guided by the principles outlined by Mao Zedong in a 1938 book, *On Protracted War*. The book is often cited by Xi and other prominent Chinese strategists. In it, Mao outlines

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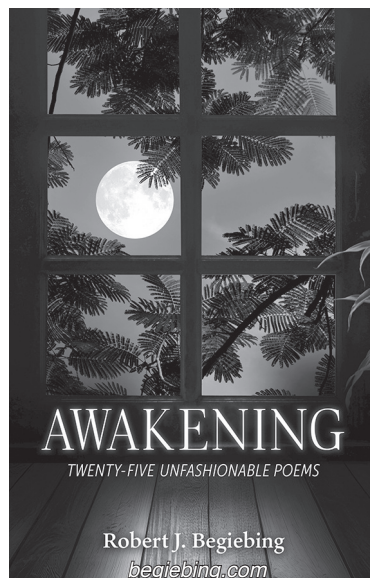
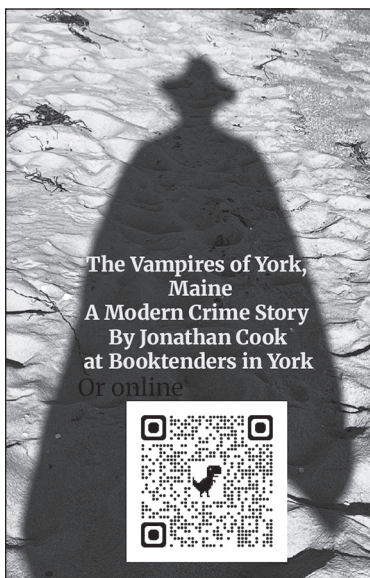


a compendium of drawings by Mike Dater most of which first appeared in *The New Hampshire Gazette*

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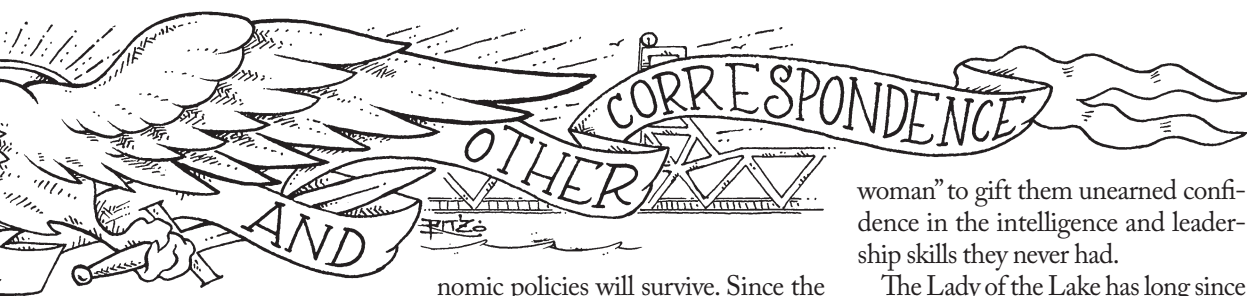
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a long-term strategy for how a weaker power can defeat a stronger adversary. The process unfolds in three phases; the first is the Strategic Defensive in which the weaker power avoids direct confrontations while building its capabilities. The second is the Strategic Stalemate where the adversaries are equally matched and engage in struggle. The end phase is the Strategic Counter-offensive, where power shifts and the hegemon is replaced.

Chinese planners have adapted Mao's strategy to geopolitical rivalry. Economic planners have identified critical industries that are likely to dominate global economic growth. Industries tagged as critical receive incentives such as direct subsidies, below market interest loans and various tax incentives. A major focus is on creating technological self-reliance to ensure that China will not be vulnerable to American technology dominance. China has achieved considerable success following this process. It has developed substantial leads in electric vehicle manufacturing, green energy technology, high tech battery design, and in the mining and refining of rare earths essential for high tech products. Moreover, its Made in China 2025 initiative plans to extend their dominance in global manufacturing, moving from low-cost production to high tech products such as robotics and aerospace. As part of their geopolitical strategy, China is forging trade and financial partnerships with the Global South to counter the global hegemony of the U.S. Given these successes, Xi clearly believes that China has moved beyond Mao's phase one and is currently in the Strategic Stalemate phase in which China no longer must defer to America on the global stage.

The U.S struggles to compete with the Chinese process. America operates on a 24-month election cycle in which the majority party may be voted out, and its policies overturned. Moreover, the current dysfunctional relations between the two parties make it even more unlikely that long-term economic policies will survive.

Since the development of modern technologies often takes years, it is difficult for the U.S. to sustain a national technology strategy. Additionally, many conservatives and neoliberals adhere to a free-market ideology that discredits the government engaging in formulating a national economic policy. They believe that free market solutions to any economic problem are superior to government intervention. These ideologues apparently have not paid attention to China over the last four decades and prefer to leave American economic development to the tech companies that make up our current oligarchy.

Robert D. Russell, PhD
Harrisburg, Pa.
Robert:

Why are we reminded of the hare and the tortoise? Science fiction writers figured out long before our politicians that the future probably belongs to China. It takes a special kind of stupid to underestimate a system that lifted out of poverty in just forty years twice as many people as now live in the good ol' U.S.A.

The Editor

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Where the Lady of the Lake is Now

Dear Editors,

W.D. Ehrhart wonders in the May 1st edition if it wouldn't do just as well to have strange women lying in ponds handing out swords to determine our government's leaders, like in Monty Python. Where is the Lady of the Lake when we need her, you ask?

Those were the good old days, when women were so often mythical objects serving men. But alas, those days are gone. After two decades of standing frozen in that filthy lake handing out swords to self-important brutes day after day while her law degree and PhD in environmental engineering lay dormant, Arthur was the last straw. Anyone who calls a woman a "moistened bint" deserves to drown in that damned lake, which is exactly what happens to the lemming-like arrogant pricks who continue to visit the lake today waiting in vain for some "strange

woman" to gift them unearned confidence in the intelligence and leadership skills they never had.

The Lady of the Lake has long since been running things as CEO of a law firm fighting for climate justice, and gets a special satisfaction sending to prison the conniving bastards whom she otherwise would've had to serve with swords.

Oh, and by-the-by, she's running for election next season, and she sure as hell isn't going to wait around for some ethereal buffoon of a man to hand her a sword in a lake, because she's smart enough to know he'd stab her in the back with it before he ever handed it over. Sorry to break the news.

Sincerely,

Daughter of the Former Lady of the Lake

[aka Ali Muckle]
Exeter, N.H.

Dear Daughter:

We're glad to hear that the Lady in question is making better use of her time these days. Please extend to her our best wishes.

The Editor

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The Trump Crime Family

Dear Editor:

Anyone who still believes that crime doesn't pay has not been paying attention.

For example, recent government disclosures reveal that since the start of the Iran war, Donald Trump's brokerage account executed thousands of stock transactions, purchasing millions of dollars worth of oil, defense stocks, and gold. The account, which is not in a blind trust, purchased defense company shares before Trump made many of his market-moving announcements. Talk about insider trading!

Also, yesterday, Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, a former Trump lawyer, announced an agreement which states, "The United States releases, waives, acquits, and forever discharges" Trump, his sons, and the Trump Organization, "and is hereby forever barred and precluded from prosecuting or pursuing, any and all claims" that, as of yesterday, "have been or could have been asserted" by the IRS against them or "related or

affiliated individuals" or companies. As such, Trump's Justice Department is giving a blanket promise to stop all IRS audits of Trump's taxes and not to prosecute any crimes Trump, his family, his businesses, or his associates might have committed.

Last but not least, yesterday the Department of Justice announced it is creating a \$1.776 billion "Anti-Weaponization Fund" to compensate what it calls victims of the Department of Justice under former President Joe Biden. Acting attorney general Todd Blanche said the fund was "a lawful process for victims of lawfare and weaponization to be heard and seek redress." The agreement sets up a fund made up of five people, four of whom Trump's hand-picked attorney general will choose. The fifth will be chosen "in consultation with congressional leadership," but Trump can remove any one of them "without cause." This fund will be used to give monetary compensation to almost 1,600 criminals pardoned by Trump who attacked the Capitol on January 6, 2021, killing a police officer, and desecrating the Capitol in an attempt to overturn an election. The amount of the fund, \$1,776 billion is not a random number. It represents how the insurrectionists represented January 6th, as Independence Day 1776. So not only were they pardoned for their crimes, they will be heavily compensated for their crimes as well.

The Trump administration has made it an official policy that crime does pay if you are Mr. Trump, his friends and family.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

One would like to think that these blatant crimes might be enough to snap a few cultists out of their comas. But, having lost our taste for dashed hopes, we will withhold judgment for the nonce.

The Editor

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What Was the N.H. Senate Thinking?

To the Editor:

The New Hampshire Senate just passed a bill that would remove all oversight of home-schooled education. If parents are drug addicts, they

can withdraw their children from public school and receive thousands in taxpayer funds to finance their habit instead of educating their children. The same is true if the parent is addicted to gambling or pornography.

Sending parents the message that the state does not care what they do with the state's money for education is a clear invitation for waste, fraud and abuse. This is not what New Hampshire voters sent people to the state house to do.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:

Curious, isn't it? Going back at least as far as the administration of William Howard Taft, Republicans have blathered on ad nauseam about their unique capacity for fiscal prudence. Whatever those miserable rabble, the people, begged for, they could not have it because Republicans in their wisdom had determined that it—better education, better health-care, better housing, whatever—was simply too expensive.

How did we go from that to "Want taxpayer money? Here, take this!" We only have room for a short answer: William Loeb III prepared the ground. Craig Benson—unceremoniously ejected from the corner office after a single term—courted the Free Staters. They run under the Republican banner because too many voters see libertarianism for what it is: a half-baked mish-mash of crackpot theories.

The Editor

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The Object Object of Their Adoration

To the editor:

President Trump's comments on world affairs lately really tell a story. For example, regarding Cuba he says, "The place is a mess. They've lost control." (CBS News, May 20th.)

This commentary might just as well have been directed at America's constitutional republic, which is clearly a mess and has lost all control over the despot in the White House.

Regarding China's communist leader Xi Jinping, Trump says he is a "great leader." (May 14th.) Wow, the party leader who subjects more innocent cit-

to next page

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izens to the death penalty than even Iran is “great,” huh? I guess what makes you great is your ability to kill off freedom-loving folks.

President Trump also announced to America that he didn’t even finish reading a recent Iranian proposal to end the war before rejecting it. (CBS News, May 10th.) Similar bragging was evident in his accomplishment of the destruction of the Iranian navy, “159 ships at the bottom of the sea.” (*Full Measure*, May 10th.)

Possibly at the bottom of the barrel is his recent announcement, “I don’t think about Americans’ fi-

nancial situation.” (PBS News, May 13th.)

No matter, however. All these messianic statements only excite his base to greater heights of adoration.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah
Kimball:

Our best Republican president led the nation by appealing to the better angels of our nature. He had the advantage of growing up in poverty, though. Our worst—who was raised by a racist who was raised by a pimp—had everything growing up. No wonder he’s such a schmuck.

The Editor

A Statement from Veterans for Peace: Remembering All Victims of War

Memorial Day is meant to be a solemn occasion for honoring the memory of American service members who have died fighting in U.S. wars. While the government and mainstream media typically use Memorial Day to glorify war, for us it takes on a different meaning. As veterans of U.S. wars, we too remember and mourn our “fallen,” but reject the pro-war undertones of the holiday, understanding that so many young lives have been sacrificed unwillingly in wars that should never have happened. And we take care to remember all lives lost in needless wars.

On this Memorial Day, as we pause to remember American service members who have died during the nation’s wars, let us also remember the astounding number of civilians who have perished in war. Since WWI, there have been far more civilian deaths in each conflict than military deaths – the ratio worsens by each conflict with each succeeding year – and the number of civilian wounded is many times greater than those killed outright.

As we remember the soldiers, sailors, military who have died in this nation’s wars, we must reflect on the broken lives and communities that endure—here in this country, on this land, and abroad—paying the true costs of war.

For most Americans, Memorial Day is a three-day, red-white-and-blue holiday marking the beginning of summer—a weekend of travel, barbecues, and endless sales. It’s as if we Americans understand that the main freedom paid for with the blood of U.S. military members is our freedom to consume.

“Have a good Memorial Day” people will say, as if it is possible to have a good day when one is commemorating the war dead.

For Veterans For Peace, Memorial Day is an occasion for remembering all victims of war. It is a day to re-dedicate ourselves to the cause of peace—at home, and abroad—and to remind through our solemn ceremonies and displays that peace is possible if we really want it.

—veteransforpeace.org



The World’s Biggest Pusher

by Richard Balzano

The United States kidnapped Venezuela’s president, Nicolás Maduro, in January 2025 on now-crumbling allegations that he headed the fictional “Cartel of the Suns.” Washington framed Maduro as a narco-terrorist kingpin to justify what was effectively an act of war disguised as law enforcement, but prosecutors are now quietly backing away from the bolder claims used to rationalize his abduction. The irony, of course, is that the United States has spent decades enabling narco-trafficking in the name of democracy.

For 40+ years Washington waged its unsuccessful War on Drugs alongside its oft-illegal Cold War pursuits. In the American hierarchy of foreign-policy values, anticommunism trumped human rights, basic decency, and even narcotics enforcement itself. On an ongoing basis, the U.S. overlooked, tolerated, collaborated with, and sometimes directly supported drug traffickers when they served broader geopolitical objectives.

Historian Alfred W. McCoy’s exhaustive study, *The Politics of Heroin: CIA Complicity in the Global Drug Trade*, chronicles U.S. Cold War strategy’s repeated alignment with major heroin traffickers in pursuit of anti-communist objectives. In Europe, U.S. intelligence collaborated with Corsican underworld figures in Marseille to undermine communist labor unions and secure strategic docks during the early Cold War. During Washington’s Indochina rampage in the 1960s and 70s, the CIA consistently tolerated, protected, or worked alongside allied militias and warlords deeply entangled in the heroin trade in Laos, Burma, and Thailand. Throughout the Cold War, narcotics networks repeatedly flourished in the shadows of Washington’s covert warfare and anti-communist operations.

Nancy Reagan championed the “Just Say No” program to America’s youth in the 1980s, but Ronald Reagan had grander plans. The Iran-Contra affair tends to steal the spotlight when it comes to Reagan’s transgressions in Nicaragua—if not Central America—but Reagan’s eagerness to arm the day-care-bombing, civilian-torturing Contra insurgency didn’t end there. With the blessings of U.S. intelli-

gence, Nicaraguan expats financed the Contra insurgency by trafficking cocaine into the U.S., while the CIA protected Contra-linked traffickers and obstructed investigations.

The controversy exploded when journalist Gary Webb broke the story with his 1996 “Dark Alliance” series in the *San Jose Mercury News*. Webb revealed that U.S. intelligence permitted Contra affiliates to move cocaine into the United States while softening, ignoring, or obstructing investigations and prosecutions. Contra cocaine didn’t just powder the noses of caucasian club-goers—it contributed to the rise of the 1980s crack epidemic. Webb revealed what Los Angeles kingpin Freeway Rick Ross later confirmed: Ross built his national crack empire with Contra cocaine. Webb’s larger question was whether the CIA knowingly enabled those networks or merely tolerated allies who happened to be traffickers—it turns out, it was both.

The reaction was explosive. Webb’s reporting was initially praised, but Washington denied culpability and legacy media quickly cannibalized him. *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Los Angeles Times* aggressively attacked the series for alleged overstatements and evidentiary gaps, particularly regarding the crack epidemic connection. Webb’s editors distanced themselves, his career collapsed, and he spent years struggling professionally after leaving the *Mercury News*. Webb later reported being followed and harassed by intelligence-linked figures, and in 2004 he was found dead from two gunshot wounds to the head. The coroner compliantly ruled it suicide.

Other journalists pursuing related Iran-Contra stories faced similar editorial pressure, marginalization, and accusations of conspiracy thinking. The Webb affair became a case study in how national security reporting is disciplined when it threatens core assumptions about U.S. foreign policy.

The Organization of American States, the Global Commission on Drug Policy, and similar institutions acknowledged that the “War on Drugs” had failed. As the world’s largest narcotics consumer market, the United States could never meaningfully suppress supply without reducing domestic demand; so long as American demand remained high, new suppliers would always emerge. The logical solution was treatment, decriminalization, economic reform, and demand reduction; but that approach collided with Washington’s post-Cold War needs. With the collapse of the USSR, the anti-communist justification for deep military and intelligence integration across Latin America began to evaporate. The drug war offered a replacement framework: a new permanent emergency preserving arms sales, intelligence networks, military aid, and security-state relationships built during the Cold War. The same repressive apparatuses once justified by anti-communism—surveillance,

disappearances, torture, militarized policing—could simply be rebranded as anti-narcotics operations. Latin American leaders targeted for regime change could likewise be branded traffickers to provide moral cover for intervention.

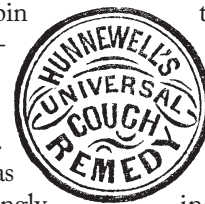
Capitalism demands its cut. Plan Colombia, launched in 2000 as a joint U.S.-Colombian anti-narcotics and counterinsurgency initiative, was publicly framed as a campaign against coca production and guerrilla groups. Critics argued it often functioned as a *de facto* land-clearing mechanism in resource-rich regions coveted by mining, oil, agribusiness, and infrastructure interests. En-

tire communities reported poisoned water, destroyed crops, illness, and forced displacement as aerial herbicide fumigation blanketed alleged coca-growing zones. Human-rights groups and critical scholars argued anti-drug operations frequently justified militarization and depopulation: label rural inhabitants coca growers or guerrilla collaborators, drive them off the land through fumigation and violence, then open emptied territory to multinational extraction and “development.” The formula survived the Cold War almost unchanged—where Washington once branded inconvenient rural populations “communist guerrillas,” they are now repackaged as narco-traffickers, narco-terrorists, or cartel collaborators.

On the domestic front, mass incarceration became economically and politically entrenched. Waves of legislation starting in the 1980s put more nonviolent offenders behind bars, and the U.S. surpassed apartheid South Africa and the Soviet Union to boast the world’s largest prison population. The American incarceration rate jumped 325-400 percent in the late 20th century, from 220 per 100k in 1980, to 683 in 2000, to 755 in 2008, and leveling off in the 600s. State prisons grew 700 percent from the 1970s onward, and prisoners were commodified in a uniquely American fashion as both the prison labor sector and the private prison industry exploded.

A serious reduction in drug demand and decriminalization would dramatically reduce prison populations, threatening a carceral system intertwined with private prison contracts, prison labor economies, police funding structures, and politicians financially dependent on “tough on crime” constituencies and donors. The drug war in the United States survived not because it succeeded, but because too many institutions benefited from its continuation. In this sense, the U.S. is winning the War on Drugs—according to its beneficiaries, not its publicly stated goals.

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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Philip Caputo: *Presente*

by W.D. Ehrhart

I was saddened to hear that Philip Caputo has died. Caputo first came to prominence as the author of *A Rumor of War*, published in 1977, and one of the most widely read memoirs of the American War in Vietnam.

I first got to know him over 35 years ago during a trip to Vietnam when we were both members of a delegation to the first-ever Conference of U.S. and Vietnamese Veteran-Writers held in Hanoi in June 1990.

This turned out to be a very interesting trip for an assortment of reasons. There was the conference itself, of course, which took place over two days, and at which we met a number of prominent Vietnamese writers, including novelist Cao Tien Le, who told us how he used to enjoy killing Americans. “Now things are different, so I won’t shoot you,” he said, though he certainly looked and sounded as if he would still like to.

After the conference ended, when our hosts asked us if there was anything in particular we’d like to do, we said that we’d like to meet General Vo Nguyen Giap, the man who had beaten both the French and the Americans. Much to our amazement, the general agreed to meet with us.

Though he was 89 by then, he was still quick-witted, lively, and energetic, and we spent a delightful hour and a half with him. I even sat next to the general on a small sofa, and at one point he peeled a fresh lichee nut and hand-fed it to me, popping it straight into my mouth.

This photograph of Phil and me with the general was taken at the end of our meeting. The young man in the photo is a translator (remember that). I am giving General Giap a copy of my poem “Making the Children Behave,” which I had had a Vietnamese friend translate into Vietnamese, and I handed out copies all over the place because I wanted people to see another side of this American.

After we left Hanoi, we traveled to Hue, Da Nang, and Dong Ha, but eventually ended up in Ho Chi Minh City. There, at a lunch gathering, General Giap’s assistant, a gray-haired colonel who’d probably been Giap’s aide for 60 or 70 years, came in and sat down beside me. When I asked him what he was doing here in Saigon, he replied, “I came to find you.”

“Really?” I replied, quite startled by his reply.

“Yes,” he said. “The general liked your poem very much, but he would like to know what it says in English.”

“General Giap knows English?” I asked.

The colonel broke into a very broad grin. “Oh yes,” he said, “Very well.”

During our audience with General Giap back in Hanoi, we had spoken to him through the young translator in that photograph, and the general had replied to our questions in Vietnamese, his answers then being translated into English.

I have always thought since then that this was General Giap’s way of letting us know that we were in *his* country, and we would communicate in *his* language, not ours.

But back to Phil Caputo. Everywhere we went, we were wined and dined by the local Writers Union, and that evening they took us to the screening of a film that was essentially a modernized re-make of Vietnam’s national epic poem, “The Tale of Kieu.” In the movie, set during the American War, a beautiful young woman prostitutes herself to an American army officer in order to save her brother from an evil Saigon government official.

We then went to yet another banquet. At the end of the banquet, as we were to go off to the Rex Hotel to see a program of “Vietnamese” music that was really just rehashed Western rock-n-roll, a number of young women showed up. One sat next to me in the van, and proceeded to take my hand. I removed my hand from her grip, but she took it again.

Making the Children Behave

*Do they think of me now
in those strange Asia villages
where nothing ever seemed
quite human
but myself
and my few grim friends
moving through them
hunched
in lines.*

*When they tell stories to their children
of the evil
that awaits misbehavior,
is it me they conjure?*

— W.D. Ehrhart

When I disengaged a second time, another young woman said in poor English, “You not like my friend?” There was clearly no point in trying to explain that I was and am happily married, and not interested in whatever this arrangement was supposed to be since neither woman understood English. But when we got to the Rex and went into the theater, my “date” again sat down beside me and tried to take my hand.

This was profoundly upsetting. For one thing, I was indeed happily married and not the least bit interested in whatever I was supposed to do with this young woman. (It seemed clear that the intention was for me to have sex with her at some point during the evening.) For another thing, it sickened me to see that at least some of the dedicated revolutionaries who had fought me with such intensity two decades earlier had so quickly been corrupted

themselves by the power they had wrested from the former Saigon regime. I simply got up and left.

There is, or was, an outdoor bar on the roof of the Rex. Phil and I had sat up there for several hours the previous afternoon enjoying the sunshine and the view, so I went up there, had several drinks, and brooded over my disappointment at men who had apparently become as rotten as the rotten men they had displaced.



From left: Philip Caputo, W.D. Ehrhart, a Vietnamese translator, and General Vo Nguyen Giap. Courtesy W.D. Ehrhart.

A few hours later, Phil appeared. “I thought you might be here,” he said, “The show’s over and we’re leaving.” The van dropped Phil and me off at the government guest house where we were staying, and which I never would have found on my own, but everyone else—young women included—drove away.

I was still far too angry and wired to sleep, but Phil said he had a bottle of Glenlivet Scotch, and invited me into his room for a drink. He then told me that when the show ended, and I was nowhere to be seen, all of the others on our trip were simply going to leave me behind. But Phil had insisted that they wait while he went to look for me. “We’re Marines,” he said, which he and I both were, “We don’t leave anyone behind.”

Between the two of us, we talked deep into the wee hours of the

morning, finishing off that bottle of scotch, and cementing a friendship I have valued ever since. I had known most of my traveling companions before this trip took place, but I had never before met Phil. However, Phil Caputo earned my respect, my admiration, and my respect that night while the other members of our group lost my respect entirely.

In the aftermath of that trip, I stayed in touch with him, and saw him on several additional occasions over the years. I was particularly pleased to see that, when French filmmaker Jean-Baptiste Peretie did the 2019 documentary “John Wayne, l’Amérique à tout prix” (*John Wayne: America at All Costs*) for Europe’s ARTE TV, the only American veterans Peretie interviewed were Phil and me, something Phil seemed pleased about, too, as he commented in an e-mail after the film came out.

I have ambivalent feelings about Phil’s most famous book, *A Rumor of War*, because under the antiwar veneer lurks a hint that if Phil had fought a less questionable war, a war where Americans were clearly the good guys—say, World War Two, perhaps—he might not have ended up as an “anti-warrior.”

But he was a very good journalist, novelist, and nonfiction writer, and I liked very much a lot of his books. My favorite is *Ghosts of Tsavo*, a nonfiction book about a pair of man-eating lions in East Africa in the 1890s.

Moreover, as he made clear to me back in June 1990, Phil Caputo was a decent and honorable man, and a Marine who was not about to leave another Marine behind. I am sorry he has died. I am grateful to have known him.

—

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

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

old companions. After waiting until patience had not only ceased to be a virtue, but had ceased to exist, the bride declared the match off, and the guests proceeded to eat the wedding supper.

- In the court at Alfred, last Saturday forenoon, the four Portland bums who pleaded *nolo contendere* to a charge of illegal voting at the Biddeford municipal election were sentenced as follows: Lawrence Charlton to four months, and Fred T. Gillis, John H. Gillin and Edward A. Smith, alias “Finger” Smith, to three months imprisonment each.
- Among Sam Jones’ Chicago con-

verts is a “young newspaper man.” That is nothing to brag about. Any clergyman with a soft, insinuating tongue and pleasing address can convert a young journalist. Let him tackle the old ones. Take an old fellow who has been in the harness forty years, and get *him* on the mourner’s bench, and you will have an item for the Associated Press. — *Kansas City Times*

The New Hampshire Gazette
June 17, 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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Billionaires to Grassroots People: Shut Up!

by Jim Hightower

Other than the fact that they are such blood-sucking greed-heads, why have today’s multibillionaires, high-tech barons of AI become so despised by so many grassroots Americans?

By “so many,” I mean they’ve sparked a hell-raising mass revolt, originating in farm country, spreading through working-class suburbs, into community colleges, and other centers of Middle America—now including environmental, religious, and democracy movements.

This is a genuine populist rebellion of workaday families against the corporate oligarchy of Musk, Zuckerberg, Altman, Bezos, and other “geniuses” of artificial intelligence. The billionaires are racing to install millions of supersmart A.I. robots in nearly every workplace, from manufacturing to health care, farming to finance.

Amazingly, the tech elites consider themselves to be “humanitarians,” for they say turning work over to A.I. would free humans to... well, do what? Geniuses can’t bothered with such mundane details, so they’re not interested in soon-to-be displaced masses of people who’ll be “made redundant.”

So—hello—people are revolting (in the very best sense of that term). Interestingly, some of the strongest backlash is coming from a huge group generally assumed to be politically apathetic or enthusiastic about all technology: Young people. Columnist Michelle Goldberg reports that several tech honchos who’ve given college commencement speeches this month were startled when they launched into gushing praise for the glorious future promised by A.I. They were practically driven off-stage by roaring cascades of boos from the students!

The pain that A.I. profiteers are imposing is one thing, but an even greater cause of this spreading revolt is the imperious arrogance and stupidity of royal elites who think ordinary people don’t matter. Did these oligarchs never hear about the revolution of 1776?

—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, MAY 31	MONDAY, JUNE 1	TUESDAY, JUNE 2	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3	THURSDAY, JUNE 4	FRIDAY, JUNE 5	SATURDAY, JUNE 6
<p>2009—Dr. George Tiller, while ushering in a Wichita, Kansas church, is shot dead to uphold the sanctity of life.</p> <p>1989—As Newt drives him from the Speakership, Jim Wright [D-Texas], denounces "mindless cannibalism."</p> <p>1948—Two years after Palestinians in Huj hid Haganah fighters from British forces, Israeli troops flatten Huj and drive out Palestinians.</p> <p>1927—Fred Trump, Donald's dad, is arrested at a KKK rally in Queens.</p> <p>1921—A Black WW I veteran in Tulsa refuses a demand to surrender his pistol. During a struggle it fires; a massive "race war" ensues.</p> <p>1921—The mistrial of Sacco and Vanzetti begins under Judge Webster "Did you see what I did with those anarchistic bastards the other day?" Thayer.</p> <p>1919—N.H.-born Lieut. Commander Albert Read and crew, in an NC-4, complete the first trans-Atlantic flight.</p> <p>1889—A shoddy dam belonging to the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club (Andrew Carnegie, Andrew Mellon, &c.) collapses upstream of Johnstown, Pa. Roughly 2,200 die; unscathed, the owners pay \$0.</p> <p>1854—President Franklin Pierce [D-N.H.] tells the U.S. Atty. in Boston to incur "any expense...necessary" to re-enslave escapee Anthony Burns.</p> <p>1779—General George Washington orders New Hampshire's Gen. John Sullivan to bring "destruction...devastation [and] total ruinment" to the Haudenosaunee [Iroquois]. He does.</p>	<p>2020—The President asks, about people protesting outside the White House, "Can't you just shoot them?"</p> <p>2005—Having wrecked Iraq, Paul Wolfowitz starts on the World Bank.</p> <p>2002—George W.[MD] Bush announces at West Point that we'll attack pre-emptively if he feels like it.</p> <p>1980—Ted Turner launches CNN—the 24-hour news cycle commences.</p> <p>1971—The <i>New York Times</i> swallows Chuck Colson's bait: a "vets group" he created says that it backs the war.</p> <p>1967—Disgruntled GIs found Vietnam Veterans Against the War.</p> <p>1954—The AEC pulls the security clearance of Manhattan Project boss J. Robert Oppenheimer.</p> <p>1950—Maine's Margaret C. Smith asks fellow Republicans to renounce the "Four Horsemen of Calumny—Fear, Ignorance, Bigotry, and Smear." She is duly punished by them.</p> <p>1921—Tulsa's whites use planes to firebomb the wealthy Black neighborhood of Greenwood into oblivion, murdering hundreds in the process.</p> <p>1918—Advised by a retreating French officer at Belleau Wood to turn back, U.S.M.C. Capt. Lloyd Williams replies, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here."</p> <p>1857—The American Party sends Baltimore's Plug Uglies to disrupt municipal elections in D.C. To restore order President Buchanan calls out the Marines, who shoot 10 citizens dead.</p> <p>1660—Mary Dyer is hanged in Boston for her Quaker beliefs.</p>	<p>2002—The CIA admits to Congress—in a classified document, to avoid undue alarm—that it had tracked one 9/11 hijacker months earlier than it had previously admitted.</p> <p>1999—The <i>Virginian-Pilot</i> reports that evangelist Pat Robertson has had "extensive dealings" with Liberian war criminal Charles Taylor.</p> <p>1976—Don Bolles, investigative reporter for the <i>Arizona Republic</i>, is mortally injured by a bomb under his car. A pair of patsies take the fall.</p> <p>1972—Alfred W. McCoy explains to Congress that top South Vietnamese officials, the CIA, and the Mafia are all in the heroin racket together.</p> <p>1971—"Treating [the press] with considerably more contempt," Nixon writes to Haldeman, "is in the long run a more productive policy."</p> <p>1919—Anarchist bombs explode in eight cities. Attorney General Mitchell Palmer's D.C. home is nearly destroyed; the bomber's body parts land across the street on FDR's stoop.</p> <p>1863—Union troops led by Harriet Tubman liberate 800 enslaved people from Combahee Ferry, S.C.</p> <p>1855—An Irish mob breaks into Portland, Maine's City Hall seeking prohibitionist Mayor Neal Dow's medicinal reserves. Militia fire into the crowd; a sailor is shot dead.</p> <p>1831—Workers in Wales raise, for the first time, the red flag of revolution.</p> <p>455—Gaiseric's Vandals sack Rome, outdoing the Visigoth effort of 410.</p>	<p>2002—Egypt says it warned the U.S., a week before 9/11, that al-Qaeda was about to strike the U.S.</p> <p>1994—A jury finds Guy Chichester "not guilty." Patrick Fleming, his lawyer, had argued that felling a 60-foot siren pole for a nuke plant was not felonious criminal mischief, but civil disobedience protected by Article 10 of the New Hampshire Constitution.</p> <p>1983—In Medina, N.D., "Greatest Generation" veteran, Posse Comitatus co-founder, and anti-tax crank Gordon Kahl dies in a shootout with the FBI, having slain five U.S. Marshals.</p> <p>1980—A failed 46-cent computer chip briefly convinces NORAD that 220 Soviet missiles are incoming.</p> <p>1969—In the South China Sea, a navigational mistake takes the destroyer USS <i>Evans</i> under the bow of the carrier HMAS <i>Melbourne</i>. The bow of the <i>Evans</i> sinks with 73 of her crew. "The Wall" does not include their names.</p> <p>1968—Radical lesbian Valerie Solanas plugs Andy Warhol.</p> <p>1961—Henry R. Marshall, investigating LBJ's pal Billy Sol Estes for the Agriculture Department, is found with five .22 slugs in him from a bolt-action rifle. Verdict: "suicide."</p> <p>1918—SCOTUS nixes the Keating-Owen Act—capitalists may go back to profiting from interstate commerce in goods made by child labor.</p> <p>1678—In Portsmouth, tything men are appointed "to inspect the neighbor's families."</p>	<p>2006—A Ukrainian man enters the lion cage at the Kiev zoo, saying "God will save me, if he exists." He does not.</p> <p>2004—Marvin Heemeyer destroys the Granby, Colo. Town Hall, the mayor's home, and 11 other buildings with his home-made armored bulldozer because "God has asked me to do this." Then he shoots himself.</p> <p>2003—Feds get tough on white collar crime, i.e., Martha Stewart.</p> <p>1974—Tied in the ninth, Cleveland forfeits after home team fans attack the Rangers with chairs, clubs and knives on Ten-Cent Beer Night.</p> <p>1963—Allen Ginsberg visits Saigon to assess the political situation.</p> <p>1962—A failing Thor rocket is blown up over the South Pacific; the first U.S. high-altitude nuke test is a flop.</p> <p>1951—The Supreme Court denies Commies the right to free speech.</p> <p>1944—U-505 becomes the first sub to be boarded and captured at sea. It's now on exhibit in Chicago.</p> <p>1943—GIs in a fleet of cabs roam downtown L.A., searching for and beating up Mexican Americans.</p> <p>1939—The <i>St. Louis</i>, with 915 Jewish refugees aboard, is turned away from Florida; 254 will be killed by Nazis.</p> <p>1919—U.S. Marines invade Costa Rica "to protect American interests."</p> <p>1917—President Woodrow Wilson—a Democrat—tells the Justice Department to issue badges to 200,000 jingoistic civilians in the American Protective League.</p>	<p>2013—News outlets reveal that the NSA, under a Top Secret court order, has been Hoovering™ up the phone records of millions of Americans.</p> <p>2008—Despite Mayoral objections and a lack of public hearings, Blackwater opens a training facility in San Diego; a judge says Blackwater's a person whose rights must not be violated.</p> <p>2003—Two top editors at the <i>New York Times</i> resign in disgrace. Inexplicably, many other journals do not.</p> <p>1976—In Idaho, the \$100 million federal Teton Dam fails, killing 14 and causing \$2 billion in damages.</p> <p>1970—Nixon orders the bosses of the CIA, DIA, NSA, and FBI: stop these dissidents. Eventually this backfires.</p> <p>1969—Taken three weeks earlier, at a cost of 72 American lives and 372 Purple Hearts, Ap Bia Mountain, aka Hamburger Hill, is abandoned.</p> <p>1968—RFK is fatally shot in Los Angeles. The LAPD convinces the gullible that Sirhan Sirhan did it, alone.</p> <p>1967—SCOTUS endangers workers and the environment by banning random fire department inspections.</p> <p>1967—Israel attacks Egypt and Syria. The Six Day War begins.</p> <p>1965—The State Department admits U.S. troops are fighting in Vietnam.</p> <p>1943—GIs and zoot-suited Hispanics rumble all over Los Angeles.</p> <p>1862—France gains sovereignty over three Vietnamese provinces under the Treaty of Saigon and the time-honored principle that might makes right.</p>	<p>2002—Donald Rumsfeld explains to the unknown that unknown unknowns are "things we do not know we don't know"—and he should know.</p> <p>2001—Florida man Vance Flosenzier drags a seven-foot shark from shallow water; paramedics drag his nephew Jesse Arbogast's arm from its mouth; doctors successfully re-attach the arm.</p> <p>1990—AP reports that Adnan Khashoggi and Donald Trump were the only celebrities cheap enough to cash \$0.13 checks sent by <i>Spy</i>.</p> <p>1989—At a chaotic funeral attended by 10 million, Ayatollah Khomeini is twice jostled out of his coffin.</p> <p>1989—Nuclear weapon manufacturing ends at Rocky Flats, Colo. when FBI and EPA agents raid the joint.</p> <p>1980—Nuclear-armed B-52s go on alert for the second time in three days; a glitchy computer warns that 2,000 Soviet ICBMs are attacking the U.S.</p> <p>1975—Governor Mel Thomson calls for the N.H. National Guard to be armed with nuclear weapons.</p> <p>1971—Native Americans briefly occupy the top of Mount Rushmore.</p> <p>1966—The U.S. military releases <i>Bacillus globigii</i> in New York's subway.</p> <p>1949—Orwell publishes <i>1984</i>. Originally a novel, it became non-fiction.</p> <p>1944—GIs, Brits, Canadians, &c. hit the beach at Normandy, France.</p> <p>1943—Leaders of a racist wildcat strike at Packard—who had fallen for the company's union-busting gambit of promoting Blacks—lose their jobs.</p>
 <p>6:10 6:08</p>	 <p>6:48 6:46</p>	 <p>7:26 7:24</p>	 <p>8:03 8:02</p>	 <p>8:41 8:43</p>	 <p>9:22 9:28</p>	 <p>10:04 10:17</p>
SUNDAY, JUNE 7	MONDAY, JUNE 8	TUESDAY, JUNE 9	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10	THURSDAY, JUNE 11	FRIDAY, JUNE 12	SATURDAY, JUNE 13
<p>2018—Attacked by a bobcat in her Georgia driveway, DeDe Phillips, 46, strangles the rabid animal.</p> <p>1997—At the fed-funded Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos, New Mexico, activists are arrested for passing out copies of the Bill of Rights.</p> <p>1991—Vin Scully: "Andre Dawson has a bruised knee and is listed as day-to-day. (Pause.) Aren't we all?"</p> <p>1971—An article in the <i>Armed Forces Journal</i> says "our army...in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse."</p> <p>1971—Busted for "disturbing the peace" in a California courthouse [i.e., wearing a jacket with "Fuck The Draft" on the back], Paul Cohen is sprung by the U.S. Supreme Court.</p> <p>1969—Marine PFC Dan Bullock is KIA in Vietnam. He is 15, and Black. His enlistment is deemed "fraudulent," so he's denied a grave marker.</p> <p>1966—Walking for voting rights and freedom, James Meredith, 32, gets three blasts from a shotgun in Hernando, Miss. He's now 92.</p> <p>1960—A BOMARC missile at a site in NJ. catches fire, melting the 10-kiloton nuclear warhead on board; eleven ounces of plutonium disperse.</p> <p>1943—In Los Angeles, 5,000 soldiers, sailors, and civilians strip and beat zoot-suited Hispanics.</p> <p>1924—George Mallory goes missing near the summit of Mt. Everest.</p> <p>1920—KKK Imperial Wizard William J. Simmons hires two PR experts: membership soon explodes.</p>	<p>1995—By chance, Russian mobster Vyacheslav Ivankov is arrested at his girlfriends Brighton Beach apartment, not his Trump Tower condo.</p> <p>1991—Constitution Ave. is wrecked by tanks in a "victory celebration."</p> <p>1967—Israeli planes and boats attack the unarmed U.S. spy ship <i>Liberty</i> with rockets, machine guns, and napalm; 34 sailors are killed, 171 wounded.</p> <p>1966—Five U.S.A.F. jets fly in formation over Barstow, Calif., for a photo requested by GE marketers. Two crash, including the Valkyrie, worth \$5 billion in today's money. Two pilots die.</p> <p>1956—Tech. Sgt. Richard B. Fitzgibbon, Jr. becomes the first U.S. serviceman to die in Vietnam. He's murdered by a fellow American airman.</p> <p>1952—"I would never send troops [to Vietnam]," says Pres. Eisenhower.</p> <p>1944—U. Chi. Pres. R.M. Hutchins warns the GI Bill will turn "colleges [into] educational hobo jungles."</p> <p>1917—For safety purposes, a 1,200-foot electrical cable, insulated by oil-covered cloth, is lowered into Butte's Granite Mountain mine. It drops in a heap 2,400 feet down, catches fire, and kills 168 miners.</p> <p>1844—With odds against them 70 to 15, Texas Rangers slay 23 Comanches in their first use of Colt revolvers.</p> <p>1783—The Icelandic volcano Laki explodes, releasing fluorine which contaminates the grass. That kills the livestock, which causes a famine that kills one quarter of all Icelanders.</p>	<p>2023—Another Presidential indictment: 37 felonies this time, unlawful national secret possession the crime.</p> <p>2016—Donald Trump's son, son-in-law, and campaign manager meet at Trump Tower with a whole slew of Russians with peculiar associations.</p> <p>1989—James Watt, Ronald Reagan's Interior Secretary, admits to a House committee that he was paid \$400,000 for making a few phone calls on a topic about which he knew nothing.</p> <p>1978—The Mormon Church drops its longstanding policy of excluding Black men from the priesthood.</p> <p>1963—Winona, Miss. jail inmates do as cops say, nearly beating civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer to death.</p> <p>1958—Auberon Waugh, a British writer, shakes the barrel of his armored car's malfunctioning machine gun, taking several slugs in the chest.</p> <p>1954—Army attorney Joseph Welch asks Sen. Joseph McCarthy, "Have you no sense of decency, sir?" As the gallery erupts in applause, McCarthy asks Roy Cohn, "What happened?"</p> <p>1946—Ted Williams hits a ball that lands in the 37th row of Fenway's bleachers, over 500 feet away.</p> <p>1940—Refusal to salute the flag boils over in Kennebunk, Me. Jehovah's Witnesses shoot two locals, and Kingdom Hall is burned in retaliation.</p> <p>1893—As Edwin Booth, John Wilkes' brother, is being buried in Boston, the floors collapse at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., killing 22 people.</p>	<p>1988—The Justice Dept. says "no entry" to a bike messenger in a T-shirt saying "Experts agree: Meese is a pig."</p> <p>1975—The Rockefeller Commission finds that the CIA's CHAOS operation spied on 300,000 Americans and infiltrated political movements.</p> <p>1968—The Supreme Court says cops can "stop and frisk" based on "reasonable suspicion." [Or racist whim?]</p> <p>1964—Muted by a tumor, weeks from death, Sen. Clair Engle [D-Calif.] points to his eye; his "aye" vote ends the filibuster of the Civil Rights Act.</p> <p>1963—In a big speech JFK says he'll negotiate with the USSR and seek world peace; 166 days later he's dead.</p> <p>1945—The mishap-prone destroyer <i>William D. Porter</i> evades a kamikaze off Okinawa but is over the sunken plane when it explodes. Though <i>Porter</i> sinks, all its crewmen survive.</p> <p>1944—The Reds' Joe Nuxhall gives up five runs in the 9th. Hey—he's 15.</p> <p>1940—Black nationalist Marcus Garvey dies of a stroke after reading his own obit in the <i>Chicago Defender</i>.</p> <p>1886—At Neuschwanstein castle, Bavarian bureaucrats dodge the umbrella-wielding Baroness Spera von Truchseß to grab Mad King Ludwig.</p> <p>1871—U.S. Marines avenge the ignominious 1866 loss of the armed merchant ship <i>General Sherman</i> by attacking a number of Korean forts on Gangwha Island, killing 243 Koreans in the process. Three months later the Americans withdraw.</p>	<p>2018—SCOTUS gives states another excuse—voters failing to vote in an election—for wholesale voter purges.</p> <p>1995—In Claremont, N.H., Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich shake hands and pledge to reform lobbying and campaign financing. Yeah, right.</p> <p>1990—The Supreme Court rules flag desecration laws are unconstitutional.</p> <p>1984—The Supreme Court gives prosecutors a new loophole for using illegally-obtained evidence.</p> <p>1963—In Saigon, Thich Quang Duc sits motionless as he burns.</p> <p>1962—John and Clarence Anglin, with Frank Morris, escape from Alcatraz. Maybe they drown, maybe not.</p> <p>1929—Congress says never mind the Constitution, henceforth the House shall have no more than 435 members.</p> <p>1920—To its eternal discredit, the GOP puts Harding up for President in the original "smoke-filled room."</p> <p>1914—Suffragists bomb the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey.</p> <p>1866—"Mad King" Ludwig is dead. Suicide by drowning? Perhaps....</p> <p>1851—Having, in four hours, caught, tried, convicted, and sentenced John Jenkins, the First San Francisco Vigilance Committee hangs him.</p> <p>1837—Drunken nativist firefighters encounter Irishmen at a funeral: Boston's Broad Street riot ensues.</p> <p>1345—The Chief Minister of the Byzantine Empire inspects a new prison without his bodyguards. Political prisoners hoist his head on a pike.</p>	<p>2000—The Energy Department admits that two hard drives holding top-secret data on nuclear weapons have been missing for over a month.</p> <p>1991—White House Chief of Staff John H. Sununu takes a government limousine from D.C. to New York City to attend a rare stamp auction.</p> <p>1981—Failing to recognize the only Black person in his Cabinet, President Reagan, calls Housing Secretary Samuel Pierce "Mr. Mayor."</p> <p>1971—As Tricia Nixon marries at the White House, the <i>Times</i> starts publishing "The Pentagon Papers." Dan Ellsberg and Howard Zinn go see "Butch Cassidy," stoned.</p> <p>1969—The Army Corps of Engineers stops the American Falls at Niagara.</p> <p>1967—The Supreme Court rules interracial marriage is legal.</p> <p>1963—Medgar Evers is shot and killed in Mississippi; his murderer is convicted 31 years later.</p> <p>1957—"We have exactly 342 men," says General Samuel T. Williams, head of the U.S. MAAAG, Vietnam, "the number allowed by the Geneva Armistice Conference. It would be a breeze if we had more."</p> <p>1956—Under interrogation by the House Un-American Activities Committee, Paul Robeson declares, "You are the Un-Americans."</p> <p>1929—First Lady Lou Hoover sparks a national freakout by inviting Jessie DePriest, wife of the only Black man in Congress, to the White House.</p>	<p>2005—Congress apologizes for having failed to pass 200 anti-lynching bills between 1882 and 1968.</p> <p>1999—In Kosovo, British Lieut. Gen. Mike Jackson refuses NATO Commander Wesley Clark's orders to take the Russian-occupied Pristina airport, saying, "I'm not going to start the Third World War for you."</p> <p>1983—<i>Pioneer 10</i> exits the solar system.</p> <p>1971—Because "The Pentagon Papers" cover only the Kennedy and Johnson years, Kissinger and Nixon have a good laugh in the Oval Office.</p> <p>1968—A U.S. attack helicopter accidentally kills Saigon's Chief of Police.</p> <p>1966—The Supreme Court rules that cops can't make you talk.</p> <p>1944—News reports say Rep. Francis E. Walter (D-Penn.) gave FDR a letter-opener made from the arm bone of a dead Japanese soldier. In 1955, Walter will become chair of HUAC.</p> <p>1942—U-202 lands eight Nazi saboteurs at Amagansett, Long Island.</p> <p>1920—Fuddy-duddies at the U.S. Post Office rule that children may no longer be mailed Parcel Post.</p> <p>1914—On Butte's Miner's Union Day, dissidents assault officials, snatch the union's safe, throw the sheriff out a 2nd-story window, blow open the safe, blow up a union official's house, and bust two members out of jail.</p> <p>1867—U.S. Marines and sailors abandon a punitive expedition against Taiwanese tribesmen after Lt. Cdr. Alexander S. MacKenzie is slain.</p>
 <p>4:28 5:09</p> <p>10:49 11:10</p>	 <p>5:20 5:58</p> <p>11:37</p>	 <p>6:16 6:50</p> <p>12:05 12:27</p>	 <p>7:15 7:42</p> <p>1:03 1:19</p>	 <p>8:14 8:35</p> <p>2:01 2:13</p>	 <p>9:12 9:29</p> <p>2:58 3:07</p>	 <p>10:09 10:22</p> <p>3:54 4:01</p>

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Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable — Tuesday, June 23rd at 6:00 p.m.
Portsmouth Democrats Coffee Meetup — Friday, June 26th at 8:00 a.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 bwazlaw@aol.com. Website: <https://seacoastfriends.org>.

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