

The Fortnightly Rant

What Goes Up...

Gracious sakes, look at the calendar! Just a week from tomorrow comes the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence! My, my—how time flies when you're publishing newspapers.

Routine journalistic practice would be to honor the occasion by combing the archives and republishing bits of our reportage on that earth-shaking event. Frankly, though, our Human Resources Department has failed to provide us with sufficient editorial staff to perform such a task. Also, not to cast aspersions on Daniel Fowle, our founder and then-editor, but mid-18th century prose is an acquired taste.

Instead, we'll recommend to our readers a volume available at the Portsmouth Public Library: *Declaration: The Nine Tumultuous Weeks When America Became Independent, May 1 – June 4, 1776*, by William Hogeland, published by Simon & Schuster in 2010. A rip-roaring tale of characters both famous and obscure—some of them rather weird, to boot—engaged in all manner of intrigue and skulduggery, its relative obscurity simply baffles us. Perhaps it's just too much to ask that the nation acknowledge it was born in conspiracy.

Independence was on the minds of the all delegates to the Continental Congress, as it met that May in Philadelphia. For Samuel Adams and his pro-independence cohort, though, too many of them were against it. This was especially true in Pennsylvania, the second-largest colony in terms of population. With it, Congress might vote for independence. Without it the colonies would be geographically divided and have no clear path forward. Compounding the problem, on May 1st the Pennsylvania Assembly, led by John Dickinson, voted in favor of reconciliation with Britain.

Spoiler Alert: Adams and his cast of fanatics and weirdos fomented insurrection among the working classes in Philadelphia and successfully overthrew the Pennsylvania Assembly. The rest, as they say, is history.*

Over the ensuing centuries, the natural advantages of this immense tract of real estate—timber galore, fertile plains, seemingly-inexhaustible herds of bison, etc.—made it possible for those who usurped it from the indigenous inhabitants to attain a position of global dominance. For better or worse, that lasted for about a century.

Some, it seems, would argue that this has all been for the good. De-

fending such a position requires a degree of selective blindness, but when has that ever been in short supply?

Others, if we are to employ a standard tool of the hack journalist and conjure up a theoretical symmetry rarely seen in the wild, view the U.S.A. as "The Great Satan." The occasional comment from our critics notwithstanding, we are not among them.

Trying to encapsulate a quarter of a millennium in the history of any nation—particularly one containing such contradictory multitudes—is a fool's errand. Anyone aspiring to achieve objectivity on such a subject would do well to practice first, say, by taking a census of pinhead angels.

We can say this with some confidence, though: America no longer needs to worry about leading the world astray. It ain't gonna follow. And as for the role of The World's Policeman, we ought to be looking over our shoulder for him, as we call the world's bail bondsman.

A decent respect for the historical record requires at least a brief account of how we went from domination to laughingstock.

Sixty-two years and 2,500 books later, there is no single, agreed-upon answer to the question of who killed President John F. Kennedy. Rogue spooks from the CIA? Bosses of the Mob the FBI said didn't exist?

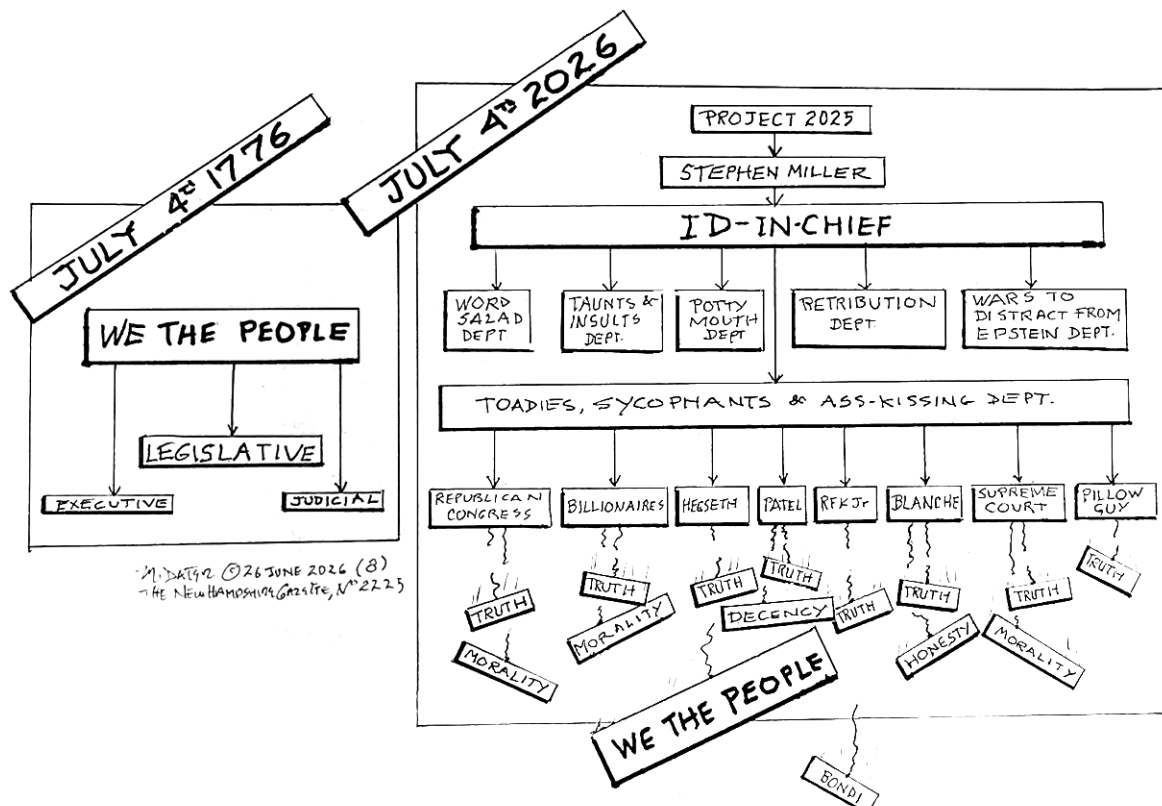
Vietnam—the war JFK started, then tried to end [see above]. Once the secret history came out, we learned that the truth really did set most of us free—of the illusion that the government knew what it was doing. The war metastasized into a federal budget fiasco, so one could argue that it never ended.

Those irreconcilable differences set like concrete and the parties drove out their heretics. The constitution gave the rurals and the former slave-states an edge. Big money saw an opportunity, and took it, carefully hedging its bet by backing Democrats in Name Only.

Nothing rejuvenates old authoritarians like seeing strong young men go to foreign lands for glory and a cost-plus contract. The First Bush War was a plausible enough victory to give Bush the Younger a chance to overplay his hand. Even his twin catastrophes, though, failed to fully deplete the momentum of the military-industrial complex.

Fate left that task for a certain stable genius, who, meeting in secret with his sycophants, came up with a plan to overthrow, not some horse-powered colonial capitol, but a modern, hostile, sovereign nation. Iran won, coming out both richer and stronger.

Good luck trying to get the genius to understand that.



Election Expert:

'Humiliating String of Defeats' Threatens Trump's Plot to Rig 2026 Midterms

"As Republican electoral prospects wane, Trump will grow more desperate, and that desperation will lead to even more extreme actions by the administration."

by Brad Reed

President Donald Trump's unprecedented efforts to rig the 2026 midterm elections are on thin ice after having been repeatedly thwarted by courts, according to election law attorney Marc Elias.

In a Monday analysis published by Democracy Docket, Elias noted that the U.S. Department of Justice has seen its attempts to obtain states' voter files shot down in court nine different times, most recently by a federal judge in Maryland who ruled the state was under no obligation to hand its voter file to the federal government.

Elias wrote that Trump needs states' voter files to build a national voter database, which would allow his administration to pick and choose which voters are eligible to participate in future elections and which should be purged.

"The problem for Trump is that his Department of Justice keeps los-

ing cases that it needs to access this critical data," Elias explained. "This humiliating string of defeats threatens to derail Trump's signature plan to subvert the 2026 midterm elections."

Trump will also have difficulty blaming these court losses on left-wing judges, Elias added, because Trump-appointed judges have been responsible for more than half of the defeats the DOJ has suffered, which he described as "nothing short of a debacle."

Elias, whose law firm has been involved in trying to block the DOJ from accessing voter files, said it was worth celebrating the latest victory over the Trump administration, but he warned that more fights are coming.

"As Republican electoral prospects wane, Trump will grow more desperate," he wrote, "and that desperation will lead to even more extreme actions by the administration."

It will also require much more litigation."

Trump earlier this year signed an executive order instructing the United States Postal Service not to deliver ballots in any states that have not given the federal government access to its voter lists.

The order, currently being challenged in court by congressional Democrats and all 23 Democratic state attorneys general, could essentially eliminate mail-in voting in the U.S., opponents have warned.

CNN on Monday reported that the administration is also trying to squeeze states into changing their election laws by withholding "tens of millions of dollars in federal homeland security funds" from states unless they phase out specified electronic voting systems and move back to relying on paper ballots.

States wanting to receive funding must also "run their voter rolls through a controversial Department of Homeland Security citizenship verification database," CNN reported.

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

- The *Penny Post* of the 30th ult. called Col. John B. Clarke of the Manchester *Mirror* a bachelor. This is a little rough on the colonel's sons, Arthur and William C., who adorned the editorial fraternity ere any of the staff of the *P.P.* had a day's experience in a newspaper office.
- The bath houses, twenty or thirty in number, at the westerly end of Jenness' beach, Rye, were destroyed on the 5th inst. by a fire-cracker conflagration.
- Two fools sailed from the Clyde, Scotland, June 28th, for New York, in a boat nineteen feet long. They

- took provisions for two months.
- R.J. Lane, president of the Abingdon, Mass., national bank, has been arrested charged with embezzling about \$135,000 of the bank's funds.
- A dwelling at Billerica, Mass., containing two women, was wrecked by dynamite on the night of the 5th. No lives lost. The criminals are unknown.
- The mixing house at the Atlantic Dynamite Co.'s works at High Bridge, N.J., blew up on Friday, and ten men were blown to atoms so that no distinguishable remnant of their bodies could be found.

- Geo. W. Varney, a well-known grocer at Dover, dropped dead on Tuesday of last week while acting as a pall bearer at a funeral. He had taken hold of one end of the casket, and while in a doorway sank down, and expired almost instantly. He was sixty-three years of age, and a native of Farmington.

The New Hampshire Gazette
July 8, 1886

- A Boston man who has tried several type writing machines admits that

Better Old News
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* Adams had come a long way since 1748-49, when Daniel Fowle printed for him, in Boston, a newspaper called the *Independent Advertiser*.

‘Trillionaires Shouldn’t Exist’:

Obscene Musk Milestone Spurs Calls for Aggressive Wealth Tax

by Jake Johnson

Elon Musk’s net worth surged past \$1 trillion on June 12th as SpaceX—the rocket company he founded and controls—made its debut on the public market, prompting global revulsion and calls for an aggressive wealth tax to rein in out-of-control inequality.

“Musk became the world’s first trillionaire because our tax system shields the wealth of the ultra-wealthy from taxation while requiring working people to pay taxes on every paycheck,” said Igor Volsky, director of the Tax the Greedy Billionaires Campaign. “Today’s milestone should serve as a wake-up call to us all.”

“Unless we plan to cede control and agency over our future to a handful of ultra-wealthy individuals, lawmakers must pursue bold tax policies that actually meet this moment—not just slowing the accumulation of extreme wealth, but reversing it,” Volsky added. “That means passing taxes on billionaire wealth ambitious enough to make the ultra-wealthy less wealthy, reduce the stranglehold they have over our economy and democracy, and restore the ideal that no one in America gets to buy their way to unchecked power.”

Reuters reported Friday that “most of Musk’s wealth now rests with SpaceX, where he holds a stake worth roughly \$866 billion.”

“Along with Tesla and the rest of his properties, his net worth will exceed \$1.1 trillion when the stock begins trading Friday,” Reuters noted. “The tally includes stock components that would vest over time.”

While Musk’s on-paper fortune could drop below the trillion-dollar mark if SpaceX’s stock price drops below \$135 per share—which is highly possible, as experts argue the company’s valuation is absurd—campaigners said Friday that the milestone is an appalling product of a society that has allowed the mega-rich to dictate policy, funneling immense wealth to the very top while millions worldwide face hunger, violent displacement, and preventable disease. Oxfam has estimated that just a 10 percent tax on Musk’s fortune could lift 800 million people above the extreme poverty line.

“Eighty-six percent of Americans are worried about the price of food. Elon Musk is a trillionaire. These two things are deeply, inherently connected,” said Erica Payne, founder and president of the advocacy group Patriotic Millionaires. “The level of wealth that Mr. Musk has

reached requires human exploitation, wage theft, wage suppression, anti-competitive markets, monopolistic control, price collusion, inadequate tax systems, and corruption. Mostly inadequate tax systems and corruption.”

Musk’s companies, including SpaceX, have relied heavily on and benefited massively from government contracts, subsidies, and research, while paying minimal taxes.

The New York Times reported last year that SpaceX “has most likely paid little to no federal income taxes since its founding in 2002 and has privately told investors that it may never have to pay any, according to internal company documents.” As for Tesla, the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy found earlier this year that the company “avoided almost all federal income tax on over \$12 billion of U.S. income over the past three years.”

Musk, whose immense wealth is largely stock appreciation that is not taxed in the U.S. unless shares are sold, paid nothing in federal income taxes in 2018, according to ProPublica. “Between 2014 and 2018, he had a true tax rate of 3.27 percent,” the investigative outlet noted.

Writer Elizabeth Spiers argued Friday that “trillionaires shouldn’t exist,” noting in a column for The Nation that “as Musk’s wealth multiplies, he continues to prosper on the public dime.”

“Musk’s cosmic-scale wealth-hoarding is particularly abhorrent when you place it against the backdrop of how much damage he’s done,” wrote Spiers. “It’s hard to quantify the scale of destruction and deprivation that he will never personally be held accountable for. How do you value the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people who have died since Musk, in his words, gleefully ‘fed [USAID] into the woodchipper’? How do you value the lives of people who will die because DOGE cut major biomedical research funding?”

“Musk has enriched himself via a rigged investment economy ensuring that those with the most contribute the least—or in many cases, nothing at all,” Spiers added.

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



Crypto Bill Could Make Trumps Richer

by Brad Reed

A government watchdog is warning that new cryptocurrency policies being considered in the House of Representatives would be a major boon to the ultrawealthy, including President Donald Trump’s family.

In an analysis published on Monday, the Revolving Door Project (RDP) highlighted new crypto-related tax bills being discussed in the House Ways and Means Committee, including one that “would create a functional subsidy for cryptocurrency firms by allowing them to defer taxes owed on their mined coins indefinitely and without interest, so long as the firms do not sell the coins.”

This would allow coin owners to raise money by borrowing against these assets without having paid a cent of taxes on them, the analysis explains, which could be particularly beneficial for Trump’s two eldest sons.

“Eric and Donald Trump Jr. reportedly hold a 20 percent stake in the bitcoin mining firm American Bitcoin, which mined 817 bitcoin in Q1 of 2026 alone,” RDP writes. “At current prices, this represents a value of more than \$50 million, while the company has stated that it already intends to hold assets it mines. If passed, this loophole could mean millions of dollars in taxes owed by the Trump sons’ firm could be deferred endlessly.”

RDP also published a list of crypto donations to lawmakers on the House Ways and Means Committee. Rep. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.) has received nearly \$2 million in support from the industry since 2023, more than any other commit-

tee member.

Other top recipients of crypto cash include Reps. Tom Suozzi (D-N.Y.), Jimmy Gomez (D-Calif.), Adrian Smith (R-Neb.), and Jason Smith (R-Mo.), chairman of the committee.

Jeff Hauser, executive director of RDP, said that the bills currently under consideration in the House are essentially a return on the crypto industry’s investment in political campaigns.

“The cryptocurrency industry believes it is owed massive tax loopholes and functional subsidies,” said Hauser, “because it has bought the president, paid for his ballroom project, and has funded dozens of congressional campaigns. The lack of campaign finance reform is the principal reason that the ludicrously corrupt Trump family is set to enjoy yet another tax loophole to exploit.”

Timi Iwayemi, assistant director at RDP, said that “the cryptocurrency industry has facilitated the Trump family’s corruption at every turn,” while warning members of Congress against doing the industry’s bidding.

“Lawmakers should be wary of creating new tax loopholes to benefit the Trump family and their donors in the crypto industry,” said Iwayemi. “Rewarding this behavior will embolden the crypto industry and other corporate lobbies eager to seize on our elected representatives’ prioritization of donor interests at public expense.”

Brad Reed is a staff writer for Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).



It’s less than a week after Flag Day, the Fourth of July is just around the metaphorical corner, and whatever gizmo is supposed to secure the lower grommet of the flag on the pole on the left—at the Portsmouth Memorial Park, no less!—is Absent With Out Leave. The Flag Police would be shocked, were they still capable of reacting in such a manner.

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Beware of Cruise Ships
— a Bar Harbor reader

It's Always Been About Race

A closer look at the Supreme Court's indefensible "whites-first" reasoning on gerrymandering.

by Mitchell Zimmerman

Six right-wing Supreme Court justices just required that elections in Alabama be carried out using plainly racist maps designed to eliminate a Black-majority congressional district. It was an extraordinary move in the wake of the Court's already extraordinary decision to effectively bury the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The racially discriminatory intent of the Alabama map was so clear that a previous three-judge panel—consisting of two Trump appointees and one Reagan appointee—had found that the map intentionally discriminated against African-Americans.

The decision comes amidst an unprecedented redistricting frenzy by Republicans that's likely to eliminate nearly all Black congressional representatives from Southern states.

The hunt was unleashed by a Supreme Court decision that rendered the Voting Rights Act toothless to protect Black voting rights. The constitutional "logic" behind the decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* is worth exploring because it reveals the *de facto* white supremacy behind conservative demands that the government act in a "color-blind" manner.

In *Callais*, the six right-wing justices held that efforts to protect Black voters from being gerrymandered into powerlessness represented "discrimination" on the basis of race—and that African-American plaintiffs seeking to protect their representation have a "special" burden to overcome.

To understand the "special burden," let's look back at history.

The Fifteenth Amendment, ad-

opted in 1870, prohibits states from abridging the right to vote on account of race. But for nearly a century, the former Confederate states prevented Black people from voting—through legal tricks of every kind, open violence, and economic intimidation.

The long civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960s reached its culmination in the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The law recalled the Fifteenth Amendment to life by giving federal courts broad and flexible authority to protect African-American voting rights. It prohibits states from imposing any electoral "practice or procedure" that "results in a denial or abridgement" of the right to vote "on account of race or color."

The Voting Rights Act focuses on results, precisely because those who oppose Black voting rights rarely admit their purpose out loud. The law specifically bars practices that give minorities "less opportunity than other members of the electorate... to elect representatives of their choice."

Gerrymandering obviously violates this. So for decades, federal courts applied this provision to protect African-American voters from racial gerrymandering. *Louisiana v. Callais* reversed that.

Instead, the right-wingers relied on the court's 2019 decision in *Rucho v. Common Cause*, which unleashed states to engage in unlimited partisan gerrymandering.

Because Black voters tend to support Democrats, the Court allowed Republicans to carry out racial gerrymandering as partisan gerrymandering. It forces African-American voters to prove that racism was the sole reason for districting that de-

nies African-American voters an opportunity to select representatives of their choice.

By approving gerrymandering when a discriminatory reason is accompanied by the desire to advance partisan interests, the Court privileged the desire of a white majority to unfairly magnify its political power through gerrymandering over fairness to voters of color.

"Courts must treat partisan advantage like any other race-neutral aim," the Court held, so an African-American plaintiff must "disentangle race from politics." But partisan advantage cannot be deemed "race-neutral" when the very identity of the political party seeking advantage rests on racial ideology.

Following the passage of civil rights laws in the 1960s, white segregationist voters fled to the GOP, drawn by Republican support for resistance to integration. The GOP's stance also found a sympathetic audience among Northern whites, who often fought to preserve *de facto* segregation and white advantages.

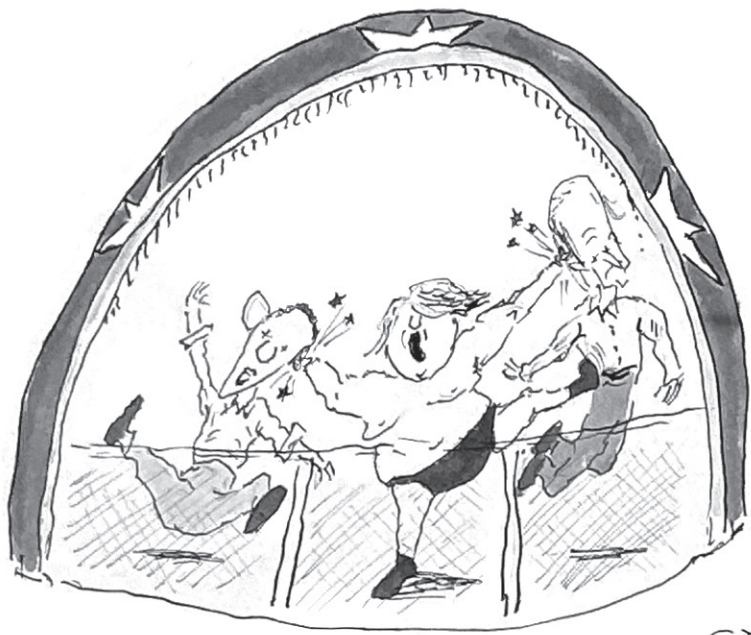
The modern Republican Party has been constructed on white resistance to integration and opposition to African-American rights. So when Republican politicians attack African-American political participation, the attacks advance GOP partisan interests by activating racial prejudice.

In a multiracial democracy with a history of white racial oppression, there is an obvious need to ensure that voters of color get a meaningful voice in the political process. Except to white nationalists and their allies.

The right-wing justices have not interpreted the Voting Rights Act. They have interred it.

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Mitchell Zimmerman is an attorney and longtime social activist. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.



2026 JUNE 26 2026 (82.1)
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, N° 2224

TRUMP FANTASIZING DURING HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY OBSCENITY

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from previous page

"they can print well enough, but they can't spell worth a cent."

- A North Carolinian who clubbed a man over the head with a mud turtle has been held for assault with a deadly weapon.
- Charles K. Bond of Waterbury, Conn., superintendent of a manufactory at a salary of \$2500 a year [*Equal to \$88,569.15 today.* — *The Ed.*], and for twenty years a highly respected citizen of the place, has been taken to Lawrence, Mass., to answer for stealing a team in 1864. A woman supposed to be his wife, but who eloped with him in 1863, "gave him away" to the Massachusetts police on account of his having, as she alleges, attempted to poison her. His real name is Kimball W. Rollins, under which name he served in the 4th New Hampshire regiment.
- Six bagpipe players passed up Market street at intervals on Friday, bound east. Some of their music was most excruciating.
- The band of gypsies who have summered near the junction of Sag-

amore and Wentworth roads for several seasons past, are there again.

- Eva M. Angell of Manchester, five years old, died of sunstroke on the 6th inst.
- David Hayes, a prominent coal dealer of Rochester, was sunstruck on the 7th inst.
- A quarryman of Worcester, Mass., died on the 6th inst. of sunstroke.
- Nathan E. Harrelson of Belton, Mo., has been sued for breach of promise by Lucy B. Horine, a Kentucky Blue-Grass belle, who thinks \$25,000 will soothe her heart. She is 22 years old and the Missourian is 86 and wealthy.
- George Washington is now in the Virginia Penitentiary, and in the last year James K. Polk, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, and Daniel Webster have been his companions.
- At Mechanic Falls, Me., on the 3rd, an anvil which was being charged with powder by J. Fuller exploded, and blew off both his hands. [*The practice of celebrating the Fourth by sending anvils into the air with black*

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Crossing a bridge on foot in the name of civil rights—what more appropriate way to begin a day of celebrating Juneteenth? The Leftist Marching Band leads the way from Kittery to the African Burying Ground.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"If Jesus had been killed twenty years ago, Catholic school children would be wearing little electric chairs around their necks instead of crosses."

— Lenny Bruce (1925-1966) comedian, satirist

"Truth is mighty and will prevail.
There is nothing the matter with this,
except that it ain't so."

— Samuel Langhorne Clemens

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What's Going On

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

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Should We Call Them What They Are?
To the Editor,

I've been wracking my brain for a name to describe the new class of ultra-wealthy billionaires—some 900 strong—who are making significant changes to our lives.

Some call them the one-percent. I find that's not very descriptive. Since they give enormous amounts of money to influence state and federal legislation, political candidates, elections, judicial appointments, etc.—all to continue their own legacy at the cost of the rest of us, it seems fitting that they have their own name.

I'll call them the Parasite Class. The dictionary defines a parasite as "a person who lives at the expense of another or others without making any useful contribution, giving nothing in return" and "one who derives sustenance or protection without benefiting the host and usually doing harm."

These folks don't need social security, medicare, medicaid, healthcare, good jobs, low drug, food or oil prices, low-cost housing, a clean, safe environment, etc., so they spend millions trying to eliminate these pesky problems so there's more money for them.

They love war because they make enormous profits while safely hiding behind their fortresses, while rigging the tax system so they can keep even more for themselves.

And they invest in AI and other technologies that benefit them at the cost of the rest of us.

They're doing it so well that they really, really deserve their own moniker.

Parasite Class.

It seems to fit.

Bill Hamilton

Eliot, Maine

Bill:

Your logic is impeccable. Strictly speaking, in the abstract, the term fits the subject like a £6,000 Saville Row suit.

Actually using that term, though, in our gross and sweaty world, brings to mind the dehumanizing language used to justify one of the greatest crimes of the 20th century.

Those who were once victims now use similar language against new victims. That ought to be warning enough to us.

The Editor

Why So Quiet, MAGA?
Dear Editor:

Over the past few months, I have noticed a conspicuous silence from the MAGA folks who often sent letters to the editor praising Mr. Trump and his policies. I wonder why this silence from the MAGA's?

Could Mr. Trump's policies, behavior, corruption, and mental decline have something to do with this silence? Inflation in May reached 4.2 percent up from 3.8 percent, the highest level since 2023. The ongoing, ill-advised war of choice with Iran has dragged on for months with no end in sight. Mr. Trump promised it would end very quickly. Fuel oil is up 59 percent, gasoline up 41 percent, airline fares 27 percent, and fruits and vegetables over 6 percent from last year.

Could it be his ongoing efforts to have his DOJ withhold almost half of the Epstein files, even after Congress ordered their full release? Maybe it's his attempt to get a \$1.776 billion slush fund established, to pay off criminals who attacked our Capitol on January 6, 2021? Possibly it was him having his DOJ settle with himself an agreement to prohibit the IRS from ever examining or auditing his taxes or those of his family and businesses? Of course, they also may feel some anguish over Mr. Trump's efforts to build a huge ballroom onto the White House, install a grotesque fighting cage on the White House grounds, proposing an enormous arch that would impair the views of the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery. Or, just possibly, they have been concerned about Mr. Trump's unhinged middle of the night postings on Truth Social?

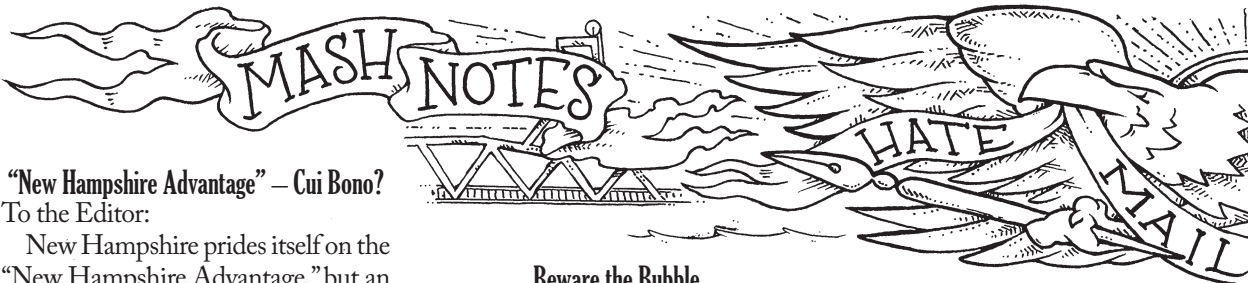
Considering Mr. Trump's record, I can fully understand why the MAGA cheerleaders have been so quiet these past few months. Sometimes it is wiser to remain silent than to attempt to defend the indefensible.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

It's a hard thing to quantify, but there does seem to be a whiff of chagrin in the air. Whatever the reason—all of the above?—we welcome the relative quiet.

The Editor



"New Hampshire Advantage" — Cui Bono?
To the Editor:

New Hampshire prides itself on the "New Hampshire Advantage," but an "Advantage" for whom? An advantage for rich people and wealthy corporations, who keep getting their taxes lowered by the N.H. government. According to N.H. Fiscal Policy Institute [NHFPI], the top 1 percent of earners pay only 2.8 percent of their income in state and local taxes, while the middle class and lowest earners pay 6.7 percent and 8.9 percent of their income respectively. We are becoming a haven for rich people.

As tax cuts are repeatedly made, should the needed revenue not be rerouted from somewhere else, the state government would not be able to function. At present, the revenue deficit is being made up by rising property taxes, exacting an undue burden on those who can least afford it. As U.N.H. demographer Kenneth Johnson has pointed out, New Hampshire has one of the oldest populations and one of the lowest birth rates in the United States. No wonder the young people are leaving our state even as the elderly with low incomes are being forced from their homes.

It's time to ask ourselves, is it worth crushing those who can least afford it to provide the state's necessary revenue in order to retain the "New Hampshire Advantage" for the few? Call Governor Ayotte at (603) 271-2121 and urge her to veto SB Bill 155, the most recent tax cut for big business.

Lorraine Hansen
Rollinsford, N.H.

Lorraine:

Fifty years ago a certain bullet-headed bully—eventually exposed by his step-daughter as a sex offender—used his newspaper to put a Georgia carpet-bagger into the governor's office. Together they pumped steroids into the state's natural tendency towards frugality. Another GOP governor slapped a catchy name on the fetish. We've been stuck with it ever since. Is there any way out of this morass? Yes: continue spreading the work of the NHFPI. End our regressive system of taxation, and go progressive.

Yes, we'll say it: tax the rich.
The Editor

Beware the Bubble
To the editor;

Two classic bubbles in America's economic history offer cautionary tales for the current AI spending mania. In the second half of the 19th century, there was an explosion of investment in railroads which were then seen as game-changing technology for the economic development of the West. Just as AI requires large investments in infrastructure, railroads required enormous capital for rails and rolling stock. The amount spent on early railroads as a share of GDP is still considered to be the largest private investment in U.S. history. Just as with AI, a handful of competitors engaged in a struggle to be the first to gain industry advantage. As should have been expected, many of the newly built railroads simply duplicated competitors' roads and never achieved profitability. The collapse of the Northern Pacific Railroad precipitated the Panic of 1873, and a severe depression called the "Long Depression" which lasted for six years. A similar scenario played out in the '90s with the dot-com bubble. Speculators invested in miles of fiber-optic cable and newly minted internet companies. Cable lines were overbuilt, and many internet companies never achieved profitability. The collapse of the dot-com bubble in 2000 triggered a recession from 2000-2001.

AI speculation has the characteristics of both these bubbles. The five major developers of AI have spent billions of dollars to build data centers and the computing power required for AI technology. The competition among developers will inevitably result in the duplication of data storage and computing capabilities. The enormous investment in AI capability is occurring when AI applications are not generally profitable, and the development path of the technology is uncertain. AI spending resembles a bubble, but when the bubble will burst and how large the economic fallout is unpredictable.

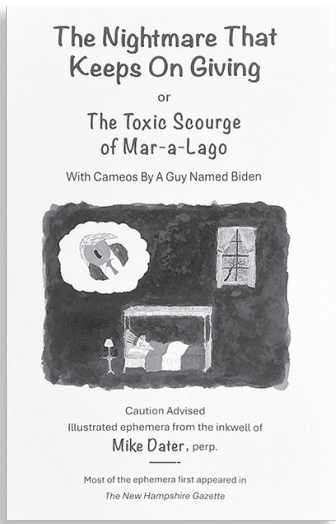
These bubbles share another commonality. Decisions related to the

development and use of innovative technology have been made by a handful of industry leaders and investors. The history of technological change indicates that when it is left in the hands of a small group, the few survivors of the inevitable economic bust reap enormous financial rewards while the interests of the many are neglected. Elites tend to act to enrich themselves and to consolidate their power rather than to promote common good. The benefits of the innovations that created both the Industrial Revolution and the internet age were extracted by industrial and tech capitalists for their own enrichment while workers persisted on subsistence wages in the first case and were replaced by technology in the second. Only when government intervened or the working class developed countervailing power were benefits more widely shared.

The potential of AI to disrupt economic and social relationships is too great to be left in the hands of a small number of oligarchs. We cannot rely on feckless manifestos of tech lords that promise a vision of a beneficent AI that enhances the welfare of all. People deserve better than being helpless pawns of technological change that enriches a few oligarchs. AI must be designed so that its benefits are distributed widely, enhancing human welfare rather than further enriching tech billionaires.

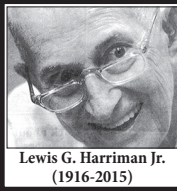
Bernie Sanders has offered legislation that would ensure that the people have a say in AI development and use. He has proposed that 50 percent of the stock of AI developers be owned by the public. This would guarantee that the people would be represented in any decision regarding AI usage. No longer would the welfare of the many be at the mercy of oligarchs who act in their own financial interest. The legislation would ensure that AI profits would be used to benefit the common good. To quote Sanders, "When a public resource generates wealth, the public should share in that wealth." Over the past several years, Bernie has

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Lewis G. Harriman Jr.
(1916-2015)

Later Years
*What greater comfort
Can there be than oversight
By caring children?*

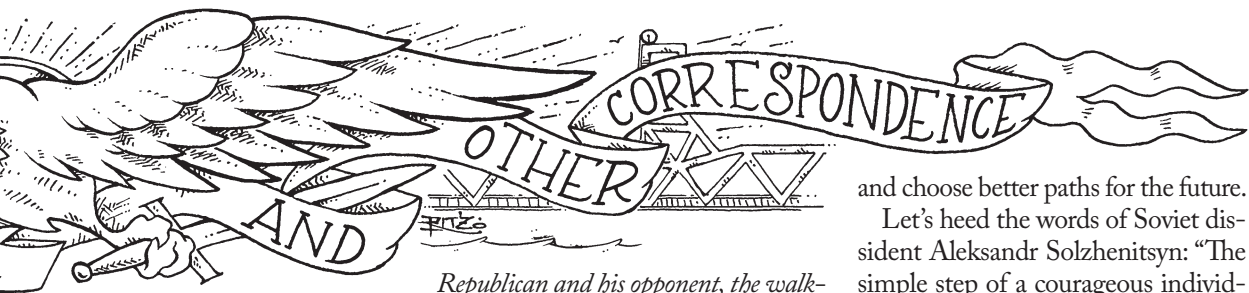
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been proven to be a prescient proponent of the working class. We should all support his AI legislation.

Robert D. Russell, PhD
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

The best news on this front is that people across the political spectrum seem to share a natural distrust of AI and an abhorrence of data centers.

The Editor

Big Money's Good Friend, John Sununu
To the Editor,

Our state is facing a severe housing shortage, and the growing influence of private equity firms buying up manufactured housing communities is only making the crisis worse, driving up costs and shrinking the supply of affordable homes.

While John Sununu cashed in with private equity executives, partnering with them in the private sector and accepting massive donations to his campaign, Congressman Chris Pappas is focused on delivering solutions for working families and standing up to corporate influence in the housing market.

That includes cosponsoring the bipartisan Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act, which would expand and strengthen the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit to help build more affordable housing and increase access for working families across New Hampshire.

So, while special interest sellouts like John Sununu may talk a big game about solving the housing crisis, Chris Pappas is actually working to address it. In the U.S. Senate, he'll continue fighting to expand affordable housing and put New Hampshire families first—that's why I will be voting for him this November.

Mary McCarthy
Hampton N.H.

Mary:

Few things in life have mystified us more than the apparent electoral appeal of this clan. Pity the poor Republican, torn between this charisma-free generic

Republican and his opponent, the walking supplement advertisement known as Scott Brown.

The Editor

He'll Fail — Let's Help Him Do That

To the Editor:

The ancient Athenian poet Agathon wrote that "Even God cannot change the past." President Trump is attempting exactly that—rewriting history—through policy and rhetoric.

Testifying about the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol, Officer Caroline Edwards described a scene of "carnage" where injured officers bled and vomited amid relentless hand-to-hand combat. There were more than 140 injuries to police officers on January 6, and a comprehensive review of police bodycam video revealed "approximately 1,000" assaults on law enforcement on that day.

In one instance, Andrew Taake, who has been pardoned by Trump, pleaded guilty to assaulting police with bear spray and a metal whip. One of the officers he sprayed in the face described the pain as the worst he'd ever experienced—"like living death."

Notably, the U.S. Department of Justice recently deleted news releases from its website detailing January 6th charges, convictions, and sentences—including those involving violent assaults on law enforcement—with the DOJ calling the records "partisan propaganda."

George Orwell, author of the dystopian novel *1984*, wrote, "If the Leader says of such and such an event, 'It never happened'—well, it never happened. If he says that two and two are five—well, two and two are five."

Timothy Snyder, author of *On Tyranny*, argues that democracy cannot exist without history because it depends on citizens who can recognize patterns from the past, accept responsibility for what their nation has done

and choose better paths for the future.

Let's heed the words of Soviet dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn: "The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie." We should refuse to participate in efforts to rewrite January 6th as anything less than a violent assault on democracy and the rule of law.

Terry Hansen
Grafton, Wisc.

Terry:

For the record: Taake was arrested last February on charges that in 2016 he solicited sex from a cop who was pretending to be a 15-year old girl.

The Editor

SFPD on N.H.'s Independent Media

An open letter:

Currently, trust in national, corporate media has been dropping rapidly. As a result, our organization the Seacoast Friends Preserving Democracy (SFPD) recently organized a panel discussion in Portsmouth that included several representatives of New Hampshire's independent and non-profit media outlets. As the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize winner Maria Resa observed, "If journalism, as it is practiced, is lost, democracy is lost as a consequence."

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that no law should be established that abridges the freedom of the press, underscoring its importance to protecting our democracy.

The panelists included: Jim Schachter of N.H. Public Radio (*nhpr.org*), Dawn DeAngelis of N.H. PBS (*nhpbs.org*), Steve Fowle of the *New Hampshire Gazette* (*nhgazette.com*), Nancy West of *InDepthNH* (*indepth-nh.org*) and Dana Wormald of the *New Hampshire Bulletin* (*newhampshirebulletin.com*).

During the panel discussion and the Q & A, each panelist described their unique mission and reporting that provide N.H. residents with reliable and insightful information to educate the public about the issues that affect our lives and our state and national



institutions. Independent journalism promotes voting and the accurate and reliable information that is valuable for voters.

It is more important than ever for N.H. residents to step forward and support these media outlets financially or by becoming members or subscribers.

For SFPD: Linda Stewart, Brian Wazlaw, Michael Derhammer, and Peter Somssich. Website: *seacoast-friends.org*, tel. (603) 436-5382, or *seacoastdemocracy@gmail.com*.

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There Goes Readiness

Dear Editor:

In an April 21, 2026 letter to the Editor I stated, "Another Trump administration anti-vaccine, and anti-public health decision now adds a concern for national security. Secretary of Defense Hegseth recently issued a policy change that no longer requires service members to receive the flu vaccine. Hegseth stated that the flu vaccine mandate was "overly broad and not rational" and said it needlessly crushed individual freedom of expression and religion while denying "simple medical autonomy." He went on to say, "In other words, our men and women in uniform were forced to choose between their conscience and their country, even when those decisions posed no threat to our military readiness."

I predicted that this ill-conceived policy change would have serious implications for the health of our military forces and national security. Unfortunately, my prediction has already been proven correct. As a result of this new flu vaccine policy more than 160 Air Force recruits at Lackland AFB, Texas have contracted influenza, and the number of cases is growing. The death of a recruit is being investigated as a possible influenza related death.

This influenza outbreak among military recruits was totally preventable and reflects the danger posed by Mr. Hegseth's anti-vaccine policy. This outbreak most likely will be the first of others that will result because of this policy. So, when Mr. Hegseth says that deciding not to get vaccinated against influenza poses no threat to our mili-

tary readiness, he clearly demonstrates that he has no understanding of how quick and devastating an outbreak of influenza can be among military personnel sharing close quarters in barracks, ships, submarines, common dining areas and other confined spaces. Mr. Hegseth should admit that his policy was wrong, and he must rescind it before additional outbreaks occur.

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

Rich:

During the Vietnam era trainees were ordered to keep their barracks clean enough to eat from the urinals. Part of that fanaticism was just to build a reflex: follow all orders immediately, no matter how absurd—in fact, the more absurd the order, the more scrupulously it must followed. It was also practical, though. Crammed in like that, contagion spreads rapidly, and there goes your readiness.

The Editor

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Corruption = Less Affordability

To the Editor:

On April 12 the unthinkable happened. Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orban, a seemingly invincible autocrat and role-model for European oligarchs and conservative U.S. politicians was voted out of office.

Hungarian voters flooded the zone with their ballots with 80 percent turnout, and handed the opposition party, TISZA, and their leader Peter Magyar a 70 percent majority of the parliament seats.

Mr. Magyar won his election by highlighting that the reason for Hungary's affordability crisis was the direct result of corruption by the government and its allies. If voters want to continue this path, Mr. Magyar stated, they should vote for Orban. However, if they want change, they should vote for TISZA.

The complaints of Hungarians resemble those in our country. For them, everyday essentials including food were getting too expensive. Medical care, housing costs, education expenses were getting out of reach for most, while the government was catering to the rich and politically connected, even

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from previous page

those living outside of the country. Hungarian voters connected corruption to their own quality of life and voted accordingly.

Here in the U.S., we see daily events that look very much like corruption, self-dealing and conflicts of interest which benefit President Trump and his family. But these self-interested actions also have a direct impact on our lives. Instead of investments in our schools, medical care, day-care, more secure retirement and improving our nation's infrastructure, money is diverted (usually without approval by Congress) for the personal gain of Trump and his allies.

Here are a few examples:

1) Fake charges against Democratic office-holders, e.g. governors accused of defrauding the federal government,

2) Offering pardons to businessmen and politicians convicted of financial crimes in exchange for donations to President Trump and his family,

3) Dropping investigations of political donors to the President's campaign, in exchange for business benefits to the Trump family,

4) Pardoning the duly convicted and sentenced Jan.6 criminals, and even offering them compensation, in exchange for political support,

5) Using no-bid contracts to businesses for government work if they support Trump's family, even when, like the Reflecting Pool, the final cost is far beyond the initial bid,

6) Using presidential power to enrich the Trump family, and

7) Blocking agencies from investigating fraud and criminal behavior, if the party involved is a Trump supporter,

Just like in Hungary, in our country too, once corruption has depleted our treasury's funds, there is not much left to make life affordable for Americans.

We also hope that American voters will be inspired by some of the

Christian values we often hear mentioned but not spelled out. We are thinking of the simple injunctions by Jesus in his well-known Sermon on the Mount. Blessed are the merciful. Or, no man can serve two masters, either God or mammon by whom he clearly meant the money changers and the rich (the eye of the needle).

Since we seem to have similar problems, perhaps American voters will be inspired in November by Hungarian voters and by basic good values.

For more in depth info see: "This is the Formula that defeated Orban, It could defeat Trump Too," by M. Gessen, *New York Times*, May 29, 2026

Brad Greeley, New Castle N.H., retired Unitarian Universalist minister.

Peter Somssich, Portsmouth N.H., former State Representative and dual citizen of America and Hungary.

—==—

"Off the Rails"

[Subject Line of Sender's Email]
[No salutation.]

I read your rag every now and then for a mundane laugh. Do you really believe the horsecrap you publish?

I don't believe you do[.]

Timothy Bowen

[Location unknown]

Timmy:

It's kind of you to write. Thank you. We have long felt that we do not receive the volume of hate mail that we rightly deserve. Like a true patriot, you have stepped into the breach.

Unfortunately, this is pretty weak tea. "A mundane laugh"? Is that supposed to suggest that the content of our paper fails to engage you? Why, then, go to the trouble of writing?

You say you do not believe that we believe what we publish. You mistake us for one of the legions of well-compensated propagandists who spout the corporate line.

The Editor

Some People are More Equal than Others*

by W.D. Ehrhart

If you will indulge me, I would like to begin with a poem I wrote in celebration of the 248th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Rather uncreatively, its title is "Independence Day":

It is indeed inarguably self-evident that all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights including life, liberty, and happiness, or at least the pursuit thereof.

All men, excepting of course Negroes, savages, the poor, the uneducated, indentured servants, and women; all women, regardless of race, ethnicity, social standing, economic status, or education.

After all, it doesn't say that all people are created equal, or all human beings, but rather all men. And women aren't men. Moreover, how can anyone be a real man if he is not white, propertied, and literate?

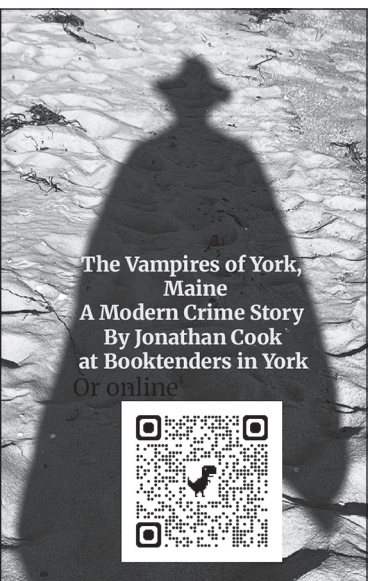
It should be "inarguably self-evident" that I think—no, that I am convinced—our so-called Founding Fathers were raging hypocrites who didn't for a single moment believe that all men were created equal.

For starters, of the 47 men depicted in John Trumbull's painting *Declaration of Independence*, which hangs in the capitol rotunda, the Illinois Answers Project identifies 34 of them as slave owners. While estimates vary, of the 56 men who signed the Declaration, perhaps as many as 50 of them owned slaves at one point or another in their lives.

Some of these men—for example: George Washington, James Madison, Charles Pinckney, and Thomas Jefferson—owned over 100 slaves each. Others owned from a few slaves to a few dozen. Still others, even those overtly opposed to slavery such as John Adams and George Clymer, inevitably profited from an economic system built on the labor of slaves.

Without exception, these men were all white, all educated, and all wealthy. There was not a blacksmith

* The title of this article is a play on the famous quote from George Orwell's *Animal Farm*: "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."



Declaration of Independence, by John Trumbull

or wheelwright or cooper or farmer—and I mean actual dirt farmer as opposed to "planter"—among them.

Barely a decade later, many of these same men came together to write what became the Constitution of the United States in which the right to vote was limited to men only—in spite of Abigail Adams's admonition to her husband to "remember the ladies"—and only men who possessed wealth in the form of property or measurable material wealth. Oh, yes, and white men only, of course.

So it is perfectly patently obvious that these men didn't for a single heartbeat believe that "all men are created equal."

It is also obvious that over the years, restrictions on the right to vote have been loosened considerably. Property qualifications were the first to go, allowing pretty much any white man to vote. The Civil War 15th Amendment theoretically extended the franchise to Black men, though it would be another century of Jim Crow, the Ku Klux Klan, and public lynchings before that would even begin to become a reality. Women finally achieved the right to vote in 1920. Native Americans got the franchise only in 1924, and some states were able to deny them the vote for decades to come thereafter.

Meanwhile, though Chinese laborers were brought to the U.S. in large numbers to build the transcontinental railroads in the 19th century, Chinese in the U.S. could not become citizens, let alone vote, until 1943. And the Supreme Court ruled in 1922's *Ozawa v U.S.* that the 14th Amendment applied only to whites and Blacks, but not to Asians, who were neither Black nor white.

And through it all, from 1776 to the present day, regardless of who gets to vote, real political power has always been in the hands of wealthy white men. Every now and then, an anomaly pops up—a Miriam Adel-

son or David Steward—but if one looks at the 2025 list of Fortune 500 CEOs, only 55 are women, and only nine are Black.

And as for politicians, while there are currently 124 women in the House of Representatives and 26 in the Senate, and about 25% of current members of Congress identify as "people of color" (Black, Hispanic, Asian American or Native American), real political power resides with those who fund these politicians' campaigns.

After all, one never saw a Senator Cornelius Vanderbilt or Representative Andrew Carnegie, nor these days a Senator Mark Zuckerberg or Congressman Jeff Bezos. But if you want to see whose tunes Congress dances to, and has always danced to, as the saying goes: "Follow the money."

So where does all this leave us? The hypocrisy of our nation's founders is so blatant that there is really nothing more I can say about it. But I suppose, as a great many Americans have been doing for 250 years, we can always continue to hope. Despair gets us nowhere. And while our current political situation under the "leadership" of the Felon-in-Chief and his Merry Band of Incompetent Sycophants looks pretty bleak, this isn't the first time the nation has fallen on hard times.

After all, the nation was so divided in the first half of the 19th century that even the rich and powerful white elite couldn't agree on a way forward, and we ended up fighting a civil war. And if you think intolerance and hatred are the exclusive province of the Orange Cheeto and his MAGAFaithful, look at the photographs of the 1926 KKK March in Washington, D.C. Or the hundreds of photos of lynchings all over this country—not just in the Old Confederacy—with white spectators proudly grinning into the cameras.

So as pessimistic as I am about ever altering where real power resides in this country, I remain inspired by people like Martin Luther King, Jr., Daniel Ellsberg, Cora Weiss, and Rosa Parks, and though I often falter, I continue to hope that a better future is possible. And to live my life as if that may one day come to be.

—==—

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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The Colonization of Revolution

by Richard M. Balzano

This complicated nation celebrates its 250th birthday on July 4th. Despite, or perhaps because of, the tragic state of affairs at present, semiquincentennial celebrations will likely see a spike in a particular American brand—toxic nationalism cosplaying as patriotism, built on a profound and tactfully curated misunderstanding of both the present state of geopolitical affairs and historical events, in this case reducing the American Revolution to an anti-colonial common man's war inspired by enlightened ideals. The American origin story, set in the context of the Enlightenment and the Age of Revolution™, could use a touch of decolonization, because these revolutions were not all that revolutionary for most people, and the consequences of this misunderstanding have had counterrevolutionary consequences over time.

At its paradoxical foundation, the American Revolution was fought against (British) colonialism by colonial elites eager to discard the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and colonize North America and its Indigenous inhabitants west of the Appalachians. The widely recognized contradiction that the Revolution's Enlightenment principles were selectively applied to propertied men barely captures the extent of moral dissonance in American self-reflection—historian Gerald Horne has made a compelling argument that colonial elites observed the abolitionist movement gain traction in Britain and sought to break with Britain so as to sustain the institution of slavery.

The American Revolution was not the common man's fight, but an elite-led endeavor. Colonial poverty was rampant and wealth inequality extreme, but the Revolution's architects tactfully redirected grievances and hostilities from colonial elites to the British with some success. Many poor colonists were indifferent or unwilling to risk their lives to trade one group of ruling elites for another; many were conscripted to fight—in the name of liberty, obviously. The Revolution was not particularly popular in the South, and parts of the South and mid-Atlantic fell into a state of quasi-rebellion.

To the victor went the spoils, and loyalists' riches often went to already-rich elites in the new United States. The Revolution made the rich much richer, although it did produce a "buffer" middle class to separate the rich from the starving poor majority whose lot did not much improve. Several Founding

Fathers did not envision a republic in which the poor would participate in government. In many instances the property requirements that barred poor white male colonists from voting or holding certain political positions remained in place after the Revolution, and Massachusetts upped their property requirements! Poor Revolutionary soldiers and veterans were frequently underpaid or unpaid, and many found themselves still impoverished, overtaxed, indebted, and facing foreclosure. The revolutionary spirit Americans often associate with the elite-led American Revolution is more accurately the spirit of Shays' Rebellion and similar uprisings that continued long after British surrender. Founding Father Samuel Adams and the Boston Caucus had earlier tried to corral lower class anger and direct it towards the British in the lead up to the Revolution, but elites like Adams turned on poor veterans when they mobilized—Adams notably called for the death penalty for Shays' Rebellion participants.

The Age of Revolution™ was not all that revolutionary. Beheading elites en masse may very well be a landmark moment for humanity, but the French Revolution was a bourgeois revolution—it benefitted the emerging middle class far more than it transformed society's lower rung.

Many Western scholars contend the French Revolution directly inspired the Haitian Revolution, but recent scholarship suggests that the French Revolution provided only the opportunity for the Haitian Revolution to succeed, not the inspiration. The Haitian Revolution is more a continuation of hundreds of years of slave revolts and resistance than an extension of European ideals—it is not likely that Caribbean slaves needed European wisdom to reject the institution of slavery to which they were bound. Perhaps Western scholars have colonized the history of the Haitian Revolution and they are reluctant to let it go?

The obsession with private property is perhaps the most prized and influential Enlightenment value in the West. This is best evidenced by Haitian freedom. To lift a post-revolution French blockade, Haitians compensated the allegedly Enlightened French for their lost property—including human property, to the tune of 150 million Francs. That cumbersome debt crippled Haitian development into the twentieth century until it was purchased by American investors. Washington did not forgive the loan, but it was not theirs to forgive—Haitians

made the final thirty-plus years of payments on their ancestor's freedom to private American banks, but the U.S. did maintain control over Haiti's treasury until 1947 when the loan was paid in full.

Latin America's revolutions are also ripe with paradox. Latin America's creole elites revolted under the auspices of Enlightenment ideals like popular sovereignty, but their endgame was to sustain their privilege in the face of impending Napoleonic reforms that threatened the status quo. Lower class anger was redirected towards the Crown, and the poor rallied under the banner of nativism, but life did not improve for much for Latin America's poor upon winning independence. Slavery came to a staggered end in Spain's former colonies, but new forms of exploitation emerged to replace the old. Less revolutionary yet, Brazil's independence from Portugal came with a transition to monarchy, which did little to disrupt the status quo slave regime. Independent Latin America was quickly consumed by debt and entangled in asymmetrical economic relationships with European powers. For over a half-century, Britain siphoned the most neocolonial wealth from the indepent region—a French foreign minister said that "in the hour of emancipation the Spanish colonies turned into British colonies."

Western Revolutions were not common-man uprisings, but rather elite-led bourgeois revolutions to insulate wealth and power within the upper tiers of society. The Haitian Revolution is the exception, but its history has arguably been colonized. Worshipping the edited version of these events obscures class realities and contributes towards the current economically cuckolded American population as it defends billionaires'

right to exist, conflates credit with purchasing power and debt with ownership, remains content with the fact that rent is paid to an individual whose title still ends in "lord" in 2026, and pays \$80 to fill the gas tank of a vehicle with a rear windshield adorned with a Gadsden flag and thin-blue-line stickers.

Western historical memory around the Enlightenment and the Age of Revolution™ has had detrimental consequences abroad, as revolution and Enlightenment mythology provides the ideological and moral framework that rationalizes Western domination. Western democracy—however undemocratic and corrupted by Western capitalism—is the alleged gold standard for political organization...according to the West. The U.S. and its bolder European allies conduct foreign policy as if they have the proprietary rights and moral authority to legitimize or delegitimize contemporary revolutionary struggles. The West—and particularly the U.S.—overthrows democratically elected leaders in the name of democracy, deems an apartheid state "the only democracy in the Middle East," trains, arms, and bankrolls insurgents to overthrow targeted governments and brands said insurgents as "freedom fighters" while labeling legal resistance to illegal intervention and occupation as terrorism. Ironically, the revolutionary movements denounced by the West as "terrorists" are more authentically anti-colonial than the revolutions the West mythologizes about itself.

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.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

powder appears to have inexplicably gone out of fashion. — The Ed.]

• President Cleveland on the 6th inst. nominated Fitz John Porter to be a colonel in the army from May 14th, 1861.

• Of three anarchists convicted at Milwaukee on Saturday one had been in the country but a short time, and two were unable to speak a word of English. Yet these are the men who try to dictate to American workingmen where they shall work and what they shall get for it, and to employers whom they shall employ

and what they shall pay them. They bring discredit to us, although they are not of us. They are the scum and offscouring of Europe, and Americans who follow their leadership are making a grave mistake. — *Boston Journal*. [Needless to say, the current management of this newspaper deplores and repudiates the sentiments expressed here. — *The Ed.*]

The New Hampshire Gazette
July 15, 1886

Our thanks to the Portsmouth Athenaeum, holder of the newspapers from which the items above were excerpted. — The Ed.

Good News: Wind Energy Now Surpasses Blowhards of Dirty Energy

by Jim Hightower

Once upon a time, conservative ideologues opposed government interference in the holy magic of the marketplace.

Take energy policy, for example. Right-wing cheerleaders of fossil fuels demanded that government must keep its fat thumb off the scale of free market competition between Big Oil and those frilly new "alternative" sources of energy.

Where did those market "purists" go? Into the White House, the Cabinet, and Congress—where they've mutated into big government bullies, attacking renewable energy enterprises while hyping and subsidizing the corporate profiteers of dirty energy. Trump himself hasn't merely put his thumb on the scale, he's hauled his entire hulk onto it!

For example, this month he lavished a \$700-million gimme of our tax dollars to prop up coal production, a dirty fuel the market is abandoning.

Wait, there's more: he paid another 700 million of our dollars to Invenergy, an offshore wind energy firm—not so it could produce electricity, but to cancel four wind farms it had planned to build. Yes, he paid the company to not produce wind energy! Trump declared that even though wind power is less-costly than coal, he found windmills "ugly."

So, here's my advice to the wind industry: Gold-plate your turbines and label them "Trump Towers." And maybe stage a series of cage fights on some of them. Trump is all about hype and spectacle—so there you go.

Meanwhile, the actual marketplace is loudly saying "no" to fossil fuels and YES! to renewables. Get this: Wind now routinely surpasses coal as a supplier of electricity to America. And, last month, solar power also surpassed coal. Political bullying aside, renewables are the future.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 28	MONDAY, JUNE 29	TUESDAY, JUNE 30	WEDNESDAY, JULY 1	THURSDAY, JULY 2	FRIDAY, JULY 3	SATURDAY, JULY 4
2018—A Trump supporter with a grudge and a shotgun kills five in the <i>Capital Gazette</i> [Md.] newsroom. 2005—Operation Red Wings goes sideways: 19 U.S. special operators die in Afghanistan’s Korengal Valley, including Daniel R. Healy of Exeter, N.H. It’s the greatest single loss for U.S. special ops since WWII. 1994—The Department of Energy admits hundreds of U.S. citizens were used as unwitting guinea pigs in radiation experiments during the Cold War. 1972—Nixon says no new draftees will be sent to Vietnam, further eroding an anti-war movement already weakened by the lottery. 1971—Muhammad Ali’s conviction for draft evasion is overturned. 1969—Gays and lesbians battle cops at the Stonewall Inn in N.Y.C. 1968—LBJ OKs a Democratic bill converting Memorial and Veterans Days into three-day weekends. 1943—The Sub-chaser <i>PC-815</i> fires target rounds at the Coronado Islands, off San Diego; Mexican Coast Guardsmen stationed there object. The ship’s captain, Lt. L. Ron Hubbard [yes, him] is relieved of duty. 1919—The Treaty of Versailles puts an end to World War I on terms that eventually result in World War II. 1689—Retaliating for a massacre he conducted 13 years earlier, Abenakis kill Maj. Richard Waldron of Dover with his own sword; 22 other Anglos die, too, and 29 are sold into slavery.	2016—The 477-foot tanker <i>Cheam Venus</i> runs aground off Goat Island, damaging itself and three boats at the Kittery Point Yacht Club. 2006—“It was not always certain,” says President George W. [MD] Bush, “that the U.S. and America would have a close relationship.” 1989—<i>The Washington Times</i> reports that high officials in the Reagan & Bush I administrations are under investigation for involvement in a homosexual prostitution ring. Quickly and conveniently, the story evaporates. 1987—“We don’t care,” declares Attorney General Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese, “about the political or ideological allegiances of a prospective judge.” His audience bursts out laughing. 1966—U.S. planes begin bombing Hanoi and Haiphong harbor. 1956—The U.S. Federal Highway Act OK’s 42,500 miles of new highway so the Pentagon can move stuff around if the Cold War turns hot. 1940—The Smith Act is enacted: all aliens resident in the U.S. must register with the government. 1914—AP: “Archduke’s Death Removes Danger of European Conflict.” 1620—Tobacco growing is banned in England, conveniently giving the Virginia Company a lucrative monopoly. 1613—A theatrical cannon throws off sparks during a performance of Shakespeare’s “Henry VIII.” A fire starts, and the Globe Theater burns to the ground.	2014—The Supreme Court rules in <i>Hobby Lobby</i> that people who are corporations have religious rights, too. 2009—Oil futures prices zoom when a trader on an epic drunk makes an unauthorized 7 million barrel trade. 2003—<i>The Army Times</i> reports that the Bush administration wants to cut combat and family-separation pay for troops in combat zones. 1984—GOP Chairman: “Put Ronald Reagan’s face on Mt. Rushmore.” 1982—With help from Ollie North, FEMA promulgates Rex 84, a plan to suspend the Constitution and put dissidents in concentration camps. 1980—The Supreme Court rules that a woman’s right to a federally-funded abortion is nullified by the religious beliefs of complete strangers. 1973—Dwight E. Stone, a Black, 24 year-old plumber’s assistant from Sacramento, under indictment for failure to appear in 1969, is the last man drafted into the U.S. Army. 1966—Given orders to Vietnam, the Fort Hood Three respectfully decline. 1956—Two airliners collide over the Grand Canyon, killing 128 and leading to the creation of the FAA. 1908—A meteor explodes above Tunguska, Siberia, leaving a flattened area in the forest 30 miles in diameter. 1864—Secretary of the Treasury Salmon Portland Chase (b. 1808 in Cornish, N.H.) resigns, charging that speculators were plotting to prolong the Civil War for monetary gain.	2024—SCOTUS discovers an overlooked “Get Out of Jail Free” card in the Constitution for presidents. 2020—“I think we are going to be very good with the coronavirus,” says the Oaf in the Oval, “at some point, that’s going to sort of just disappear.” 1981—Irish Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich descends in a helicopter for a mass on London’s Clapham Common, bearing the head of Oliver Plunkett. 1973—With the U.S. military draft now ended, the ranks will henceforth be replenished by economic coercion. 1968—A DC-8 carrying 214 U.S. soldiers to Vietnam strays into Soviet airspace and lands in the USSR. 1942—<i>Sturgeon</i> torpedoes <i>Montevideo Maru</i>, unaware Aussie POWs are aboard; more than 1,000 perish. 1917—In Boston, 8,000 Socialists march to protest the Great War; 12,000 upright citizens respond by rioting and wrecking their HQ. Order is restored with a bayonet charge. 1916—On Day One at the Somme, 19,240 British soldiers die and 35,493 are MIA to take three square miles. 1893—On a yacht off Long Island, doctors cut a cancer from Pres. Cleveland’s upper jaw. The operation stays secret until nine years after his death. 1884—Union-busting, strike-breaking Allan Pinkerton dies of gangrene at 64 after biting his tongue in a fall. 1681—Tried in London on bogus charges, Ireland’s Archbishop Oliver Plunkett is drawn and quartered.	2020—Fugitive Ghislaine Maxwell, Jeffrey Epstein’s accomplice, is arrested—in Bradford, N.H. Of course. 2003—George W. [MD] Bush says, “There are some who feel that the conditions are such that they can attack us [in Iraq]. My answer is, bring ‘em on.” 1982—‘Nam vet “Lawn Chair Larry” Walters, 33, ascends to 16,000 feet in a balloon-powered lawn chair. 1980—The Supreme Court rules that OSHA must consider corporate profits when protecting employees’ health. 1976—The Supreme Court rules it’s neither cruel nor unusual for the government to kill certain people. 1967—The U.S.M.C., during Operation Buffalo near Con Thien, has its deadliest day in ‘Nam: “the 1/9” loses 84 KIA, 190 WIA, and nine MIA. 1964—L.B.J. signs the Civil Rights Act, telling Bill Moyers, “I think we just delivered the South to the Republican Party for a long time to come.” 1917—After a carload of white males conducts a drive-by shooting in Black East St. Louis, Ill., the 20th century’s 2nd worst U.S. race riot begins. 1881—“Stalwart” Republican Charles Guiteau shoots Pres. James Garfield, a “Half-Breed” Republican, in the back. 1822—Denmark Vesey, ex-enslaved co-founder of Charleston, S.C.’s Emanuel A.M.E. Church, is hanged for insurrection after a secret trial. 1776—In Philadelphia, members of the Continental Congress sign the Declaration of Independence.	1993—In just leather jacket, dog collar, and jockstrap, punk rocker G.G. Allin is laid to rest at St. Rose Cemetery in his hometown, Littleton, N.H. 1988—The USS <i>Vincennes</i>, in Iranian waters, shoots down an Iranian airliner ascending within a commercial air corridor; 290 civilians die. 1979—President Carter OKs covert aid to the mujahideen, despite Z. Brzezinski’s warning it will spur a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. 1971—R. Nixon tells B. Haldeman, “Jews are all through the government...you can’t trust the bastards.” 1894—President Grover Cleveland sends Federal troops to Chicago to break up the Pullman Strike. 1883—Happy B’ day F. Kafka. 1863—Portsmouth-born Benjamin F. Falls captures a flag at Gettysburg. He subsequently receives the Medal of Honor in recognition of his valor. 1850—Australian newspaper publisher James Harrison shows off a refrigeration plant; it dooms New Hampshire’s ice-export industry. 1847—To celebrate the Fourth of July, Portsmouth hooligans in Market Square set a stagecoach on fire. 1835—In Paterson, N.J., 2,000 mill girls strike for a shorter work week. Two months later they win. 1775—In Cambridge, George Washington assumes command of the 17,000 man Continental Army. 1754—George Washington surrenders Fort Necessity to the French.	1970—At “Honor America” day in D.C., Billie Graham and Bob Hope preach and joke, protestors smoke pot atop a truck shoved into the Reflecting Pool, and neo-Nazis snarl and jeer. 1951—In Madison, Wisc., 99.2 percent decline to sign a petition containing excerpts from the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. 1947—The Boozefighters, a subset of “The Greatest Generation®,” take over Hollister, Calif. Three days of debauchery inspire <i>The Wild One</i> and spawn a generation of poseurs. 1924—Four thousand Klansmen march in Long Branch, New Jersey. 1905—U.S. Sen. John H. Mitchell [R-Ore.] is found guilty in a complex swindle: drunkards got government land, to which timber companies got rights, with Mitchell taking a cut. 1892—The People’s Party meets in Omaha, calling for an 8-hour day, regulation of railroads and communication, and a graduated income tax. 1857—With N.Y.C.’s two rival police forces distracted by a feud, the Dead Rabbits/Bowery Boys beef escalates into an unrestrained gang war. 1856—Federal troops under N.H. native President Franklin Pierce forcibly disperse the Topeka (Free State) Legislature of the Kansas Territory. 1835—A mob of 70 men gather in Canaan, N.H. carrying torches, clubs, and axes, but are dissuaded from destroying the bi-racial Noyes Academy. 1776—Independence commences.
SUNDAY, JULY 5	MONDAY, JULY 6	TUESDAY, JULY 7	WEDNESDAY, JULY 8	THURSDAY, JULY 9	FRIDAY, JULY 10	SATURDAY, JULY 11

1984—The *Miami Herald* exposes Rex 84, a gummint plan to jail thousands of citizens if they get too unruly.

1968—Khe Sanh, where 737 Marines died in a 78-day siege, is abandoned.

1968—Congress tramples on the First Amendment while falsely claiming it’s somehow “protecting” the flag.

1960—Isabel “Dimples” Cooper, 46, is buried in Culver City, Calif., a suicide. The former showgirl had become the mistress of Gen. “Dugout Doug” MacArthur in Manila in 1930, but her later Hollywood career had stalled.

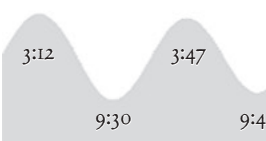
1950—Ill-trained, poorly equipped, and outnumbered, Task Force Smith is decimated by North Koreans at Osan. Gen. “Dugout Doug” MacArthur blames the troops for his loss.

1937—IBM President Tom Watson, in Berlin, thanks Hitler for a big order and assures he will “do all in [his] power to create more intimate bonds between our two great nations.”

1935—Workers finally get some help: FDR signs the Labor Relations Act.

1934—A sales rep fires a long-distance tear gas shell at striking dock workers in San Francisco; hit in the skull, one later dies. Joseph Roush writes to his boss, “as he was a Communist, I had no feeling in the matter and I am sorry that I did not get more.”

1894—A massive fire, probably arson, destroys six buildings at the World’s Columbian Exposition. Machinery Hall, where Daniel Fowle’s printing press was last seen, is among them.



2013—A runaway fuel train derails and burns, destroying half of downtown Lac Megantic, Quebec.

2001—Ex-FBI Special Agent, devout Catholic, patron of strippers, and exhibitionist Robert Hanssen pleads guilty to selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then to the Russians.

1971—President Nixon sets up a “Plumbers Unit” to stop leaks.

1962—To test its dirt-moving capacity, the AEC sets off a buried nuke in Nevada. It creates Sedan Crater—the nation’s biggest—and irradiates more Americans than any other test.

1924—Democrats “deplore and condemn...religious or racial dissension” during the longest convention ever held, but balk at naming the Klan.

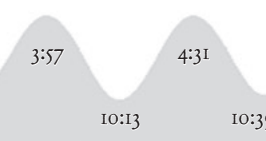
1916—Major Douglas MacArthur, newly-appointed censor at the War Department, says the General Staff approves of the bill just put before Congress at its request: it would impose censorship if there’s a war.

1907—The Irish Crown Jewels are found to be missing. Several theories are put forth; none proven, all sordid.

1894—U.S. Marines land in Nicaragua to “protect U.S. interests.”

1892—Pinkerton “detectives” and striking workers shoot it out at Homestead Steel Works in Pa.; up to 20 die.

1854—In white robes, with a trumpet, The Angel Gabriel, aka John S. Orr, appears in Bath, Maine and delivers an anti-Catholic sermon. Townspeople then burn an Irish Catholic church.



1986—Reagan’s A.G., Ed Meese, finagles quasi-legislative status for Presidential Signing Statements, which previously had had little impact, merely by persuading West Publishing to include them in law books.

1972—Near Danang, Battery B of the 82nd Field Arty. takes out four men from the 196th Inf. Bde. in the last major friendly fire incident of the war.

1967—His Tet Offensive plan OK’d by the Politburo, Gen. Nguyen Chi Thanh, 53, parties himself to death.

1954—As puppet Premier Diem arrives in Saigon, U.S. Gen. John W. O’Daniel, says “the war in Vietnam can be won without bringing in one single American soldier to fight.”

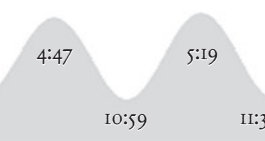
1950—FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover proposes permanent detention of 12,000 people “potentially dangerous to the internal security of the country.”

1905—Kentucky hangs Robert Mathley, but he’s six feet tall and the rope stretches. Officials with shovels dig until his feet don’t touch the earth.

1894—During a railroad-caused financial panic, striking railroad workers in Chicago are fired upon by the National Guard under orders from Attorney General Olney—a railroad attorney; four are killed, 20 wounded.

1863—The U.S. starts selling draft exemptions for \$100 in cash.

1844—Nativists and Catholics conduct an ecclesiastical dispute via bilateral cannon fire at St. Philip Neri’s in Philadelphia; seven perish.



2022—Ex-PM and Moonie-enabler Shinzo Abe is assassinated with a home-made gun; its maker’s family’s went broke giving to the “church.”

2016—Police in Dallas kill a suspected cop-killer with a robotic bomb.

1981—“I think every good Christian ought to kick [Jerry] Falwell right in the ass,” says Sen. Barry Goldwater.

1976—The State of New York yanks Richard Nixon’s law license.

1969—The U.S. begins withdrawing troops from Vietnam.

1962—The U.S. detonates a nuke 250 miles up, knocking out phones in Hawaii, 900 miles to the east, and crippling seven satellites.

1959—VC attack Bien Hoa air base, killing two U.S. advisors as they watch the *film noir* “The Tattered Dress.”

1947—Radio reports say a UFO has crashed at Roswell, N.M.

1945—At a POW camp in Salina, Utah, Army Pvt. Clarence V. Bertucci machine guns 29 Germans; nine die.

1876—In Hamburg, S.C., 100 white men attack 40 black militiamen, capturing 25, of whom they murder five. No one is ever convicted.

1860—*Clotilda* lands in Mobile Bay with an illegal cargo. It’s the last ship to import enslaved Africans.

1853—Commodore Perry convinces the Japanese it’s better to trade with Americans than get shelled by them.

1549—With the common land stolen from under their feet, English peasants join forces with Kett’s Rebellion.



2018—Trump nominates Kavanaugh for SCOTUS. Jeffrey Epstein and Steve Bannon gloat via text: Chevron doctrine is dead, and thus the EPA.

1993—To prove it’s unbreakable, Toronto lawyer Garry Hoy hurls himself against a 24th floor window. It pops from its frame; he falls to his death.

1986—Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese publishes a 1,960-page report on pornography packed with obscene titles.

1964—Senator Strom Thurmond [D-S.C.], 61, wrestles Senator Ralph Yarborough [D-Texas], also 61, to the floor to prevent a committee quorum.

1958—A 1,700-foot mega-tsunami hits Lituya Bay, Alaska.

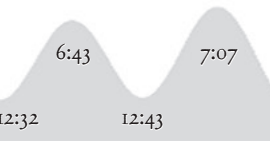
1951—For his reticence, the House Un-American Activities Committee sentences Dashiell Hammett, the tubercular, 57-year old author of *The Maltese Falcon*, to six months in prison.

1937—Oliver Law, a battalion commander in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and 1st African-American to lead white troops, is KIA in Spain.

1918—Two trains collide head-on in Nashville killing 101 and injuring another 171. It is the deadliest train wreck in U.S. history.

1850—Pres. Zachary Taylor dies, possibly poisoned by pro-slavery southerners. If so, the first assassination paid off, at least for the short term.

1846—Marines from the USS *Portsmouth* row ashore at Yerba Buena (now San Francisco), and raise the flag, claiming California for the U.S.



2007—China executes its Director of the State Food and Drug Administration for taking bribes that resulted in 40 deaths. Hmmm....

2001—A Phoenix FBI agent sends a memo to FBI HQ warning of “an inordinate number” of suspicious characters in local flight schools, possibly as part of a bin Laden plot. It’s ignored.

2001—CIA boss George Tenet tries to warn George Bush and Condi Rice about Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, but can’t get their attention.

1985—French secret police in the South Pacific blow up Greenpeace’s boat, *Rainbow Warrior*.

1985—Seventy-seven days after announcing New Coke, Coca-Cola announces Old Coke, aka Coke Classic.

1972—Water being used to fight an arson fire destroys the USS *Forrestal*’s computers and nearly capsizes her.

1958—Robert Earl Hughes, 32, dies of measles. At 1,071 pounds, he had been the heaviest human able to walk.

1929—The *Portsmouth Herald* reports that the Coast Guard has seized 129 cases of booze in Rye Harbor.

1926—Lightning sets fire to an Army powder warehouse at the Picatinny Arsenal in N.J. Millions of pounds of explosives go off over three days, destroying 187 buildings, killing 19 people, and injuring another 38.

1893—At the Columbian Exposition, The World’s Largest Refrigerator (.75 acres, nearly 200 feet tall), burns; 1,000 people watch as 15 die.



2003—Condi Rice lies about White House knowledge of Joe Wilson’s Niger investigation; Ari Fleischer outs Valerie Plame as a CIA officer; Karl Rove lies to Time about Wilson’s wife, Plame; and CIA head George Tenet takes the rap for the White House’s lies about Iraq buying uranium.

1998—Arkansas Governor “Mike” Huckabee’s son David, working as a counselor at a Boy Scout Camp, breaks the Oath by killing a dog.

1991—A defective heater sets a loaded ammunition carrier afire at Camp Doha in Kuwait. It explodes, scattering bomblets; blasts and fires consume 102 other vehicles, including four M1A1 Abrams tanks. The fires injure 49; three die cleaning up the mess.

1966—The Portsmouth City Council votes to “renew” the North End, *i.e.*, throw hundreds out of their homes.

1958—Mildred and Richard Loving are rousted out of bed in Central Point, Virginia and arrested for being married while Black and white.

1955—Congress puts “In God We Trust” on all U.S. coins and paper currency; which god is not specified.

1953—Ike OK’s the overthrow of Iran’s Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddeq. What could go wrong?

1804—Hamilton, at Weehauken, fires, intentionally missing Burr, who then deals Hamilton a mortal wound.

1713—Warring natives and settlers meet in Portsmouth to make peace. Somehow, the settlers end up on top.



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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. New location! 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 (always the 4th Tuesday of the month). New residents of Portsmouth are welcome to meet local Democrats and learn of opportunities to get involved, suggest new ideas, or support planned initiatives.

Contact Peter Somssich: (603) 436-5382 (no texts, please) or peter.somssich@gmail.com, or Brian Wazlaw: (603) 988-9998, or briwazlaw@aol.com. Visit seacoastfriends.org.

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OF ALL TASTES SALT.”

— GEORGE HERBERT (1593-1633)

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