

The Fortnightly Rant

Time to Jump-Start Congress

Another fortnight has come and gone—and not just any fortnight. Continuing a trend that began in 2015—and mirroring, in the political realm, the ratcheting up of global temperatures and resultant climatic catastrophes—this has been the 290th consecutive fortnight to have been worse than the one before.

Appropriately, this one kicked off under cover of darkness. In the early morning hours of Saturday, August 8th, the full Senate voted, in effect, to combine the offices of Attorney General of the United States of America with that of Mr. Fixit of the Trump Organization. So, your mother was right: nothing good happens after midnight.

Nine years earlier, in the White House, as questions were being asked about his associations with unsavory Russians, the distinctive, plaintive call of the orange-hued Queens Grifter was heard: “Where’s my Roy Cohn?”

Cohn entered history in the Red Scare of the late-1940s and early 1950s. In many ways, this period was similar to the Red Scare of the 1880s and 1890s, and to the Red Scare of the late 1910s and 1920. It was Cohn who set it apart from those earlier exercises in rampant capitalist hysteria.

As red-baiting Senator Joseph McCarthy’s top hatchet man, Cohn cut quite a figure: a closeted gay alcoholic who associated with mobsters and inept plastic surgeons, by the twilight of his career he looked as if he might have been, perhaps as a result of some unfortunate misunderstanding, dipped, upside down, into a boiling vat of something nasty.

Our current president, early in his own career, when he rode around in a Cadillac while collecting rent for his daddy, was mentored by that ghoulish late-era Cohn, and loved him deeply. He learned from him whatever grasping and duplicitous principles he had not already picked up from his own abusive father.

Now, as #47, his call has at last been answered. Todd Blanche is no Roy Cohn—he’s too good looking, for one thing—but his past performance, despite his long, long string of losses in court, has demonstrated his utter and abject fealty. Earlier this month another of the president’s myriad former lawyers said, “Todd Blanche makes Roy Cohn look like a jaywalker when it comes to the crimes that he’s willing to commit for the president.”

On Sunday, Blanche appeared on “Meet the Press.” According to reporting in the *Washington Post*, he “rejected the idea an attorney general should act independently of the president, saying, ‘No, I’m not going to pledge that.’” He added that

Trump would “never ask me to do something unethical or illegal.”

“This narrative that’s mostly pushed by the left and pushed by the media that the president’s going to pull me aside and ask me to do something illegal is completely a false narrative, not true, will not happen, and hasn’t happened,” thus making it clear that he planned to set the Department of Justice back, ethically speaking, more than half a century, to a time when Attorney Generals smoked pipes, had their wives forcibly injected with sedatives, arranged payoffs to silence witnesses, and, if caught, did their time in the federal pen without complaining.

This may be a propitious time to question—if one has not already—the purported infallibility of our Sacred Founding Fathers. Whither their much-vaunted Checks and Balances?

It’s probably too late to throw ourselves on the mercy of the Supreme Court, the luxury-loving cabal which runs the third branch of our government. Made up mostly now of cranks hand-picked by noted religious zealot Leonard Leo, it was they who, in a hideous version of House-Flippers of the Potomac, jammed the Unitary Executive Branch™ down the nation’s collective throat in the first place.

That leaves, as our last resort, the 119th Congress. Cold comfort there, since it’s proving to be the Boston Corbett* of Federal branches. Those spineless toadies are neither willing nor able to restrain a criminal president with the AG on his side.

Publishers used to think of “reader retention” as the art of keeping the audience coming back for more. These days the challenge is to avoid driving them to self-destruction.

Fortunately, we do have a bit of good news: it looks like most of us are fed up to the gills, and willing to shake things up to change them. NPR reported

on August 10th that a new poll shows, “there is significant support for upending winner-take-all U.S. House elections and single-member congressional districts.”

Incumbents will, of course, be reluctant to nuke the system that put them in power, but *fixourhouse.org* has a clever strategem for overcoming that.

Getting this done won’t be easy. It may require the strategic use of a few pitchforks and torches. The way things have been going, though, they’re coming anyway.

*Thomas H. “Boston” Corbett, at the age of 26, castrated himself with a pair of scissors hoping that would lessen his troublesome urge to consort with prostitutes. Later he presaged Jack Ruby by nearly a century when he shot John Wilkes Booth.



U.S. Airman Says He Accepts Cost of Speaking Out Against Iran War

by Julia Conley

Maj. Jason Watson’s participation in a protest organized last month by the Removal Coalition, a group that calls for President Donald Trump’s impeachment, wasn’t his first foray into speaking out against the commander-in-chief.

He spent 22 days last year on a hunger strike, staying anonymous by wearing a white mask and white jumpsuit on the U.S. Capitol grounds, next to a sign that read: “Impeach. Convict. Remove.”

But the U.S. airman spoke Monday about what pushed him last month to go public with his protest against Trump’s unprovoked war on Iran, displaying the same sign at a news conference organized by Removal Coalition, where he wore his Air Force uniform and was identified by name.

“If I don’t put myself out there in a big way, it’s just noise,” Watson told CNN anchor Erin Burnett. “We can change what is happening in our country if we’re just willing to pay a price for it.”

His public dissent against the broadly unpopular war could violate Article 88 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which mandates punishment against “any commissioned officer who uses contemptuous words” against the president, military leaders, or U.S. government officials, or Article 134, which prohibits statements “made with the intent to promote disloyalty or disaffection toward the United States.”

Air Force Secretary Troy Meink has said the military is investigating the protest. Watson could face dishonorable discharge, a loss of military pay, and months in prison for violating the Uniform Code.

When considering his public protest, Watson said he asked himself, “What’s the highest price that I’m willing to pay, and this is what I ultimately

came up with.”

He said he was “absolutely motivated” by his oath to the U.S. Constitution and his concern for the future of the country as Trump continues to threaten Iran and other countries in the Middle East, nearly six months after the president joined Israel in waging war on Iran.

“Any American can say, this government is intolerable and I want a better future for my children, and I want to hand them a better country than I inherited,” said Watson.

“Watson could face dishonorable discharge, a loss of military pay, and months in prison for violating the Uniform Code.”

After he joined the news conference on the Capitol steps last month, Watson was arrested by the U.S. Capitol police. He was held in jail overnight and transferred to the D.C. Superior Court before the D.C. attorney general dropped the charge, but Air Force police officers then took him into custody and held him at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.

Jessica Denson, founder of the Removal Coalition, told *The Washington Post* last month that Watson was “prepared for the worst-of-the-worst outcome” of his protest.

Watson said after his arrest that during his previous anonymous protest, he had been overly concerned with being identified, considering the Uniform Code.

“There was nobody paying attention because it’s just easy to ignore a lone actor, especially dressed the way that I was,” he said on Denson’s podcast, “Lights On.”

He told Burnett Monday: “Nothing that is worth doing is something that you can do for free. Everything that is worthwhile is going to cost

something.”

“It’s going to be hard, it’s going to require sacrifice, and we are in an incredibly challenging time, and in order for us to get out of this situation we all have to have courage,” he said.

On CNN, Watson doubled down on speaking out against Trump’s war in Iran, which has killed more than 3,400 Iranians, including hundreds of children and women, as well as thousands of people across the Middle East as the conflict has widened, and at least 17 U.S. service members.

The war has also worsened the affordability crisis in the U.S. as oil and gas prices have soared, and led to a standoff over control of the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran effectively closed in retaliation for the U.S.-Israeli assault.

“What is happening with the Iran War is very predictable strategically, and a lot of much smarter people than me knew that it would have gone pretty poorly,” said Watson. “And he chose to do it anyway.”

“At the end of the day, it’s also more important to remember that what he did was unconstitutional,” said Watson. “It was an aggressive war of choice that, if we saw another country do that, we would probably look to our allies and say, ‘What are we gonna do about this?’”

He compared the U.S. war on Iran with Russia’s incursion in Ukraine—another “aggressive war of choice.”

“He has failed us,” Watson said of Trump. “Not only is he a failure as president, he is flagrantly violating the Constitution, breaking the law, engaged in rampant corruption, and is killing Americans, and that is unacceptable to me.”

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). Feel free to republish and share widely.

Hakeem Jeffries Slammed for Opposition to Medicare for All

by Jon Queally

Democratic House Majority Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York sparked fresh outrage Sunday by saying he does not currently support Medicare for All legislation in Congress, a damning admission at a time when party voters—clamoring for bolder positions from leadership and a willingness to fight for the working class—are overwhelming in favor of proposals that would provide universal health-care coverage for every person in the United States at a lower cost than the current system.

Appearing on Sunday’s “Meet the Press,” Jeffries was asked by host Kristen Welker—who noted his previous backing of such proposals from 2013 to 2021—if he would put Medicare for All legislation in the House up for a vote if Democrat’s win back the majority in November, Jeffries first tried to dodge the question by putting his focus on the shortcomings of the Republicans, who have gutted Medicaid and attacked Affordable Healthcare Act subsidies during President Donald Trump’s second term.

But pressed by Welker if he “personally” supports Medicare for All at this time, Jeffries said, “No,” explaining that “it’s not legislation that I currently am co-sponsoring or that I support.”

The remarks were hardly surprising, but landed hard for critics, who quickly pointed out that a new CBS/YouGov poll released Sunday showed—as survey after survey has also documented—that hunger for Medicare for All among Democratic voters is remarkably high.

As *Common Dreams* reported last week, a recent Yale University study found that Medicare for All, as drafted in a bill by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), would save over 114,000 lives annually and \$1 trillion per year in U.S. healthcare spending.

In the poll, conducted between Aug. 12-14, a full 90 percent of Democratic voters said they would “like to see the Democratic Party focus on plans for passing Medicare for All,” compared to just 10 percent who said it should not be a focus.

“A reminder that the vast majority of Democrats across the country support Medicare for All,” said progressive journalist Mehdi Hasan

in response to Jeffries’ answer on the question. “This man is so out of touch with his party. How is he their leader?”

The Lever’s David Sirota also issued a rebuke, explaining that Jeffries’ comments, juxtaposed with the CBS/YouGov poll, show exactly “why Democratic voters are so enraged.”

Also notable from the poll were responses to two questions that preceded the question about the specific policies Democrats should focus on.

Asked if it was more important for the Democratic Party to “show they are fighting for people” or that “they have detailed policies,” 83 percent said it was more important for Democrats to show they are fighting, while just 17 percent said detailed policies were more important.

Similarly, when it came to economic issues, voters—by a 68 percent to 29 percent margin—said they’d prefer “big or fundamental changes in policies and approach, even if they are harder to do” compared to those who wanted “smaller or incremental changes to policies and approach, that might be easier to do.”

Appearing after Jeffries on “Meet

the Press,” Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), a top ally of Sanders and a current co-sponsor of the Medicare for All Bill introduced earlier this year in the House, disagreed with the Minority Leader’s position.



“Medicare for All is arguably the most important priority,” Khanna said. “It would save money, and it would save lives. Look, there was just a Yale study that came out. It would save \$1 trillion in terms of costs, in terms of health care.”

Asked by Welker if he was “disappointed” in Jeffries’ remarks, Khanna said that while “I respect the difference” of opinion, “I will say this: it needs to have a vote on the House floor.”

“The majority of the House Democrats are going to support it,” he continued. “It is one of the most important policies if you actually be-

lieve in saving lives and in helping increase wages for working-class Americans. You talk to folks, and they’ll say, ‘The biggest thing that pushes me into bankruptcy is if someone gets cancer. And I can’t afford the bills.’ And even people who have insurance, look at how many premiums have been increasing. This would save money for ordinary Americans. And it would increase their wages. It’s the single biggest roadblock in our economic system hurting working families.”

In a social media post on Sunday, Sanders—while not mentioning the latest comments by Jeffries—said, “Our current healthcare system is broken. Progressives understand healthcare must be a human right, guaranteed to all, not a source of billions in profits for insurance and drug companies.

“A recent poll showed 64 percent of Americans want Medicare for All,” added Sanders. “They’re right. Let’s do it.”

Jon Queally is managing editor of Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). Feel free to republish and share widely.



August 17th: just another typical Monday afternoon in Market Square, caffeinated shoppers strolling past the familiar blue mail box... hey, wait a minute! What is that, on that sticker? As a former Secretary of Defense might have said, “Goodness gracious!” It’s a swastika, with a dagger thrust through it, and the words, “The only good fascist... is a dead one.” Coming into possession of this image put the editorial department into a state of High Alert. If we were to publish it, would that constitute advocating the overthrow of the U.S. Government by force? As we all know, it’s legal these days to purchase the government, but taking it through the use of violence was still a felony last time we checked. So, to be prudent, we checked with our legal council, Atticus Fowle, Esq., of the noted firm, Fowle, Fowle, Rank, and Crank. He assured us that if Todd Blanche were to bring such charges against us, that would represent a tacit admission that the administration is staffed with fascists. Let us hope they’re still in denial.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

- John Dunn, ex-managing editor of the Philadelphia Press, was badly beaten by a crank a few days ago.
- Dr. S.A. Richmond, who killed Col. James W. Strong, managing editor of the Herald, of St. Joseph, Mo., has been acquitted after a two weeks trial, the jury finding him insane.
- The New York newspapers are going through the regular farce of suggesting various reputable citizens as candidates for mayor all of whom decline to have their names used, and not one of whom could be elected under any circumstances.
- President Cleveland is reported not to have very good luck at fishing in the Adirondacks. This is but natural. As president he seems incapable of catching on to the importance of the fishery question, even though such an expert as Chas. Levi Woodbury stood by to give him the points; and when it comes to casting his lines in mountain streams the fish know too much for him.
- The Boston Advertiser, after describing with Jenkins-like detail the trowsers worn by Dr. O[liver].W[endell].Holmes on his return

home [from a hundred-day trip to Europe] on Monday, says: “He returns the same modest, unaffected American gentleman which he always was and which he always will remain.”

Nothing could be more Bostonese than this.

• Editor Burt of *Among the Clouds* was arrested Aug. 25th on a charge of criminal libel preferred by C.R. Milliken, proprietor of the Glen house.

Great Explosion

The Laffin & Rand Powder Co.’s magazine at Chicago, containing 140,000 lbs. of powder and 70,000 lbs. of dynamite, was exploded by lightning Aug. 29th, killing one person, fatally injuring four, badly hurting others, and destroying \$75,000 worth of property. Within a short distance were other storehouses containing 500,000 lbs. of dynamite and 1,000,000 lbs. of powder, but none of them exploded. The whole of Cook county felt the shock.

• Circumstances make different impressions on people. The Times gives the number of people at the

republican rally in North Berwick as “about 1500,” and the *Penny Post* as “nearly ten thousand”—a seeming discrepancy; the editors of both papers were present at the meeting, we are informed. The *Portland Press* says “there were fully 3500 people in the grove.”

• The police were called by telephone, Thursday evening, to the Akerman place on Spinney’s road, where a free fight was said to be in progress. They returned with Mr. Joseph Akerman and his sister, and had quite a circus doing it.

• Though a brisk breeze from the northward and eastward was blowing on Sunday, the air was thick all day with smoke, probably from extensive forest fires on the coast of Maine, and a long distance away.

• It is asserted that the woman arrested at the Joseph Akerman place on Spinney road, Thursday night, fighting and howling drunk, and sent to Brentwood on Friday, is not Akerman’s wife, but his sister, Hannah Smith, who is no better than she

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'Brazen Act of Self-Dealing': Trump Regulator Approves Trump Family Crypto Firm's Bank Application

"We have never seen financial conflicts or corruption of this magnitude."

by Jake Johnson

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, a regulatory agency whose leader was chosen by President Trump, granted preliminary approval on August 14th to World Liberty Financial's application for a federal bank charter.

World Liberty Financial is a crypto venture launched in 2024 by the president's two eldest sons, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, and several partners. The firm's website states that WLF is 38 percent owned by "an entity affiliated with Donald J. Trump and certain of his family members."

WLF applied for a U.S. bank charter in January, drawing alarm from lawmakers and watchdogs who said the review process would be rife with conflicts of interest. "We have never seen financial conflicts or corruption of this magnitude," Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), the top Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee, said at the time.

The OCC, headed by Jonathan Gould, announced the approval decision in a letter published Friday. WLF's application was assessed by career OCC staff, the agency said.

"The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) has reviewed your application to establish a new national trust bank, which will engage in operations of a trust com-

pany and activities related thereto, including fiduciary activities, with the title of World Liberty Trust Company, National Association," the letter states. "The OCC hereby grants preliminary conditional approval of your charter application upon determining that your proposal meets certain regulatory and policy requirements."

In response to the news, Warren wrote on social media that "this is the most brazen act of self-dealing our financial system has ever seen."

Reuters reported that the charter, if finalized, would allow World Liberty's "to directly issue its USD1 stablecoin, as well as custody the U.S. dollar assets backing it, both of which are now handled by a business partner, BitGo."

"Hoping to capitalize on the Trump administration's crypto-friendly stance, the industry has been knocking on the OCC's door for such charters," Reuters noted. "They allow crypto companies to hold assets on behalf of clients nationwide under a single federal charter, as well as to provide other settlement and asset servicing functions—making it easier to court major institutional clients. Other crypto firms, including Ripple and Circle, have received preliminary approval for such charters under Comptroller Jonathan Gould."

World Liberty Financial wel-

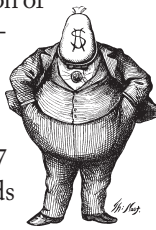
comed the OCC's preliminary approval as "a milestone in a multi-step chartering process." The firm said in a press release that the newly formed bank's board would be chaired by Zach Witkoff, the son of Trump's special envoy to the Middle East.

Last year, Trump reaped around \$527 million in proceeds from token sales by WLF, according to financial disclosures released in late June.

"They are making sure they are rich beyond their wildest dreams long after Trump departs the White House (if he departs the White House)," journalist Mehdi Hasan wrote in response to the OCC decision. "It's so openly and nakedly and obviously corrupt, I'm not sure it can be overstated."

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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.



Our Wandering Photographer, thinking to further document one of the last quasi-affordable neighborhoods in town before it gets improved into oblivion by the Relentless Invisible Hand of the Infallible Market, heard what he thought at first might be a hen up on a second-floor porch. Its call seemed to follow the familiar "buc-buc-buc-bucawwk" pattern. Oops. The animal in question turned out to be nothing but a bushy-tailed tree rat.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"My definition of a free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular."
- Adlai Stevenson II (1900-1965)
Illinois Governor, U.N. Ambassador

"Wearing masks, practicing sacrilege in burning fiery crosses, appealing to race and religious hatreds is so thoroughly un-American and so contemptible that we are surprised that any intelligent person would engage in such perfidy for even one performance."
john@wordpraxis.com — north Georgia newspaper, *The Dalton Citizen*, 1925

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

Eat Something You'll Feel Better

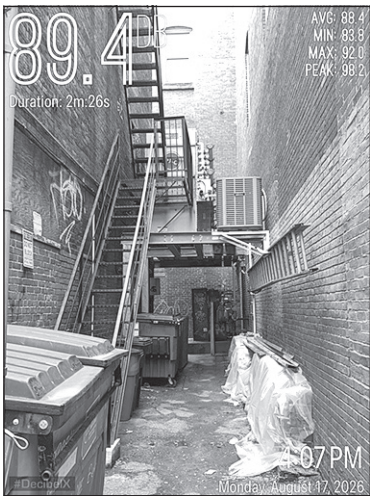
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How Much is Too Much?

"[W]hat is the actual safe noise exposure level to prevent noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL)? This cannot be the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health [NIOSH] recommended exposure limit (REL) of 85 A-weighted decibel (dB) for occupational noise, first calculated in 1972 and revised in 1998. Occupational noise exposure limits do not prevent Noise Induced Hearing Loss [NIHL], even if they are often wrongly cited as safe for the public or as the sound pressure level at which auditory damage begins. The NIOSH REL allows an 8 percent excess risk of occupational NIHL; the 90 dBA U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration permissible exposure limit allows a 25 percent excess risk. Even if members of the public are not exposed to noise 8 h/day, 50 weeks/year, for 40 years, these are not safe noise exposure levels, not for workers, certainly not for the public, and especially not for children."

Excerpted from "What is the safe noise exposure level to prevent noise-induced hearing loss?" by Daniel Fink, published online by the National Library of Medicine at <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11876062/>.

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During a recent perambulation of our bustling tourist district, our Wandering Photographer drifted into the recently-transmogrified Vaughan Mall. He quickly realized that the one thing that ought to have been changed was the same as ever. The chatter of the random folks who underwrite the town's continued existence was still being drowned out by the noise coming from whatever that danged thing is on a platform in the middle of this picture. The times being what they are, he was able to draw a bead on it with his trusty Decibel X app. Reading: 89.4 decibels. We don't imagine that the city has bothered to officially name this little gap, so we'll take the liberty of dubbing it "Noise Alley."

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

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ought to be.

• A newspaper in Maine quotes some reports of "deestrick school" committeemen, which read like those of half a century ago. One such is: "Miss Abrams did not allow the children to make any noise, and made but little herself, moving her pupils around as old Dea Drinkwater did his oxen—by a snap of her finger." Another school "made fair progress, some scholars getting ahead of their own accord and others being dragged along. Strap oil properly applied might have helped the matter." "Birch oil" is the lubricant which "made things run smooth" at another school. [A note to the tender-minded: we have no doubt that the "oils" cited herein are 19th century euphemisms for corporal punishment. — The Ed.]

Death of George Herbert

Mr. George Herbert, restaurant keeper, of Water street, died on Saturday last, after a gradual but con-

stant decline in health over several years, and due to a bite on one hand received from a drunken man who entered his place of business and commenced creating a disturbance. In the endeavor to eject the man without hurting him, Mr. Herbert was bitten by him; blood poisoning resulted, and for several days his life was in danger; and though a partial recovery was soon effected he never fully regained his former vigorous health. Mr. Herbert before this had at times dealt quite largely in fresh fish for the metropolitan markets, and to some extent did so afterward; but though his cheerful disposition and good temper remained, he was never again the same energetic businessman he had been. We are not aware that he left any enemies.

The New Hampshire Gazette

September 2, 1886

• Rev. Charles L. Goodell, pastor of Trinity Methodist church of Providence, R.I., is charged by Theodore W. Foster, of the firm of Foster & Bailey, manufacturing jewelers, with

serious misconduct with Mrs. Foster. Mr. Foster has sued for divorce. Mr. Goodell, who is a married man and has been very popular, strongly asserts his innocence.

• Madge Dolaro, a handsome Chicago girl, proposes to jump from the Brooklyn bridge for a purse of \$1,000.

• A Buffalo newspaper is responsible for the statement that after a meeting the other evening Bishop Cox said to a reporter: "I should like to correct the proof sheet of my prayer. You newspaper men and the printers are so unfamiliar with prayer that you're pretty sure to bungle it."

• Jacob L. Finn, aged nineteen, member of a cloak-making firm in New York blew his brains out because a pretty girl named Clara Simmons, in the employ of the firm, would not marry him clandestinely. His family objected to his marrying the girl on account of their social positions.

• A general massacre of Christians

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Greetings From the Forest

[No salutation necessary.]

I'm sending you some stamps in hopes that it will help with the costs of mailing out copies of the *Gazette*.

I don't have to tell you the cost of one stamp!!! I thought I was going to pass out in the Post Office lobby when they told me! It's like Old Willie said: "The World's all going to 'Pot,' Whether we like it or not. The Best I can tell the World's going to hell and we're sure going to miss it a lot. All the Whisky in Lynchburg, Tenn. ain't going to hit the spot. I've got a hundred dollar bill, You can keep your pills, it's all going to 'Pot.'" I love Old Willie Nelson!

I wonder how many times the "Despot's" "Wife" has had to visit the Plastic Doc for another Operation Touch Up?? Isn't she just the special Frst Lady?? For me, I'd rather sleep with a "Rattle Snake" under my pillow in hopes it would be quick when it bit me! Lord let it; forgive my sins; be fast!!!

I wonder who taught her English? She can't put 3 words together without falling down and losing one!

I've lived here for more than 40 years in the forest and no power poles up here. No town water either. I get my power from the sun! My water from the Fire Station in town, Solon, six miles away—I don't have the loot to have a well put it. \$10,000.

All my youth is long gone but I'm still hanging on. Never forget, if you're looking for the first true Americans look at what's left of our indigenous people, the Indians. They have been here for 20,000 years or more!!! It didn't take us long to bring this U.S.A. down to the shit house level. A mere 250 years!!!

Keep doing what you do best. Print that *Gazette* and more power to ya!!

I'm proud of all you good folks. Peace and Love from the Forest!

Bruce Weldon "Ace" Morris, Assault Helicopters, Vietnam, "1967," 1st Cav Division, 229th Avn. Bn.

Brother Bruce:

From '90 to '95, this paper was published episodically from a different neck of "The Forest." Great to hear from you.

The Editor

A Note to Correspondents

We received a letter recently which included several passages, in quotes, which the writer openly stated confessed were written by AI. It went directly into the bin. We will not knowingly put robot-written text, whether overt or covert, in front of our readers. To paraphrase our late friend Emilio, "If the robot wrote it, let the robot read it." But this raises a question: how shall we avoid doing so?

We are not about to try to force our dwindling supply of brain cells to learn to detect robot-written rot. So, we may begin running suspect letters through online AI detectors. Sadly, as solutions go, that's a lousy one. Our anarchic soul rebels at the thought of 86'ing a letter on the say-so of another damned robot. We are shocked—shocked!—to find that "progress" has put us in a dilemma the only solutions of which are distasteful.

Fair warning to lazy writers: AI use may result in a quick trip down the Memory Hole. —The Ed.

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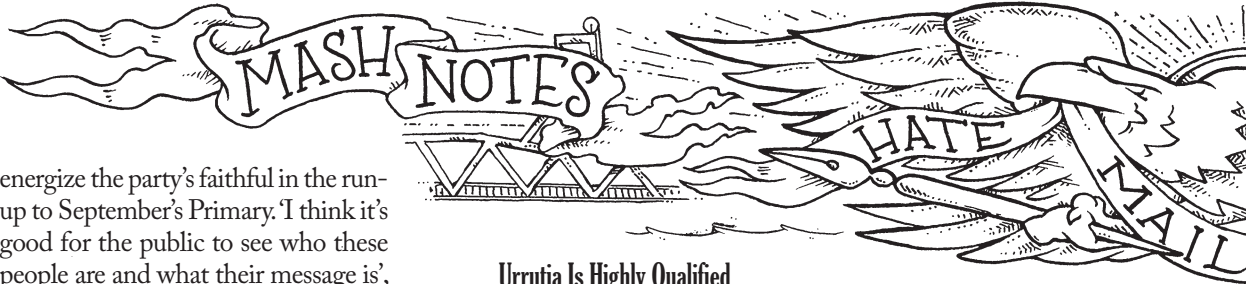
About Warmington and Perdue...

Dear Editor:

In a New Hampshire Public Radio interview and on *The Union Leader's* front page: Cinde Warmington's connection with Purdue Pharma in detail. Two decades ago the "Oxycontin painkiller would [later] get innocent people hooked on opioids." (*Union Leader*) Cinde Warmington worked for eight months for Purdue Pharma in 2001; later came the drug's devastation.

Now: face-off between candidates. Under attack by Gov. Ayotte, Warmington points out Ayotte's big pharma connection. As U.S. Sen. Ayotte from 2011-2017, she "took more than \$400,000 in campaign checks from drug manufacturers." (*Union Leader*) Big pharma, after the U.S. Supreme Court declared corporations are "people" (2010) and could make campaign contributions as "free speech," shaped politics and still does.

The Cinde Warmington I relate to showed up to be Belknap County Dems' secretary, when I was elected county Dems' Chair. This is from July 1, 2006, *Foster's Daily Democrat*: "Belknap County Democrats are planning a fund-raiser for later this summer... to



energize the party's faithful in the run-up to September's Primary. 'I think it's good for the public to see who these people are and what their message is,' said the newly elected County Chair Lynn Chong." Twenty years ago!

I witnessed Cinde's fine intelligence, warm personality, good energy, and saw more of her public service dedication when she was on our five-seat Governor's Council, 2020 - 2024, championing common sense and people's needs.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

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Beriont: The Real Deal

To the editor,

I met Carleigh Beriont about a year ago while standing next to her at a naturalization ceremony in Portsmouth. It was a beautiful event. I noticed her watching quietly, wearing a name tag, and I asked why she was there. Her answer was the same as mine — to support people on one of the most important days of their lives. We talked for a bit, and I even asked for her card, something I almost never do. When I got home, the first thing I did was look her up.

What I found matched the feeling I had when I met her. Carleigh Beriont (Berryont) has a background rooted in people—starting with her husband, whom I believe is her highschool sweetheart. They are both teachers, working in the trenches with the rest of us.

Throughout my career as a psychiatric nurse, I was sometimes in dangerous environments, such as ten years on a locked psych unit. Knowing whom I could trust kept me safe. I felt that same sense of trust with Carleigh.

She will work hard and will have the support she needs to focus on the issues before Congress. She is the real deal. I have met other candidates and was not impressed. I want someone in Congress whose credentials come from helping people, someone with an impressive background and a genuine commitment to serving everyone — not just those who vote for her.

Carleigh Beriont is the real deal.
Patty Demeule
North Hampton, N.H.

Urrutia Is Highly Qualified

To the Editor:

In this time of crisis, we need our next Member of Congress to be able to hit the ground running. We need a representative whose life, work experience, and qualifications prove readiness for the challenges ahead. Christian Urrutia has the most relevant experience for the job.

Urrutia is not just an experienced attorney with a Master's in International Relations, but held the position of Special Counsel at the Defense Department, where he worked to ensure the U.S. military adhered to the Geneva Conventions, kept torture-obtained evidence from judicial proceedings, and helped support Ukraine in its fight for freedom.

During Urrutia's earlier legal career, he worked a case pro bono to hold accountable a Chilean who tortured and murdered Victor Jara, a renowned folk singer, during the Pinochet dictatorship. Urrutia tracked him down and successfully prosecuted him (2016), the jury awarding Jara's family \$28 million, and the U.S. extradited him (2023) to face criminal charges there. He has said that "those long years taught me that accountability does not arrive on its own" ([youtube.com/watch?v=5ezDu2y-ihw&list=PLm](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ezDu2y-ihw&list=PLm)).

Urrutia has a firm moral commitment to holding the lawbreakers accountable. I know he has the courage to stand up for us. He has the skills and tenacity to make the lawbreakers pay for their crimes against America, our Constitution, and human rights. That's why on Sept. 8th, I'll vote for Christian Urrutia, who will fight for our rights in Congress.

Bob McElwain
Portsmouth, N.H.

====

Beriont Is a Leader

To the editor,

I wholeheartedly endorse Carleigh Beriont for Congress.

At a time when honest leadership feels harder to find, Carleigh Beriont stands out. Her background in

ethics and political policy isn't just something she studied, it's something that has mattered to her for a long time. Earning her doctorate and now teaching at Harvard has contributed to her understanding of how our democracy is supposed to work and the importance of integrity in our elected officials. The abuses of the rule of law we've seen in recent years horrify me, and I know people from all political viewpoints feel the same. Because Carleigh is grounded in ethical decision-making, I believe she would face these problems head-on and help restore the standards that should guide public service.

Just as important is her ability to bring people together. Carleigh has shown many times that she can work with people from different backgrounds and beliefs, listen carefully, and help them find common ground. One strong example is when she led a bipartisan effort to reach a unanimous Select Board vote to reject a contract with ICE. She didn't force anyone into a position; she helped them agree. That kind of respectful, cooperative leadership is exactly what our Congress needs.

Carleigh Beriont brings both strong ethics and practical skills to the table. At a time when trust in government is weak, her voice and leadership would help rebuild the honesty and teamwork our nation deserves.

June Fabre
Exeter, N.H.

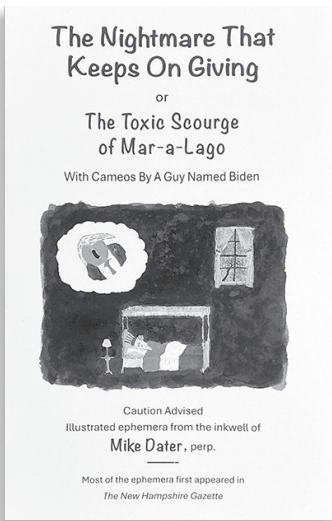
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Sullivan Has a Record of Service

Letter to the Editor,

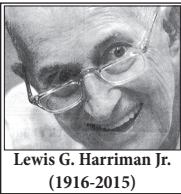
As New Hampshire voters consider who should represent us in the 1st Congressional District, I believe it's important to look beyond campaign slogans and examine a candidate's record of service and leadership. Maura Sullivan brings a background that reflects a lifetime of public service. She served as a Marine Corps officer, demonstrating a commitment to our nation that few candidates can claim. Following her military service, she

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continued serving the public in the Obama administration, working on issues affecting veterans and national service. She has also remained engaged in efforts to strengthen communities and expand opportunities for Americans through nonprofit and civic leadership.

Her lifetime of service resonates with me! I served 25+ years in the United States Army from Private to Lieutenant Colonel. Her experience in the Marine Corps and follow-on government service are proof that she has the experience and best interests of the citizens of New Hampshire and the United States in mind.

Whether or not you agree with her on every policy issue, her experience spans military service, federal government, veterans' advocacy, and community leadership. Those experiences have given her firsthand knowledge of the challenges facing service members, veterans, and working families.

At a time when our politics often reward division, I believe we should value candidates who have dedicated much of their lives to serving others. New Hampshire deserves representatives with real-world leadership experience, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to public service. As voters in the 1st Congressional District make their decision, I encourage them to consider Maura Sullivan's record and the experience she would bring to Washington.

We need proven fighters and Maura's ready to take on this honorable task.

Andrew J. Corrow
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired), Former Town Councilor
Durham, N.H.

Carleigh Beriont Gets It Done
To the Editor:

When picking up takeout a couple of weeks ago, I ran into a Hampton town leader who excitedly commented that our Select Board is tackling so much this year—not just “showing up.”

For the past year and half, I have had the pleasure of serving on the Hampton Select Board with Carleigh. Under her leadership, our board is working more effectively than ever. Carleigh has researched, talked with her constituents, and thought about the issues we address. She manages discussion efficiently, using skills honed in the college classroom. As we talk, she summarizes areas of agreement and moves us—and Hampton—forward.

Several of Carleigh's opponents in this congressional race call themselves “fighters”, but the last thing we need in Washington is more polarization. Carleigh is a doer. Beholden to no one but N.H. voters, she unearths the common ground necessary for action.

Thousands of voters in CD1 can tell you that Carleigh listens. They've been in rooms with her, expressing their dreams and concerns; she isn't talking to special interest groups or taking their money. The voices guiding her are ours.

Undecided? You must see Carleigh in action.

At CarleighBeriont.com you can view videos of her conversations or find an upcoming event. You will then realize that beyond winning in November, Carleigh is THE candidate who will provide effective leadership in our U.S. House of Representatives.

Join me in voting for Carleigh Beriont on September 8th.

Jeff Grip
Hampton, N.H.

Shaheen Stands Out

Dear Editor,

It's a critical moment for our country to stand up and show how democracy can work for everybody, not just billionaires. I feel fortunate that we have several outstanding candidates running to represent the N.H. seacoast in Congress—Stefany Shaheen, Maura Sullivan and Carleigh Beriont—at this difficult time.

Among these outstanding candidates, I am supporting Stefany Shaheen. Stefany has the maturity as a leader to deal with the very challeng-

ing politics she will face in Congress. I know she will be a straight shooter and will not be overwhelmed, because that's who she is.

Stefany is a real fighter who knows how to make the government work for people. She will help the Democratic Party use its power to listen to voters and address kitchen table issues like the cost of living, the safety of the environment, and access to healthcare. That's why she's got my vote.

Jody Hoffer Gittell
Portsmouth, N.H.

Beriont's Experience Leads the Way
To the editor,

Having examined candidates' websites and campaign literature, witnessed them in forums, and talked to most one-to-one, it is clear to me that Carleigh Beriont is the best candidate.

Carleigh demonstrates characteristics I value in an elected official. She is intelligent, kind, determined, persistent, and empathic. She listens. She cares. She shows up.

Her role as chair of the Hampton Select Board provides a perspective unique among the candidates. She defeated an incumbent Republican to gain her seat. She led a unanimous bipartisan vote to reject a contract with ICE. She chairs the town's Sewer and Elections Commissions and serves on the town's Budget Committee. She is more involved in the daily experiences of residents in her community than any other candidate. She has earned the respect of colleagues and constituents.

Carleigh provides something too often missing in federal politics: a grounded understanding of how government truly operates at the level where people feel it most. Municipal officials confront problems that cannot be deferred, abstracted, or spun—they must be solved. They manage budgets that must balance, infrastructure that must function, and public expectations that arrive not in polls but in person, at meetings, in the supermarket and community trails, on sidewalks, and in inboxes.

Carleigh will bring all of this to Washington. At a time when voters

are demanding both integrity and competence, Carleigh's municipal leadership demonstrates that she already knows how to govern—how to listen, build consensus, and deliver results. That perspective will serve New Hampshire well.

Chuck Rhoades
Dover, N.H.

The Cost of the Iran War
To the Editor:

Before America and Israel started the war against Iran, General Caine, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned President Trump that this would deplete our supplies of air defense missiles and Tomahawk attack missiles. General Caine also warned Iran could stop traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

Pete Hegseth, the Secretary of Defense, told the president and the public that there would be no shortage of missiles because the war would be over in weeks. General Caine was right, Hegseth was wrong. We have now burned through half our supply of Patriot and 80 percent of Thaad air defense missiles. We have also used up a third of our supply of Tomahawk mis-

siles. Patriot missiles are needed to protect our allies in the Gulf. They no longer have confidence in our ability to protect them or open the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump has claimed 41 times that he won this war. He claims Iran is desperate to talk to him. Neither is true and our enemies and allies can no longer trust anything he says. This war has harmed our reputation and status as a superpower. It is harming our and the world's economy. It is time to admit failure and end this war.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

How Do You Spell “Stupid”?
Dear Editor:

In the midst of the largest measles outbreak in decades, Mr. Trump initiated another assault on public health and child safety. On Monday Mr. Trump issued an executive order to force states to revise their recommen-

dations for children's vaccinations. The order calls for recommending that the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine be separated into three single-disease shots to be administered at separate appointments, although such separate vaccinations are not available in the U.S.

Trump claimed that “there could be a possibility that” the vaccines are “quite lethal” in an MMR shot. He also said that separating the vaccines means they will be “very effective.” In fact, years of evidence have proved that the MMR vaccine is safe and effective.

Separating MMR into three separate shots over three separate appointments makes no sense from a public health, child safety, economic or parental convenience point of view. What it will do is increase confusion, lower vaccination rates, cost parents more money and increase the number of measles, mumps and rubella cases in America. As a result more children will die, become damaged by disease complications and increase healthcare costs while achieving zero benefits.

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

Deliberate Destruction of Conditions of Life
To the Editor

The United Nations Genocide Convention includes “deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part” among the acts that can constitute genocide.

South Africa made this specific prohibition central to its case against Israel before the International Court of Justice. While a final ruling on the merits may take years, the ICJ has already ordered Israel to “take all measures within its power” to prevent acts prohibited by the Convention, prevent and punish direct and public incitement to commit genocide, enable humanitarian aid to enter Gaza, and preserve evidence.

The scale of destruction in Gaza has led Israeli human-rights organizations and scholars to conclude that Israel is deliberately creating conditions incompatible with Palestinian life in the

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from
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Gaza Strip. It also raises the question of whether the United States, through weapons transfers and diplomatic protection, is complicit in genocide.

Physicians for Human Rights Israel issued a July 2025 report titled *Destruction of Conditions of Life: A Health Analysis of the Gaza Genocide*. It concludes:

“Though Israel has cited military necessity... the scale, pattern, and nature of the operations, as well as accompanying statements, indicate a broader policy aimed at destroying Palestinian society in Gaza and making the enclave uninhabitable.”

The report argues that the targeted destruction of hospitals, obstruction of medical aid, and the killing and detention of over 1,800 health care workers reveal a “deliberate and systematic dismantling of Gaza’s health and life-sustaining systems.”

Israeli architect Eyal Weizman makes a related argument in his 2026 book, *Ungrounding: The Architecture of Genocide*. He documents how Israel’s demolition of Gaza has made the territory unrecognizable and unlivable.

Weizman describes Gaza’s systematic destruction: “[M]ost of the Gaza Strip—cities, refugee camps, schools, universities, mosques, the health infrastructure, agriculture, wells and the soil itself—has been destroyed and made toxic by bombs, artillery, tank shells and sappers [combat engineers].”

He adds that “the most systematic destruction was caused by D9 bulldozers made by the U.S. company Caterpillar.” An Israeli bulldozer operator in Gaza says that if Palestinians return to where their homes stood, “All they will find is sand.”

As Weizman puts it, “Ungrounding... aims to remove a society from its place and erase all traces to its previous existence.”

B’Tselem, the Israeli human rights organization that documents

violations in the Occupied Territories, reached a similar conclusion in its July 2025 report, *Our Genocide*, stating that Israel’s assault on the Gaza Strip “constitutes a coordinated attack on all aspects of Palestinians’ life.”

In B’Tselem’s words, this is “a clear and explicit attempt to destroy Palestinian society in Gaza and create catastrophic living conditions that prevent the continued existence of this society in Gaza. That is precisely the definition of genocide.”

What evidence supports the claim that the United States is complicit in the genocide in Gaza? The Genocide Convention makes direct and public incitement to commit genocide, attempted genocide, and complicity in genocide punishable offenses. Under the Convention, rulers, public officials, and private individuals may be held responsible.

Since October 2023, the United States has provided Israel with billions of dollars in military aid, including thousands of 2000-pound bombs that have been used in densely populated urban areas. It has also provided Israel with diplomatic protection at the United Nations, despite mounting evidence of widespread civilian casualties and blocked humanitarian aid.

Public rhetoric has also caused concern. Some members of Congress have called for nuking Gaza, “bouncing the rubble,” or turning the territory into a parking lot. One House member also questioned whether any civilians in Gaza should be considered innocent. Such statements can be understood as dehumanizing or as endorsing indiscriminate destruction.

Recognizing that deliberately creating conditions for the impossibility of life is genocide is not just a matter of language. It requires action to end the destruction, protect those who remain, and hold accountable all who enable it.

Terry Hansen

Grafton, Wisconsin

—==—

Nicaraguan Hyperbole:

Ortega, Elections, and the Context Western Media Won’t Print

by Richard Balzano

“Crackdown.” “Democratic backsliding.” “Authoritarian grip.” Journalists persecuted, opposition parties crushed—and now, according to the latest eruption from the Western press, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has abolished elections.

The peripheral left offers another interpretation: Ortega is preventing U.S.-backed political organizations implicated in subversion from participating in elections, while Nicaragua has restricted media organizations with subversive ties to Washington amid ongoing U.S. hostility. Whether one approves is beside the point. Nicaragua is behaving as though the United States poses a threat to Nicaraguan sovereignty. How could they possibly have gotten that idea?

First, the elections. During his July 19th address commemorating the Sandinista Revolution, Ortega declared that the era of parties “installed by the Yankees” returning to government was over: “There will be no more elections, there will be no more [elections] through which they can try to seize the government, seize power.” He immediately called for laws erecting a “wall” or “block” against *golpistas* and *vendepatrias*—coup plotters and traitors—adding that “no matter how much money the Yankees give them, they will not succeed.” Western headlines performed emergency surgery and emerged clutching: “There will be no elections.” The missing words alter the diagnosis. Nicaragua will hold elections, and perhaps candidates with ties to Washington will not be allowed to participate—that doesn’t seem all that radical given the context.

Ortega’s crackdown on journalism deserves reconsideration. Western accounts and institutions describe Nicaraguan *journalists* being persecuted, but few ask what those journalists were actually doing. Journalists “silenced” by Ortega hardly constituted some pristine Fourth Estate floating above Nicaraguan politics. Washington poured millions of dollars through USAID, the National Endowment for Democracy, and allied institutions into an opposition-media ecosystem, much of it routed through organizations such as the Violeta Barrios de Chamorro Foundation, supporting and training journalists and outlets including *100% Noticias* and others embedded in the anti-Sandinista milieu. The Chamorro network itself straddled journalism, NGOs and opposition politics, while during the 2018 upheaval sections of this media apparatus did considerably more than observe from the press gallery: *100% Noticias* broadcast sympathetically from the opposition *tranques*,* provided anti-government activists a national platform, and its director Miguel Mora openly ad-

* *Tranques* were road barricades erected by anti-government protesters, not only to block traffic but to created opposition-controlled zones. They were made of stones, debris, tires, trees, cars, etc.

vocated a “Noriega-style” intervention to remove Ortega. When the government investigated foreign collusion, it closed outlets and prosecuted some of the figures involved. Western accounts largely began the story there, but foreign financing disappears, political participation becomes journalism, organizations intertwined with the opposition become merely “independent media,” and a confrontation between the Nicaraguan state and a U.S.-supported political-media apparatus is transformed into a familiar dictatorial repression narrative.

Nicaragua has good reason to take American meddling seriously. During the Banana Wars, U.S. Marines occupied the country for much of 1912–33 in what historian Greg Grandin called the United States’ “first Third World quagmire,” until

resistance leader Augusto Sandino won a war of attrition, sending occupation forces packing. Washington has a legacy of leaving poor institutions behind in the wake of its occupations, and the Nicaraguan national guard was one of them, serving as the primary instrument of repression in the succeeding decades. Sandino was murdered by National Guard leader Somoza, and the Somoza dynasty followed: four decades of kleptocratic anticommunist family dictatorship.

A civil war unfolded in which Sandinista revolutionaries took power in 1979, at which time they committed an unforgivable crime of improving people’s lives. Literacy campaigns, healthcare, education, agrarian reform: resources began flowing toward ordinary Nicaraguans. Oxfam called Nicaragua exceptional for its government’s commitment to improving the people’s condition and encouraging their participation in development, and gave Washington’s nightmare its proper name: “the threat of a good example.” That a poor country might successfully direct resources toward peasants instead of oligarchs and foreign capital, and that neighboring peasants would notice, was considered a U.S. national security threat.

Washington set about making the example fail by financing the torturous Contra insurgency, plastering the media with disinformation, and squeezing Nicaragua economically. Washington mined Nicaraguan harbors, and when the International Court of Justice found the U.S. in violation of international law and liable for reparations, the U.S. quit the ICJ, vindicating long held suspicions that international law and human rights institutions were designed to police the Global South, not the other way around. Meanwhile, Nicaragua diverted enormous resources from social development into fighting a U.S.-sponsored war, while continuing to make payments on odious debts inherited from the Somozas, to the detriment of ordinary Nicaraguans. In 1990, battered Nicaraguans voted the Sandinistas out, and they left quietly. Daniel Ortega, a first-generation Sandinista revolutionary, returned sixteen years later

through the ballot box.

All of which vanishes when Nicaragua appears in American media. Occupation becomes ancient history; the Contras become Cold War trivia; foreign financing becomes philanthropy; regime-change organizations become “civil society”; Washington-funded media become “independent”; and *golpistas* become merely “opposition politicians.”

Remember Russiagate? Americans raged that foreign interference represented an existential assault on democracy. Americans will not tolerate journalists taking money from foreign governments (except Israel) to disseminate stories cultivated by foreign intelligence agencies (except Mossad). Are we that drunk on American exceptionalism, and historically amnesic, that we believe it’s okay when we do it abroad?

Americans reserve for themselves an unlimited right to vigilance while demanding extraordinary political permeability from countries whose sovereignty Washington has repeatedly violated. Post-colonial nations subjected to occupation, proxy wars, sanctions, coups and continuing foreign interference must tolerate foreign-funded journalism, NGOs and Trojan-horse political parties catering to classes enriched by the colonial economic order—or be declared authoritarian for exercising the vigilance necessary to preserve their sovereignty. The State Department cries “authoritarianism,” and well-intentioned folks in the imperial core who value a (relatively) free press and some semblance of (oligarchic) electoral democracy are too quick to believe it. Try running an American television network on CCP money while publicly calling for Putin to conduct a “Noriega-style operation” in Washington, and see how philosophical the State Department becomes about press freedom.

—==—

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

in the province of Sechuen [sic], China, and the northern provinces of Cochin China, is reported, and is supposed to be in retaliation for the outrages and murders committed upon Chinamen in the United States.

- There was quite a heavy frost in some localities about the city, Thursday morning last.
- The smelts have put in an appearance quite early this year, in great abundance, and the anglers are catching them very plentifully from the wharves.
- There were in this port on Friday four square-rigged vessels, namely,

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Trying to Avoid Giving Up

by W.D. Ehrhart

I have to confess that I have been struggling mightily for the past few months to resist giving in to utter despair. There's no future in that. But increasingly I find myself thinking that there's really no future worth bothering about. I just can't shake the feeling that things in this country are not going to get any better.

Remember when we thought no president could possibly get any worse, be any more evil, than Richard Milhous Nixon, whom I took to calling King Richard the Milhous?

And then we got empty-headed George W. Bush, who dragged us into not one but two unjustifiable and unwinnable wars while presiding over a government actually directed by Dick "Dick" Cheney and running roughshod over Americans' constitutional rights of privacy previously protected by the 4th Amendment.

Who and what could possibly be worse?

We now know the answer to that question is the miserable excuse for a human being occupying the White-wash House for the second time... and the American people put him there. Not just put him there, but returned him there after a disastrous first four years, two impeachments, a failed violent insurrection, multiple felony convictions, and an assortment of other usually career-ending behaviors.

And this time around, he is unrestrained by anyone with brains in their heads and some measure of decency in their hearts. Instead, he's surrounded by the likes of Pete I-was-actually-a-noncombatant-civil-affairs-officer-but-I-like-to-imagine-I-was-a-warrior Hegseth, Marco [Trump]-has-spent-his-entire-career-sticking-it-to-the-little-guy-but-I'll-suck-his-political-willy-anyway-because-I-have-no-scruples Rubio, Stephen let's-deport-anyone-and-everyone-who-isn't-of-white-northern-European-ethnicity Miller, Mike this-is-what-unified-government-looks-like Johnson, Clarence I-never-saw-a-perk-I-didn't-like Thomas, and other lickspittle sycophants of their ilk.

The outrages and insults and attacks on anything and everything imaginable have become overwhelming, simply impossible to

keep up with: destruction of the White House, a gladiatorial arena on the White House lawn, a botched no-bid reworking of the reflecting pool and criminal charges against a former Olympic rower for supposed vandalism, removal of the historical account of Washington's slaves in Philadelphia, the murder of civilians in small boats on the high seas, the aggrandizement of himself and his family and friends in violation of the emoluments clause of the Constitution (Constitution? What's that?), the passports with his fucking face on them, the dollar coin with his fucking face on it, an unprovoked and disastrous war of choice in the Middle East against a country that turns out to be a lot tougher and more willing to defend itself than Venezuela...

... and this doesn't even begin to cover all that this thoroughly disgusting odiferous lump of flesh and blood and bone has foisted on the United States and the world. In all honesty, I've stopped even trying to keep up with it. Back last spring, I realized that I just had to step back and try to give myself a chance to recharge. Aside from glancing at headlines now and then, I have not tried to stay on top of current events.

I read *The Week* magazine each week—though usually only after it's been sitting on my coffee table for several days until I can muster the stamina to pick it up—and that gives me an overview of what's been happening. I might dip into an article in *LA Progressive* or the *New Hampshire Gazette* now and then, read the first few paragraphs, but I've seldom done much more than that in the past three or four months.

I've been trying to focus on people and events and things I can feel good about, stuff that suggests that things might not be as hopeless as I've been feeling. Near where I live in suburban Philadelphia, last month my wife and I attended a gathering to celebrate the successful fight to save thirteen acres of forested land our local school board had purchased, planning to destroy 500 large mature trees to put in auxiliary athletic fields for a middle school.

It took a decade or so, but local resistance to the plan finally resulted in most of the property being sold to a conservation organization called Natural Lands, and the rest being acquired by the Wyncote Foundation, which will renovate some ex-

isting historic buildings and make proper use of them.

I am trying to take heart from the primary election victories of Rashida Tlaib, Claire Valdez, Darializa Avila Chevalier, Brad Lander, Melat Kiros, Janeese Lewis George, and other progressives. We can only wait and see what November's elections bring, but we've got some candidates on ballots who offer the possibility of real change from the stale centrism and more-of-the-same Democratic bullshit that has been the party's hallmark since Bill Clinton in 1994. (I don't mention Republicans here because I've never expected anything good from the Republican party, and they've never confounded my expectations.)

This morning, my wife and I saw a groundhog in our condo courtyard, probably the same little fella we'd see a few days ago. We see squirrels and chipmunks, occasionally rabbits, a few years ago and again this year foxes, and lots of birds: cardinals, wrens, sparrows, juncos, mourning doves, hummingbirds, even twice a cooper's hawk perched on the low branch of a tree. All this wildlife right here in heavily populated suburbia.

Last week, I spent several days with a former student of mine who had gone through navy officer candidate school after graduating from college, and had just finished his active duty after five years. When he first joined the navy, knowing my politics and my antiwar attitude, he

had been worried that I would disapprove of his decision. I can't say I was thrilled about it, but it was his decision to make, not mine. And having volunteered for the U.S. Marine Corps in 1966, I was in no position to be too critical.

But here is the part to take heart from. He apparently found that his experience did not live up to what he had hoped for, and last week he told me that his view of our country and the world we live in is now much closer to mine than it had been before he joined the navy. And he is still young, and bright and capable, and I expect he will do good things in and for this world.

So these are what I've been trying to dwell on this summer. I truly hope that the Orange Cheeto and his Merry Minions have not succeeded in finally causing me to give up, shut up, crawl into a corner, curl up into a fetal ball, and start crying for my mommy. I hope I will soon be ready to come out fighting again.

But for now, I am looking for positive developments—however small some of them may be—that I can feel good about, hopeful about, even joyful about. Some days that just doesn't work. But some days it does. Maybe today will be one of those days when it does.

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

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from previous page

the barque *Navesink* and barkentine *Jennie Sweeney*, at the Concord railroad wharf; barkentine *Emita*, at the navy yard with 812 tons of coal; and brig *Jennie Hulbert*, at Sise's wharf. It is a long time since there were four square-rigged merchant vessels in our harbor at one time.

• All lasters employed in Bartlett & Doak's shoe factory at Laconia struck last Thursday morning on account of Walter Munsey being discharged. They were out about two hours, and returned after the firm agreed to take Munsey back.

• Rev. Mr. Goodell, of Providence, R.I., charged by a Mr. Foster with too great intimacy with Mrs. Foster, intimates that the real grounds of the charge are on the other side, be-

tween Mr. Foster and Mrs. Goodell. • Edward E. Niswander, a respectable young jeweler of Columbus, Ohio, has brought suit against John McBride, the democratic candidate for secretary of state, for \$10,000 damages for alienating the affections of his wife.

The New Hampshire Gazette
September 9, 1886

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



Why is Trump Economically Clueless? Meet Scott Bessent.

by Jim Hightower

Wow, here's some blockbuster economic news from Team Trump: The income gap between the rich and the rest of us is over!

How do we know this? Because Scott Bessent says so. Who's he? Secretary of the Treasury—Trump's top economic official. A son of inherited wealth, he's a Yale graduate, a Wall Street whiz, a billion-dollar hedge fund speculator, and... well, Scott says he knows financial stuff.

So he officially proclaimed this month that the "K-shaped economy... is a thing of the past." He's referring to the letter K, which economists use as a graphic shorthand to show the wealth of moneyed elites is zooming up, while the well-being of the middle-class and poor plummets. "I got sick of hearing about this K-shaped economy," snarled this potentate of high-finance. So he did what Trump would do—he simply decreed that the rich-poor economic divide is "over." As evidence, he pointed to Trump's elimination of the federal tax on workers' tips.

Could someone please buy a clue for our eminent treasury chief?

No doubt some waiters and bartenders will get a few nickels and dimes from this token tax ploy, but it doesn't even register on the scale of economic fairness. Plus, a partisan Wall Street millionaire like Scott has zero credibility with working class families. They'll know when inequality is "over," because their in-come will finally begin to cover the ever-rising out-go caused by corporate greed and plutocratic government.

America's last great Republican President, Abraham Lincoln said: "You can't fool all the people all the time." But Trump and his clique of clueless henchmen like Scott Bessent keep trying to prove Lincoln wrong.

—==—

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

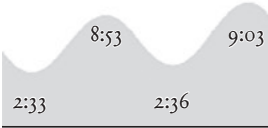
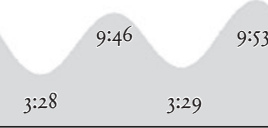
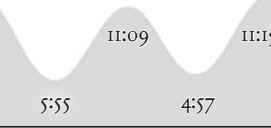
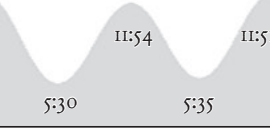
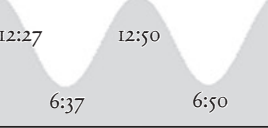
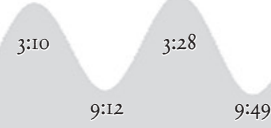
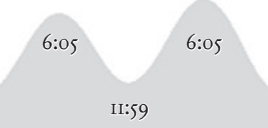
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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, AUGUST 23	MONDAY, AUGUST 24	TUESDAY, AUGUST 25	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26	THURSDAY, AUGUST 27	FRIDAY, AUGUST 28	SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
2010—Gareth Williams, money-laundering investigator for MI6, is found dead inside a locked gym bag in a London “safe house.” Metropolitan Police rule he died accidentally, alone. 2000—The 2nd Circuit Court rules that aspiring cops can be denied a job on grounds that they’re too smart. 1985—San Francisco cops wince as Mayor Dianne Feinstein reveals their evidence in the “Night Stalker” case. 1971—Future Supreme Court Justice Powell releases The Memo: it exhorts billionaires to conspire and, using propaganda, negate the New Deal. 1968—Yippees nominate Pigasus J. Pig for President, saying, “if we can’t have him in the White House, we can have him for breakfast.” 1966—Robert Strange McNamara sets new, lower standards for inductees. Among 345,000 “McNamara’s Morons,” fatalities run 3X higher. 1956—The FDA burns six tons of books by Wilhelm Reich at NYC’s Gansevoort Destructor Station. 1942—An Italian cavalry charge succeeds against Russians at Izbushensky. 1927—Boston murders Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti; obscure anarchists become immortal international heroes in the struggle for justice. 1917—Two racist cops harass Black soldiers from Camp Logan; 150 of their comrades arm themselves, march on Houston, and fire on cops. Seventeen die in the riot, mostly whites; 19 Black soldiers are hanged.	2020—Rep. Katie Porter [D-Calif.]: “You don’t know the cost to mail a postcard?” Postmaster Louis DeJoy, laughing, confesses: “I don’t.” 1970—Graduate student Robert Fassnacht is killed and three others are injured when peaceniks blow up a physics lab at the U. of Wisconsin. 1967—Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin scatter 300 one-dollar bills on the floor of the Stock Exchange. Bedlam erupts as greedy capitalists scramble. 1964—I.F. Stone reports the U.S. government and press “have kept the full truth about the Tonkin Bay incidents from the American public.” 1963—The State Department orders Ambassador Lodge to encourage Vietnamese generals to stage a coup. 1954—Genial old Ike signs the first U.S. law banning a political party—the Communist Party, of course. 1936—After a 12-year hiatus, J. Edgar Hoover gets the OK from FDR to begin the FBI’s Golden Age of spying on domestic political groups. 1919—Indians pitcher Ray Caldwell, though KO’d by lighting, wakes up, gets up, and wins a complete game. 1889—On St. Pierre, off Newfoundland, murderer Auguste Neel becomes the only person ever to be guillotined in North America. 1814—U.S. tactical errors and sheer panic allow British troops to march unopposed into Washington, D.C. where they set fire to the Presidential Mansion and the Capitol.	1999—The FBI admits, six years after the fact, that the tear gas canisters it fired into David Koresh’s compound in Waco were incendiary—but still denies they started the fatal fire. 1995—Zany Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) announces his innovative new policy, sure to win the drug war: execute “27 or 30 or 35 people at one time.” 1985—Ronald Reagan admits that, as head of the Screen Actors Guild, he rattled on its members to the FBI. 1967—J. Edgar Hoover’s FBI sets out to “expose, disrupt, misdirect [and] discredit” the Black Panthers. 1967—A former Marine and ex-aide to George Lincoln Rockwell murders the founder of the American Nazi Party with a broomhandle Mauser. 1960—The Portsmouth-built <i>Seadragon</i> surfaces at the North Pole, where the crew plays baseball. 1945—Hotheaded U.S. Army Captain John Birch argues with Chinese Communists while snooping in Jiangsu Province. They shoot him dead. 1945—Bao Dai, formerly puppet Emperor of Vietnam for France, later for Japan, and soon-to-be puppet for America, surrenders his sword and imperial seal to Ho Chi Minh. 1925—The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters is founded in Harlem with A. Philip Randolph as its President. 1923—Largely Catholic Carnegie, Pa. is invaded by 10-30,000 Klansmen, one of whom ends up dead.	2016—S.F. 49er Colin Kapernick protests against racial injustice by sitting while the National Anthem plays. 2014—At an Omaha Wendy’s, cops shoot a suspect “armed” with a fake pistol. Also killed: a soundman for “COPS,” which was on the scene. 1980—Ex-Luftwaffe pilot John Birges, trying to recoup his gambling losses, plants a half-ton bomb at Harvey’s Resort Hotel in Stateline, Nev. 1969—Five men from New Hampshire’s 197th Field Artillery are killed days before leaving Vietnam when their truck detonates a land mine. 1968—Mayor Richard Daley welcomes Democrats to the 1968 Democratic National Convention while his cops prepare to bust heads outside. 1967—Burt Munro, a 68-year-old Kiwi, hits 183.58 mph on a 1920 Indian at Bonneville. His under-1,000 cc speed record still stands today. 1924—Sitting out a storm off Cuttyhunk, <i>Wanderer</i>, New Bedford’s last whaler, drags her anchor and is lost. 1919—Coal company goons in Brackenridge, Penn. shoot UMW organizer Fannie Sellins dead for interrupting them as they beat striking miner Joseph Starzeleski to death. 1883—Karakatoa begins a three-day eruption, killing tens of thousands. Sunlight reaching Earth drops by 13 percent during the following year. 1874—Hundreds of armed men on horseback open the Gibson County jail in Tenn. and lynch 18 Black men.	2012—“We swept the vermin out,” boasts Chris Sununu, “[New Hampshire’s] now a solid Republican state.” 1991—An ABA panel rates Clarence Thomas. Two members find him “not qualified” for the Supreme Court; none find him “well-qualified.” 1980—FBI agents use C-4 to disarm a half-ton bomb planted in Harvey’s Resort Hotel in Stateline, Nevada. Result: a 50- by 30-foot crater. 1960—Whites in Jacksonville, Fla. react to Black lunch counter sit-ins with “Ax Handle Saturday.” 1949—Three FBI agents observe as a mob attacks the audience at a Paul Robeson concert in Peekskill, N.Y. 1927—Sigmund Freud writes a pal: the Statue of Liberty could be replaced with a monkey holding up a Bible. 1919—On Churchill’s orders, British biplanes drop poison gas on Russian villages in Arkhangelsk Oblast. 1918—A warning begets a shootout on the border at Nogales; dozens of U.S. and Mexican troops end up dead. 1896—Britain prevails over Zanzibar in history’s shortest [38 minutes] war. 1831—Maj. Thomas Biddle and Rep. Spencer Darwin Pettis [D-Mo.] meet on Bloody Island, just off St. Louis. Biddle is myopic so they duel with pistols at five feet. Both are mortally wounded; honor being satisfied, though, they forgive each other. 1549—Hessians hired by English nobles slaughter peasants at Norwich, thereby ending Kett’s Rebellion.	2022—A Medal of Freedom given to mobster Meyer Lansky by Pres. Truman sells at auction for \$48,000. 2014—The nation suffers irreparable harm; the President wears a tan suit. 2005—Hurricane Katrina hits New Orleans and the levees break. 1969—Judith Love Cohen completes the Abort Guidance System—later used to bring Apollo 13 back to Earth—while in labor in the maternity ward, then gives birth to Jack Black. 1968—Police preserve disorder at the Democratic Convention in Chicago. 1963—At the Lincoln Memorial, Martin Luther King, Jr. calls for freedom to ring from the prodigious hill-tops of New Hampshire.... 1955—During a visit to family in Money, Miss., fourteen-year-old Chicagoan Emmett Till is murdered by whites for speaking to a white woman. 1921—Ten thousand coal miners and two thousand hired goons start trading lead on Blair Mountain, W.Va. 1919—Resigning as mayor of Seattle, Ole Hanson, the survivor of an assassination attempt, says “hang or incarcerate all anarchists for life.” 1869—The Mount Washington Cog Railway opens for business. 1831—Rep. Robert Potter [D-N.C.] castrates two men he suspects of having sex with his wife. One, a minister in his 50s, is her cousin. 1830—Hungry farm workers in Kent, England destroy a threshing machine: the Swing Riots have begun.	2013—Americans learn, thanks to Edward Snowden, that the annual “Black Budget” of the “Intelligence Community” is \$52.6 billion a year. 2007—Due to careless accounting, an Air Force B-52 at Minot AFB in North Dakota is loaded with six live nukes, then left unguarded overnight. 1970—A 23-member band of Native Americans scale Mount Rushmore and re-name it for Crazy Horse. 1970—L.A. County Sheriff’s Deputy Thomas Wilson fires a tear gas gun at Chicano journalist Ruben Salazar’s head; he gets away with murder. 1957—Despite a 24 hr., 18 min. filibuster by Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.)—father, at 22, of a mixed-race child by his family’s 16-year-old maid—the Civil Rights Act passes. 1956—Jesus Christ “GG” Allin, the most depraved punk rocker in history, is born in Lancaster, New Hampshire. 1921—Coal companies use hired airplanes to drop bombs on miners at Blair Mountain, West Virginia. 1787—Though dropped the day before when too objected, on this day The Framers agree: fugitive slaves “shall be delivered up to the person justly claiming their service or labor.” 1786—Farmers in Northampton, Mass.—many Revolution vets—close the courts to prevent foreclosures. 1782—HMS <i>Royal George</i>’s lieutenant of the watch disregards a warning from the ship’s carpenter; she sinks at anchor, taking 800 with her.
						
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30	MONDAY, AUGUST 31	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
2007—Unbeknownst to the pilots, a B-52 takes off from N.D. with six live nukes onboard. Arriving in La., it sits unguarded from noon to 10:00 p.m. 2004—To milk 9/11 for all it’s worth, the RNC convenes in New York City. Attendees mock John Kerry and wounded vets in general by wearing “Purple Heart” band-aids. 1979—Deftly wielding a canoe paddle, President Carter fend off a deranged swamp rabbit. 1979—For the first time, astronomers observe a comet hitting the sun. 1967—Thurgood Marshall becomes the first Black Associate Justice. 1964—At the Democratic Convention, an all-white delegation from Mississippi is seated while a Black protest delegation is not. 1963—The White House and the Kremlin get connected by “Hot Line.” 1950—At a closed Senate Appropriations hearing, Secretary of State Dean Acheson sets a swing at Sen. Kenneth Wherry (R-Neb.) but is restrained by a State Dept. lawyer. 1918—Fanya Kaplan, 28, shoots Lenin, who’s badly wounded but lives. She’s summarily shot days later. 1893—Huey “The Kingfish” Long is born in Winnfield, La. 1813—Drunk officers are playing cards when 800 Creeks attack Ft. Mims, Ala.; of 500 whites, 15 survive. 1800—A large, armed rebellion organized by enslaved Gabriel Prosser fails in Virginia: once again, it’s informers.	2019—Portsmouth’s Daniel Street Post Office closes for good. Thanks a lot, Councilor, Congressman, Governor, and Senator Judd Gregg. 1973—The Gainesville Eight, anti-war veterans charged with conspiracy to riot at the 1972 Republican National Convention, are acquitted. 1965—President Johnson signs a bill making draft card burning illegal. 1963—Robert Bork publishes an article opposing the Civil Rights Act. 1959—President Eisenhower says, “people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it.” 1948—An LAPD setup bears fruit: Robert Mitchum is busted for pot. 1939—German operatives conduct Operation Himmler, 21 false flag attacks along the Polish border, to justify the next day’s invasion. 1921—President Harding orders a cease-fire in the W.Va. Mine War under threat of Federal intervention. 1919—The American Communist Party is formed in Chicago. 1910—“...[C]itizens... must effectively control the mighty commercial forces which they have themselves called into being. ... There can be no effective control of corporations while their political activity remains.” -T.R. 1895—Julius A. Wyland founds <i>An Appeal to Reason</i>, an independent socialist weekly. Its peak circulation, in 1910, is over half a million. 1803—Lewis and Clark go west.	2019—Meteorologist-in-Chief Donald J. Trump tweets that Hurricane Dorian will hit Alabama hard. Nope. 2005—New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin calls for George W.[MD] Bush and FEMA to “get off your asses and do something” about his flooded city. 1989—Narcs trying to score crack near the White House for a George H.[H.]W. Bush presidential photo-op get the drug on their third try but not the film—their camera operator gets mugged by a homeless person. 1989—Bible-thumping huckster Jim Bakker’s fraud trial is briefly interrupted when, professing that he’s hallucinating, he’s taken to a mental institution in handcuffs and leg shackles. 1983—The USSR shoots down KAL Flight 007. Among the victims: Congressman [and John Birch Society President] Larry McDonald (R-Ga.). 1982—The U.S. Air Force Space Command becomes operational. 1970—“This [Senate] chamber reeks of blood,” says George McGovern. 1952—A freak wind hits Carswell AFB in Texas knocking two-thirds of SAC’s B-29s out of commission. 1894—Thomas H. “Boston” Corbett, the self-castrating Cavalryman who shot John Wilkes Booth, dies in Hinckley, Minn., along with 800 others, in a four-hour firestorm. 1862—At the Battle of Chantilly, Union General Philip Kearny utters his last words: “The Rebel bullet that can kill me has not yet been molded.”	1983—Mississippi’s execution of Jimmy Lee Gray goes poorly; executioner T. Berry Bruce is drunk. Officials clear the witness room after eight minutes, as Gray gasps, moans, and bangs his head on a steel pole. 1945—V-J Day—Japan surrenders to General “Dugout Doug” MacArthur aboard a battleship named after Pres. Harry S Truman’s home state. 1945—Cribbing freely from the U.S. Declaration of Independence, Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam to be sovereign and independent. 1939—G-Man J. Edgar Hoover creates a “Custodial Detention Index,” a list of left wingers to detain without trial in case of “national emergency.” 1935—Recently routed from Washington, D.C. by General Douglas MacArthur, 259 veterans working on the Overseas Highway are among those killed by the Labor Day Hurricane when it hits the Florida Keys. 1921—Two battalions of U.S. troops finally convince miners on Blair Mtn., W.Va. to begin disarming. 1898—At Omdurman, British Maxims firing Dum-Dums kill 15,000 spear-wielding Sudanese in one day. 1885—White railroad workers rioting in Rock Springs, Wyo. massacre 28 Chinese railroad workers. 1866—Weeks after being told to leave Korea, the U.S. merchant ship <i>General Sherman</i> and its crew are destroyed. 1666—The Great Fire of London destroys 10,000 buildings in three days.	2003—Because life is sacred, Florida poisons Paul Hill, who shotgunned Dr. John Britton and his bodyguard because life is sacred. Rinse & repeat. 1991—Locked doors, dead phones, and a lack of fire alarms kill 25 workers in a North Carolina chicken plant. 1971—As Richard Nixon speaks at a Milk Producers’ convention in Chicago, an aide pockets his fee: a \$5,000 bribe, which will pay the Plumbers who are, this day, breaking into the office of Daniel Ellsberg’s psychiatrist—at Nixon’s behest. 1955—Mamie Till Mobley holds an open-casket funeral for her murdered and mutilated son Emmett. 1950—American advisors arrive in Saigon to support NATO: France wants Vietnam, so the U.S. helps it fight Vietnamese anti-colonialists. 1948—Duval County officials “find” 200 votes, making LBJ a Senator. 1925—On a PR tour of the Midwest, ordered by Navy brass over the objections of its Commander, an Ohio native who knows its summer storms, the airship USS <i>Shenandoah</i> crashes in Ohio in a summer storm; 14 die. 1923—Milo, Maine holds a Centennial Parade. Marchers include 75 Klansmen in full, hooded regalia. 1903—Griffith J. Griffith, the closeted drunk who gave Los Angeles Griffith Park in 1896, shoots his kneeling wife for conspiring with the Pope to poison him. She loses an eye but lives, he gets two years in San Quentin.	2019—To prove that his Hurricane Dorian prediction was perfect, Donald J. Trump displays a fake map. 1997—Bombs explode in four Havana hotels. Perp and ex-CIA asset Luis Posada Carriles later enters the U.S. illegally and lives openly in Miami. 1992—Ex-South Vietnamese fighter pilot Ly Tong hijacks an Air Vietnam Airbus out of Bangkok. As it flies low and slow over Ho Chi Minh City, he drops revolutionary propaganda, then safely parachutes—but into captivity. 1976—George W.[MD] Bush is arrested for DUI in Kennebunk, Maine. 1973—R. Nixon’s flunkies John Ehrlichman and G. Gordon Liddy are indicted for felonious burglary. 1967—“I just had the greatest brainwashing ... [in] Vietnam,” says Gov. George Romney (R-Mich.). 1957—Ford’s Edsel debuts. 1957—Gov. Orval Faubus [Dem.] orders the Arkansas National Guard to keep nine Black children from entering Little Rock Central High school. 1949—In Peekskill, N.Y., after a Paul Robeson concert, a mob, including cops, beats the audience, including Eugene Bullard, a Black WW I flier. 1942—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports that an anti-aircraft gunner has accidentally hit the Lincoln Memorial with three .50 caliber rounds. 1918—U.S. troops land at Archangel, Russia, to “protect American interests.” 1833—The [N.Y.] <i>Sun</i> hires Barney Flaherty, 10, America’s first newsboy.	2005—Barbara Bush says Hurricane Katrina was “working very well” for thousands of homeless refugees. 2002—Portsmouth loses Jay Smith, creator of the Press Room, Patron Saint of The Music Hall, &c. RIP. 1991—The D.C. home of Sen. Jesse Helms [R-N.C.] is covered by a giant condom, courtesy of ACT UP. 1990—Los Angeles Police Chief Darryl Gates tell the Senate Judiciary Committee that “casual drug users should be taken out and shot.” 1934—N.C. Gov. John Ehringhaus [Dem.] calls out the National Guard to break a textile strike. Other states follow with pro-plutocracy actions. 1931—Con-Ed worker George Metesky, injured on the job, is denied worker’s comp. “The Mad Bomber” plants 32 bombs over the next 16 years. 1930—Carl Panzram to Leavenworth’s hangman: “Hurry it up you Hoosier bastard. I could hang a dozen men while you’re screwing around.” 1925—Colonel Billy Mitchell blames the recent crash of the <i>Shenandoah</i> on the “almost treasonable negligence” of the Navy & War Dept.’s top brass. 1917—The Justice [Hah!] Department raids Socialist Party and IWW offices nationwide and shuts down the newspaper <i>American Socialist</i>. 1813—USS <i>Enterprise</i> captures HMS <i>Boxer</i> off Pemaquid. Captains William Burrows and Samuel Blyth are both killed in the battle; their graves, in Portland, lie side by side.
						

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Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable — Tuesday, August 25th at 6:00 p.m.

Portsmouth Democrats Coffee Meetup — Friday, August 28th 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. Visit seacoastfriends.org.

Contact Peter Somssich: (603) 436-5382 (no texts, please) or peter.somssich@gmail.com, or Michael Derhammer, tel. (603) 969-9838, mderhammernh@gmail.com.

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