

The Fortnightly Rant

Ruining America as a Business

Interesting: on Tuesday, “The Grey Lady” caught up with us.

Ever since we snuck into Lord Kenneth of Fleet’s stable of newspapers and rode away on The Nation’s Oldest Newspaper,™ we’ve been sounding the same barbaric yawp. Our more recently established colleagues went on reporting as if governance was proceeding more or less along the lines laid out centuries earlier on parchment. In contrast, our assumption, from the start of our stewardship, has been that journalism, as it was being practiced, mostly served a prop to hold up the façade of a Potemkin reality.

The opinion section of *The New York Times* for September 1st said a new series, “The New World Disorder,” would “be exploring in the coming weeks the disintegration of the postwar international system and how countries are adjusting as America steps aside.” Tuesday’s piece in that series was by Margaret MacMillan, a Canadian historian and academic: “A New World Order Is Coming. We Aren’t Ready.”

“Those of us who live in relatively stable and well-ordered societies would like to believe, like Voltaire’s absurd Dr. Pangloss, who stumbles from one disaster to another, that ‘all is for the best.’ ... we don’t expect our world to be turned upside down.

“We would do better to heed the warning of another French writer. In Albert Camus’s postwar novel The Plague, when dead rats appear on the streets of the Algerian city of Oran, and people fall ill with a mysterious disease, the local government and most of the citizens ignore the signs until it is too late. ‘There have been as many plagues as wars in history,’ Camus’s narrator says, ‘yet always plagues and wars take people equally by surprise.’”

We don’t mean to argue with Camus, but some of us are less surprised than others.

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Now that rules are optional, and anyone can do whatever he* wants, let’s start by ditching the worn-out fiction that the Executive Branch of the U.S. government is anything other than a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Trump Organization. Love it or loathe it, Donald J. Trump is the defective and *de facto* CEO of the U.S.A. It’s enough to make an atheist say with feeling, “God, help us.”

According to widely published reporting, the Big Boss Man’s net worth went up by \$2.4 billion last year. Of that amount, \$636 million came from a phenomenon known as “\$Trump coin.” To the extent that it exists at all in the real world, \$Trump

coin consists of changeable electrical charges stored on electronic devices. Everything else is hype, PR, and the Barnum Principle: “There’s a sucker born every minute.”

It is either one of America’s great tragedies, or a great mercy, that Mark Twain, who had a very fine eye for flim-flam, snake oil, and bunko, was not alive on January 17th, 2025. Four years and ten days after the failure of his attempt to extend his lease on the Oval Office through mob violence, the once and future President celebrated his pending inaugural by launching \$Trump at a “Crypto-Ball.”

For a brief, shady moment, his holdings were “worth” from \$20 billion to \$60 billion. Opinions vary. What are the odds the man we are currently trusting with the nuclear launch codes will be paying taxes on any of that? Meanwhile, according to analysts, a year and a half later “...988,905 wallets [that is, individual sucker accounts, have] lost a total of \$3.81 billion.”

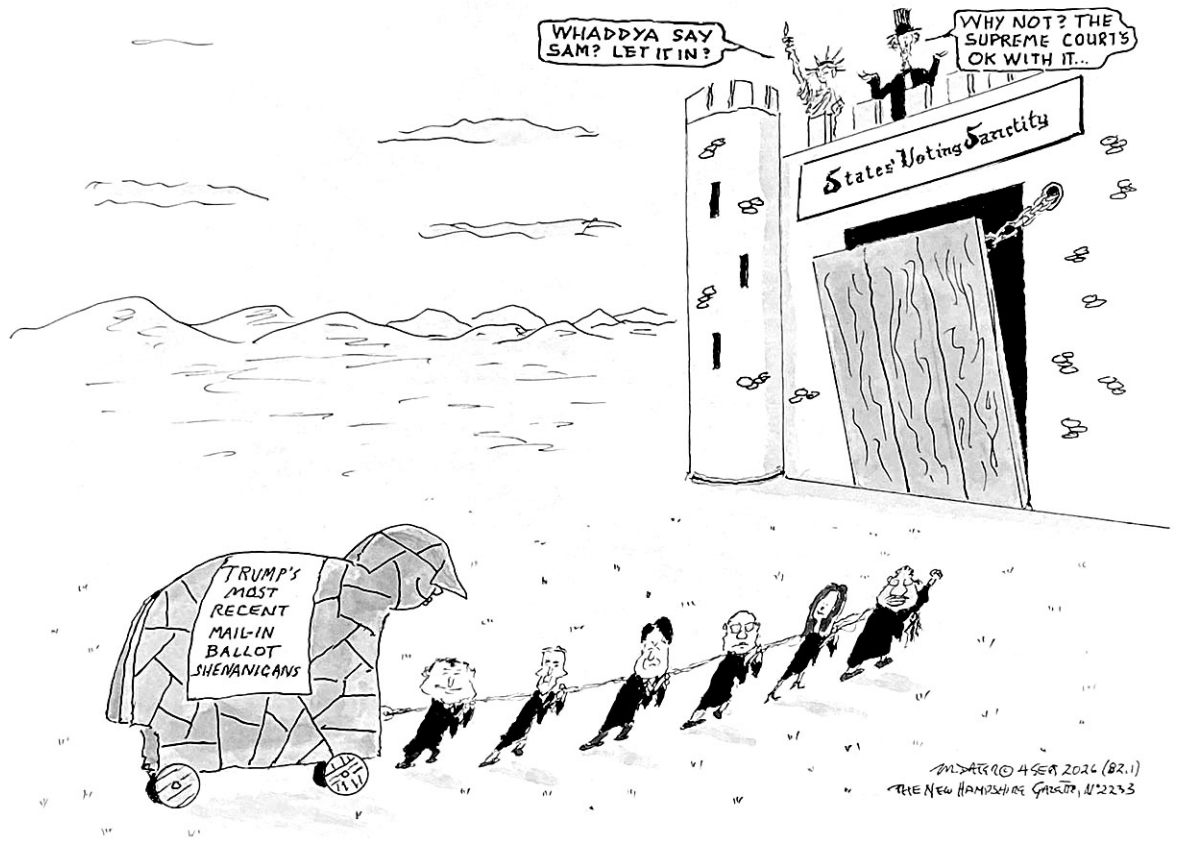
Speaking of odds, his big boy, Don Jr., owns big stakes in each of the companies that constitute the predictions market. Want to place a bet on whether the President will send the Marines to invade Country X? Take your pick: two online gambling venues, no waiting. Just don’t expect to beat the house. But why quibble over such petty, arms-length corruption? The President sells special access to his Trump Social feed for the modest fee of \$100,000 a month.

Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnik kicked off the fortnight by sparking a trade war with Canada, our second-largest trading partner. In doing so, the second Trump administration ripped up the trade agreement written by the first Trump administration, after it ripped up NAFTA.

Along with the new trade war we so desperately needed, this fortnight brought us 300,000 metric tons of imported mystery meat, and an Indy car race on the streets of Washington. That last item almost hit the spot. A demolition derby would have been right on the money.

Politicians on the right have howled for years: “the federal government ought to be run more like a business.” Many in that crowd also claim that this is, or should be, a Christian nation. Jesus says, in Luke 14:13, “...when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed.” At Chic-fil-A, it’s pay up or beat it.

People say war is how Americans learn geography. Maybe Trump can teach us something about economics. We’re unlikely to get anything else of value out of this administration.



Postal Service Whistleblower Warns Trump Assault on Mail-In Voting Could ‘Derail the Midterm Elections’

An anonymous federal official warned of a “high likelihood that the new ballot mail verification processes will result in major disruptions in mail ballots ever getting delivered to voters.”

by Jake Johnson

An anonymous federal official warned in a whistleblower disclosure submitted to members of the U.S. Congress that the Postal Service’s haphazard implementation of President Donald Trump’s executive order on mail-in voting could “derail the midterm elections” by preventing potentially millions of American voters from receiving ballots.

The disclosure was released in full on Tuesday by Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), who included the document in a letter to Postmaster General David Steiner—Trump’s pick to lead USPS. Blumenthal said the whistleblower’s account provides “disturbing details about USPS’ seemingly illegal plot to interfere in November’s midterms.”

The new disclosure raises “significant concerns” about the Postal Service’s “secretive, rushed, chaotic, and fundamentally flawed process” for establishing “an entirely new and untested set of IT systems” in compliance with Trump’s March executive order, which is at the center of high-stakes legal fights just weeks before the November midterms.

Trump’s USPS directives have been blocked in federal court, but the administration is trying to get them reinstated ahead of the midterm contests—and the whistleblower complaint suggests the administration may be violating court orders by continuing to work on the new systems. Mail-in voting for the midterms is officially set to begin this week.

Described in the disclosure as the “Portal,” the new Postal Service IT systems “will govern the delivery of ballots to voters as soon as the 2026 mid-term federal elections and

beyond.” The whistleblower raises “grave concerns” that the Trump administration has “hidden the high likelihood that the new ballot mail verification processes will result in major disruptions in mail ballots ever getting delivered to voters.”

“As presently designed, if even one bar code on one single ballot in a bulk-mailing of 10,000 ballots fails to properly scan during the verification process, the entire batch is rejected and sent back to the state—effectively stopping the ballots from being mailed to voters,” the disclosure states. “The whistleblower is particularly concerned that the Portal (where the bar codes are stored) will almost certainly have significant operating problems when released to the public, due to the rushed IT development; this will contribute to failures in the verification process.”

The whistleblower filing notes warnings that the Portal system could “completely crash” during roll-out and quoted descriptions from IT workers at the Postal Service who described the entire process as “a shit show.”

Libby Liu, the CEO of Whistleblower Aid—a nonprofit representing the anonymous federal official—said in a statement that “the whistleblower’s service to our nation is warning the public that their ability to vote is in serious jeopardy.”

“We are crossing the Rubicon of American elections,” said Liu. “This dangerously defective mail-in ballot process could disenfranchise millions of voters, ensnaring ballots in red tape under the guise of solving a non-existent problem. People in states that rely heavily on vote-by-mail will have a more difficult time making their voices heard in our challenged democracy this November.”

The USPS whistleblower also provided their account to the House Oversight Committee. Rep. Robert Garcia (D-Calif.), the top Democrat on the committee, said in a statement Tuesday morning that the official’s account makes clear that “Trump’s attack on vote-by-mail for the 2026 election is more serious than previously understood.”

“This new secret tracking system at the U.S. Postal Service is faulty, untested, and threatens to totally disrupt ballot delivery for millions of American citizens,” said Garcia. “We are fighting in court to protect the right to vote by mail for all and will continue to investigate. This unconstitutional and dangerous power grab must be permanently and immediately blocked.”

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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).

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

• The sea-serpent was seen in the Connecticut river opposite Cromwell, Conn., Sept. 8th. The critter came near upsetting a boat, and went off up river with its head ten feet out of the water, leaving two men in the boat almost scared to death.

• Geronimo and his band of forty men, women and children are announced to have surrendered unconditionally to Capt. Lawson’s forces. The noble red man will prob-

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* We intentionally use this gendered, exclusionary pronoun to reflect the fact that sexism and misogyny continue to flourish under our present, semi-anarchic regime.

Destruction of East India Company Gives U.S. Lawmakers a Blueprint for Confronting Big Tech: Historian

by Brad Reed

An historian who has written four books about the British East India Company is warning that big technology companies in the U.S. are amassing similar levels of unchecked power and will need to be reined in.

In a *New York Times* op-ed published on Friday, William Dalrymple described how the British government eventually realized that it had allowed the East India Company—key to the British Empire’s rise in the 18th and 19th centuries—to become too powerful and decided to finally clamp down.

The situation faced by the British Parliament in the 19th Century was strikingly similar to the situation faced by U.S. lawmakers today, Dalrymple explained, as the East India Company had for decades spent money to capture influence within the government.

“Around one in 20 members of Parliament sat on the East India Company’s board,” the historian wrote, “and more than a fifth of the company’s directors sat in Parliament at some point; about 40 percent of members of Parliament were shareholders.”

In the contemporary context, the executives of the nation’s largest tech firms are spending lavishly to curry favor with lawmakers and government officials of both major parties.

Writing in *The Nation* last month, investigative journalist David Moore detailed the massive political spending of major tech firms in the 2026 midterms, noting that

“Super PACs working on behalf of crypto, AI, and AIPAC donors are the highest-spending groups on independent expenditures to influence voters this cycle—combining to spend more than \$180 million so far, according to a review of Federal Election Commission records.”

In addition to political clout, the East India Company, in its day, also had the power to raise its own army, which, at its peak, topped 200,000 soldiers, twice the size of England’s own armed services.

Dalrymple pointed out that this is one power that today’s Big Tech firms do not have, although he argued that they have been increasingly integrating themselves into the U.S. military-industrial complex.

“In June 2025 the U.S. Army commissioned the chief technology officers of Palantir and Meta and OpenAI’s chief product officer as lieutenant colonels in a new Reserve unit,” he noted. “The new dispensation puts tech executives straight into a position of federal power, which in one way puts them ahead of their 18th-century counterparts.”

The government finally dropped the hammer on the East India Company, Dalrymple said, after the bloody Indian Rebellion of 1857, as they feared the firm’s “greed and self-interest” would cause the British Empire to lose what it considered its most valuable colony.

“The company’s navy was disbanded and its army passed to the Crown,” wrote Dalrymple. “In 1858 the governor general of India announced that the company’s Indian possessions would be nationalized

and pass into the control of the British Crown.”

Less than two decades later, what was once the most powerful private corporation in world history shut down after the expiration of its charter.

What this shows, concluded Dalrymple, is that “states can master corporations,” even if those corporations have their own private armies.

However, he said that while the instruments to take apart entrenched corporate power “still exist,” it appears our current governments are “lacking... the political nerve to use them.”

Dalrymple’s op-ed was echoed thematically by a Friday op-ed written by *SFGATE* travel editor Silas Valentino, who argued that the city of San Francisco has not gotten any benefit from the current artificial intelligence boom, despite being the home of OpenAI and Anthropic, the world’s two biggest AI firms.

In particular, Valentino argued that the AI firms have done nothing to give back to the city and alleviate its affordable housing crisis. In fact, Valentino found that the AI firms’ initiatives in the city appear to be mostly self-serving.

“OpenAI says it has invested in our community, but so far, that’s meant less than a million dollars in ‘SF civic contributions,’” Valentino wrote. “And worst of all, some of that is for things like AI training programs... That’s not improving the city; it’s OpenAI trying to make more money.”

Valentino also noted that Anthropic last year teamed with the

Tipping Point Community non-profit group, which was founded by current San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie, to provide free training on the company’s Claude chatbot.

“In the years since language models like ChatGPT and Claude proliferated to usher in the AI boom,” the travel editor wrote, “I’m only counting negatives for nearly everyone trying to figure out a way to live here.”

Ice Cream and the Constitution:

Pursuing Happiness and Defending the Constitution on Aug. 18

Several dozen Seacoast residents, including elected officials and candidates for office, gathered at Four Tree Island on August 18th, a beautiful sunny day, to enjoy some ice cream and affirm a commitment to our Constitution. Organized by the Seacoast Friends Preserving Democracy (SFPD) group, this event underscored a mutual resolve to “pursue Happiness,” a right that our “Declaration of Independence” demanded, and at the same time to show a willingness to defend our Constitution by reading all 27 Amendments to that document.

Peter Somssich, speaking for SFPD, underscored the need for all to be involved in protecting our democracy and the rights guaranteed to all, by being actively involved in all types of civic and political activities. As a way for the SFPD to show community appreciation for such service, Michael Derhammer presented the Democracy Award to all Portsmouth Poll Workers, who are the frontline of our democrat-

Valentino concluded by warning that if Lurie and his administration “don’t demand these companies start giving back and enhance our city for the better, they’ll continue ruining our city without pause.”

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ic processes. Joan Hamblet, one of the ward moderators, accepted the award that would be forwarded to the Clerk of the City of Portsmouth.

After all attendees were provided with some ice cream, the Amendments were read, moderated by local lawyer Damon Thomas. Twenty-three readers recited the Amendments, with some readings receiving special applause indicating an extra level of support. As a party favor, all participants were offered a free pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

The next planned event of the SFPD group will address the issues of corruption and affordability.

Closing out the event, the sad news was announced of the passing of Brian Wazlaw, one of the founders of the SFPD group, a much-admired teacher in the Exeter school system, and a greatly appreciated activist in Portsmouth. — *seacoast-friends.org*; (603) 436-5382 or *peter.somssich@gmail.com*.



The last best Saturday of August saw connoisseurs lined up outside the door of the recently refurbished Caffè Kilim. The counter is now in the room on the left, along with the tables. The kilims and myriad other exotic goods are now in the room on the right. The coffee is unchanged—that is, still perfect.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page one

ably un-surrender himself again, as soon as he has had a square feed and got a new rifle.

- The war department is said to be in trouble as to what disposition to make of Geronimo, the “bad man” Indian. Perhaps hanging him might do.
- Miss Lulu Bates of Cincinnati, an aeronaut, came near being killed on the 10th inst. by the collapse of her balloon when 300 feet above the ground as she was descending from a lofty height. She was badly jarred but no bones were broken.
- In Lowell, Mass., Sept. 10th, John Shea fatally injured his five-year-old

boy with a brick which he threw at a man who was preventing him from beating his wife.

- The Boston *Post* says: “Colonel Overall is a Missouri candidate for Congress. He would go well with Senator Vest of the same state.”
- At a dance in Summerville, Mo., there was a dispute over a base ball game played several days before, and four men were fatally shot. Base ball is a lively game in Missouri.
- The treasury department is solicitous concerning the present whereabouts of Henry F. Beecher, ex-customs collector at Puget’s Sound. Mr. Beecher is a son of Brooklyn’s greatest preacher. There is a discrepancy of \$5300 in his official accounts

which the government is anxious to have explained. The discrepancy grew out of the \$40,000 opium seizure made by Collector Beecher, which he alone, it seems, can satisfactorily explain.

- In Portland, Me., Sept. 13th, William James, alias “Bunter,” and his brother Thomas, two ruffians of the worst class, while ugly drunk fatally stabbed a quiet young man named Mike Drummond, and the police had to club them well in arresting them.
- Delicate diseases of either sex, however induced, speedily and permanently cured. Book of particulars

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Beware of Cruise Ships
— a Bar Harbor reader

Iran War Has Cost the Average American
More Than \$1,200 Over Six Months

by Stephen Prager

As President Donald Trump's war with Iran crosses the six-month mark without an end in sight, a new analysis calculates that it has cost the average American household at least \$1,200 more than they would have paid if it had never started.

That is according to Mark Zandi, the chief economist at Moody's Analytics, who was quoted by *New Yorker* columnist John Cassidy on Monday as he sought to look beyond military costs to determine the true extent to which the war has impacted Americans' pocketbooks.

Cassidy wrote that the task of reaching a solid number is "far from straightforward," especially since, in his assessment, the Pentagon has been "less than forthright about many aspects of the conflict," including the cost.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told the Senate Appropriations Committee in July that the conflict had cost roughly \$37.5 billion.

But prior to that, NBC News reported on internal Pentagon estimates that put the cost of the conflict between \$80 billion and \$100 billion when accounting for the cost to repair damage to U.S. military bases, which has occurred on a level that, according to former Marine Col. Mark Cancian, has not been seen since World War II.

These costs do not include the additional \$73 billion that House Republicans approved for defense and intelligence related to the war, which will come up for a Senate vote in September.

"Whatever the true figure is, it's a considerable sum that comes on top of the bloated trillion-dollar Pentagon budget that has already been approved for 2026; and it is money that could, in theory, be used for other purposes," Cassidy wrote.

He cited a recent analysis by the Center for American Progress (CAP), which found that the \$73 billion could "provide full Medicaid coverage for five million more people, with \$33 billion left over."

Some of those remaining funds could be used to provide free school lunch for every child in America, provide free childcare for one million children, or extend the Affordable Care Act tax credits that Republicans allowed to expire last year, which would reduce premiums for around 20 million Americans.

Trump has explicitly emphasized that funding the war is coming at the expense of other priorities.

"We're fighting wars. We can't take care of daycare. You gotta let a state take care of daycare, and they should pay for it too," he said in April. "It's not possible for us to take care of daycare, Medicaid, Medicare, all these individual things."

Just taking the lower-bound \$80



billion cost estimate would mean the average household has been forced to pay about \$300 more as a result of the war, using the same methodology that the National Priorities Project used to estimate the cost to taxpayers in April. But this is only a fraction of the overall cost.

Average gasoline prices have shot up by more than \$1 since the war began, while the price of diesel has risen by roughly half. Citing an energy-cost tracker maintained by the Climate Solutions Lab at Brown University's Watson School of International and Public Affairs, Cassidy said these combined price hikes have cost Americans an additional \$93 billion—more than an extra \$700 per household.

Oil and fertilizer prices have also shot up, rippling through the economy and contributing to higher food prices. The overall rate of inflation

has climbed to 3.4 percent, up from 2.4 percent in February. Cassidy notes that inflation has also hiked market interest rates, "raising the costs of mortgages, car loans, and other types of consumer credit."

Combining all these added costs, Zandi estimated that the average household had paid roughly an extra \$1,200 in the six months since the war started, but emphasized that this was only a conservative estimate.

"Rather than being taken as a precise number," Cassidy added, "this figure should be understood as a rough sketch that conveys the magnitude of Trump's folly."

As the midterms approach, Trump's approval rating has hit an all-time low of just 33 percent according to a poll out Monday from Reuters/Ipsos, which also found just 36 percent approval for the war.

Meanwhile, 71 percent of Amer-

icans, including four in 10 Republicans, said they disapprove of how Trump is handling the cost of living. This has caused the longstanding Republican advantage in the economy to evaporate, with 36 percent of registered voters saying in a poll last week they believe Democrats are better prepared to tackle the cost of living compared with 28 percent of Republicans.

"Absent a break in the war's current stalemate between now and the November midterms," Cassidy said, "the president and his party may end up paying a higher political price. But the economic costs of the conflict can't be reversed."

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"Big Rick" Allen was parked on Market Street on Sunday, August 23rd. Technically, we suppose, his eye-popping vehicle was parked, and he was in it. This is one of those cases, though, in which the line between man and vehicle gets a little vague. The two full-size flags, trailing in the wake of the trike-riding skeleton on the roof, are, of course, in violation of the Flag Code. We have it on good authority, though, that "Big Rick" carries that rare credential, a "Get Out of Jail Free" card issued by the Flag Police.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page two

10 cents in stamps. Address, World's Dispensary Medical Association, 663 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y.

- In the trial of case Rafferty vs. Daniel L. Drew, the jury decided that Drew, who owns a building which Rafferty occupied and would not vacate, and who to cause Rafferty to get out removed the windows of the building, cut off the water and stopped up the chimney, must pay Rafferty \$75, and the costs of suit.

- Rent troubles continue in Ireland. Another farmer was shot Saturday night.
- James O'Brien of Concord was driving a team loaded with stone, Sept. 13th, when it capsized and he was fatally crushed.
- George Stephens, an engineer on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, residing at Baltimore, stepped off his train while it was in motion at Sykesville, Md., and fell under the wheels of his locomotive. His head was severed from the trunk.

- Three marine monsters of an unknown species were seen a few days ago in Placentia bay, Newfoundland. One of them, which was killed, was twenty feet long and five feet in diameter.
- The New Hampshire Gazette*  
September 16, 1886
- At Skowhegan, Me., on the 13th inst., Edmund Adams, aged eighty-two years, went to the polls, and on depositing his ballot remarked,
- to page seven

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"Judge a man by his questions  
rather than his answers."  
— Voltaire (1694-1778)

"Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible,  
but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary."

— Reinhold Niebuhr

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What's Going On

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Marvin Gaye's  
soulful classic from  
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Lake Trump

Dear Sir,  
Effective immediately and in perpetuity, I hereby officially rename the water in my toilet bowl **Lake Trump**.  
William D. Ehrhart  
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania  
William:  
*Well, that's settled. Neatly done. We notice that you make no claim to exclusivity. Given the near-ubiquity of such facilities in separate and distinct real estate parcels all over the nation—and the world—we see no reason why others who may be so inclined should not emulate your exquisitely appropriate designation.*  
The Editor

~~~~~  
Shaheen is a Pragmatic Democrat
To the Editor:
Having run in and been elected to local and state offices we know the effort that is needed not just to be elected, but most of all getting things done. The 2026 elections are important because they can shift the majority in Washington to the Democratic side, so that Washington Republicans and President Trump can be held accountable for their betrayal of voters and their corrupting influence in our country.
But for Democrats, it is also important to elect more independent-minded Democrats to change the direction of the party before the 2028 elections. With the Democratic Party facing low favorability with the public, it is hard to argue for more of the status quo. Nationwide, Democratic candidates are succeeding who are closer to the voters and their issues, whether it is affordability, healthcare, opposition to wars and, of course, the blatant corruption of the Trump administration.
These are candidates who are not ideological but pragmatic. As former Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill, Jr., often said: "All politics is local." Voters are looking for candidates who know their personal challenges and want to improve their lives regardless of official party line. We believe that Stefany Shaheen is such a candidate.
Stefany was born and grew up in New Hampshire. She has served in many roles both locally and in our state and has raised her children here.

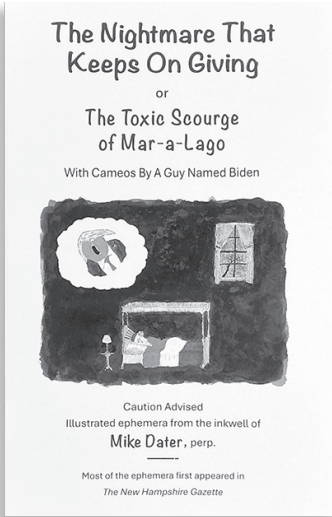
Yes, she also received good advice from her parents. But she is her own person, and does her own thinking and deciding, even when it is different from what her Democratic Party suggests. She is not part of the Democratic Party bureaucracy.
She has served as Portsmouth City Councilor, addressing the needs of local residents and connecting with our county and state when issues warranted it. On the Portsmouth Police Commission, with whom one of us served, she showed her independent thinking and toughness, leading the police department's recovery from the Goodwin-Weber scam debacle and pushing back against intimidation by ICE. She also championed, together with her mother, demands that proper water testing at Pease Tradeport be performed by the Air Force to identify and remediate the PFAS (forever chemicals) contamination there. Voters in our congressional district are best served by an independent thinking member of Congress who will stand up to the President's many outrageous actions, while also helping to lead the Democratic Party back to its roots serving the voters and not the donors.
Buzz Scherr, Portsmouth State Representative and Chair, Portsmouth Police Commission; Peter Somssich, former Portsmouth Democratic Chair (2006-2010) and former Portsmouth State Representative
~~~~~  
**Is Musk an Icon? If So, of What?**  
To the editor;  
Societies tend to elevate a selected few as icons to be treated with respect and deference. Icons stand for the shared values, beliefs, and identity of a society. When embodied in a person, an icon or avatar represents someone not only to be admired but also to be emulated. Many European countries raise living members of royal families to these positions as embodiments of a past glorious history. America, however, has no history of royalty, and so must create its own equivalent. In keeping with its Capitalist tradition, wealthy industrialists or financiers are often raised to iconic status. Warren Buffet and Elon Musk are examples.

**MASH NOTES**  
~~~~~  
Warren Buffet may deserve iconic status, but Elon Musk does not. Musk may be admired by the MAGA crowd and has received effusive praise following the IPO of SpaceX that temporarily made him a trillionaire, but he does not embody the values of an egalitarian society. Musk, as well as many tech billionaires, espouses a technocratic ideology. Technocrats believe that all material progress is the result of the application of scientific and engineering principles. They assert that virtually any problem can be solved using these principles. Consequently, governance should rest only with scientists and engineers that have the expertise to solve society's problems. Democratic governments with their conflicting spheres of influence, bureaucracies, and regulations interfere with efficient engineering processes and should be replaced with technocracies. This is Technofascism and is inconsistent with the values of liberal democracy. To elevate Musk as an icon is akin to placing a colony of termites in the foundation of a wood cabin.
There is a fundamental flaw with technocratic ideology. Technocrats assume that engineered solutions will improve general welfare. History, however, shows that technological innovation does not necessarily benefit all. A common outcome is that the returns from technological change are extracted by economic elites rather than shared by society at large. This was the case during the Gilded Age when the Robber Barons profited extravagantly from innovative industrial technologies while the working class was immiserated. It is also true today. As Musk flirts with trillionaire status and the owners of tech platforms such as Meta, Amazon, and Alphabet dot the top ten richest list, the bottom third percentile finds it difficult to meet day to day living expenses and struggle to buy a house, pay catastrophic medical bills or send a child to college. Only government regulation improved conditions for the working class during the Progressive Era. It is sorely needed now to regulate renegade Techno Barons.
The perfumed princes of the current tech revolution are not the innovative geniuses that their PR agents por-

tray. The technology that built their platform monopolies is the result of a knowledge revolution that was built over decades, from the labor of thousands, often in government or university labs. The techno billionaires are the lottery winners whose exorbitant profits are due to the knowledge created by many. The internet itself is a government invention that became the vehicle for the creation of Meta, Alphabet, Amazon as well as Tesla and Microsoft. Regarding Musk, it is ironic that despite his criticisms of government, he has not been shy in accepting its support. SpaceX was a struggling upstart whose survival was questionable until NASA, seeking to outsource its space cargo transport services, selected SpaceX as the supplier of low orbit supply vehicles. NASA provided guaranteed contracts and technical support that ensured SpaceX's survival. Tesla likewise benefited from government dollars to the tune of a \$465 million loan that enabled the acquisition of a factory to produce its early vehicles. It is estimated that SpaceX and Tesla have received \$38 billion through various government programs.
Finally, if more evidence is needed that wealth does not ensure wisdom, Musk's erratic and inept attempt to downsize the U.S. government as head of DOGE will provide it. Despite boasting of saving trillions, he and his minions produced no new efficiencies while destroying the capabilities of many agencies to respond to emerging threats. His destruction of USAID likely resulted in the deaths of many who were denied needed medicine and food. We should be careful who we select for iconic status.
Robert D. Russell, PhD
Harrisburg, Pa.
~~~~~  
**New Hampshire's Deadbeat Government**  
To the Editor:  
Do you wonder why your property taxes keep rising? Over the past few years, voters have heard the term "downshifting." This word is only shorthand to explain the State of New Hampshire's sloughing off its finan-

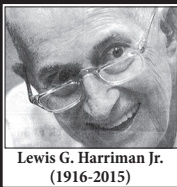
cial burdens to the counties, cities and towns, forcing property taxpayers to pay these obligations instead.  
As an example, when the State wanted to have all municipalities switch to the state retirement system for school, fire, town and police personnel, the State promised to pay 35 percent of the cost in return. The municipalities did switch, and the State then proceeded to cut the amount it paid into the retirement system every few years, and now pays nothing. This is nothing short of "bait and switch." As it did so, the State cut taxes for the wealthy citizens and businesses, so that the revenue would not be available to pay the State's share. The obligation remains, however, and property taxpayers are now forced to pay, through local taxes, the financial share of the State.  
This is but one example of many, which include revenue sharing, adequacy grants, school construction costs, etc. It's past time for voters to understand just why their property taxes are going up and to hold the State responsible for its fair share of these commitments.  
Remember, your vote is your voice. Be sure you are registered to vote, and then vote!  
Lorraine L. Hansen  
Rollinsford, N.H.  
~~~~~  
Republicans Want High Deficits
To the Editor:
Donald Trump has served as president for less than 6 years, yet he is responsible for creating almost \$11 trillion in debt. Our nation's debt is now \$40 trillion and Trump is responsible for over 25 percent of that. Trump and his party promised that their tax cuts would create roaring economies which would balance the budget. That was as true as Trump's claim that Mexico would pay for the border wall.
Republicans call themselves conservative. They are not. They deliberately cut taxes for the rich with the intention of creating deficits. They then use those deficits to say the country needs

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Thousands of people seek abortions in New Hampshire every year, but many struggle to afford the cost. We're proud to be a local community-driven fund that can help break down the various barriers patients face in accessing abortion, including financial as well as childcare and transportation support. With the right to abortion under attack like never before, we need all the support we can get in order to make sure we can meet the full needs of every patient who seeks our assistance.

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to cut programs for the poor and middle class. The so-called Big Beautiful Tax Bill gave most of the cuts to millionaires, billionaires and corporations while kicking kids off school lunch programs, people off Medicaid, and making health insurance so expensive that 3 million people could no longer afford insurance through the Affordable Care Act.

Debt during Trump's remaining years as president will increase faster as he is asking congress to increase defense spending from \$900 billion to \$1,500 billion a year. Interest rates investors are demanding to buy our debt keeps rising. We are already paying \$1 trillion a year in interest payments and Trump is adding \$2+ trillion a year to the national debt.

The time has come to reverse those tax cuts for billionaires and corporations and restore programs for the poor and working class.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Destroying U.S. Research

To the Editor:

As an American and former head of a scientific research group at a renowned institute of the Max-Planck Society in Germany, I have been following the attempted destruction of research institutions and overall academic science in the U.S. by this administration in total disbelief and deep anxiety.

Since World War II, the U.S. has invested large amounts of money in scientific research conducted at independent universities and federal agencies. This funding helped the U.S. to become the world's leading scientific power and has led to a plethora of novel discoveries and the invention of numerous breakthrough technologies that have benefited the world. Moreover, the high standards of research in the U.S. have attracted thousands of the best and brightest foreign PhD students and postdoctoral fellows, and these highly motivated researchers have often played valuable roles in

further advancing top quality research programs in numerous elite U.S. universities, particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The numerous executive orders by Trump to drastically slash research funding, and the appointments of several totally unqualified persons (Robert F. Kennedy Jr., just to name one) to head vital federal agencies, will surely have a long-term negative impact on the quality of U.S.-based science and education. Cuts in grant funding have already resulted in the abandonment of research projects, the layoff of valuable staff and a halt to new graduate student admissions. Thousands of scientists in the U.S. have already lost their jobs or grants.

Science is an international endeavor and other countries are increasing their efforts to attract talent. Australia, Canada, the E.U., France, the Netherlands and the U.K. have already launched programs to draw researchers from the States. Switzerland, Germany, and Denmark are also actively recruiting. Thus, the United States' diminishing appeal may result in a "brain drain" that could strongly affect its innovative edge in basic and applied research and in the medical sciences. This could have detrimental effects when it comes to the subsequent development of, *i.e.*, effective new medications, novel medical treatments and various technological innovations, thereby severely affecting the future health of all Americans.

If this continues, I predict that within the next 5 to 10 years the U.S. will lose its competitive edge and will no longer be viewed as the prime destination for the most talented young scientists from around the world.

Equally horrifying to me is the shameful dragging of Dr. Anthony Fauci in front of a Senate 'Inquisition' committee for apparent wrong doings. Dr. Fauci is regarded by scientists world-wide as one of the top experts in virology/immunology, and whose actions over several decades as head of

the NIH have helped save the lives of millions across the globe. Incompetent conspiracy theorists now seem to directly aim at highly regarded scientific leaders in order to undermine science policies that have proven so successful in the past. U.S. politicians must wake up and take action before this administration and its stooges totally destroy fact-based science and education.

Dr. Imre E. Somssich
Cologne, Germany

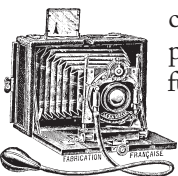
Berlioni: a Standout

To the editor,

Carleigh Berlioni is a stand-out candidate for N.H. District 1 in Congress.

I recently attended a debate between the candidates. I came to the forum as a concerned citizen at a time of governmental dysfunction and when our world feels upside-down everywhere.

Carleigh Berlioni was seated among the other candidates, but it quickly became clear when the microphone was handed to her, that something special was in the offing. Stepping forward, her intent gaze fully embraced the audience.



Speaking briskly, but with clarity and distinction, her answers went straight to the heart of the question—not with platitudes and statistics, but of issues shaping our daily lives as people seeking dignity and respect. The topics varied:

- On the need for a new immigration policy, not faceless armed men roaming our city streets spreading anxiety and fear.
 - On childcare and the need to help young parents whose childcare expenses rise to the level of a second mortgage, making it difficult for even two working parents to pay the monthly bills.
 - On healthcare, where doctors are trapped in a web of insurance bureaucracy and patients are asked their d.o.b. again and again, wondering whether they can afford care if they truly fall ill.
- With her thoughtful intelligence and articulation, Carleigh's messages resonated within the room, often with a resounding applause of approval. Her extra-wide smile acknowledged the moment with grace and humili-

ty. It is eminently clear, even within a body of 435 representatives, Carleigh would shine.

Sheldon Perry
Rochester, N.H.

Women's Stake in the Upcoming Elections

To the Editor:

As both parties fight for supporters in the upcoming primaries and midterms, it seems to me the concerns of one important constituency are being mostly ignored: that of women.

I would argue that, by its actions, the current administration has effectively set women's causes back years. The frequent debasement of women reporters in presidential press conferences, the ugly smears about their appearance and "nasty" behavior show how little respect this president has for women. Many of the president's appointees show the same attitude. Pete Hegseth, Secretary of Defense, for example, has obviously targeted women, (and black) military officers in unexplained purges and denials for promotion. To add further insult, Pete Hegseth is a member of an Idaho based religious sect that believes a woman's place is in the home, and questions whether they should even be allowed to vote!

Even more concerning, the "anti-DEI" and "anti-Affirmative Action" stance of this administration places a bullseye on the backs of women, as well as people of color. The clear message is that most women in positions of authority would never be there without the aid of DEI and Affirmative Action programs. Obviously, the administration's belief is, based on merit, men (white men) should hold these positions.

Based on the actions of this administration, it's hard for me to understand how any woman could cast a vote for any member of a party that so disrespects and denigrates women.

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.

Maura Will Fight for the People

To the Editor:

In just a couple weeks, voters across New Hampshire's First Congressional District will be heading to the polls for the September primary elections. As a

student, I have seen firsthand how bad representation at the state and federal levels affects the everyday lives of people right here in New Hampshire, and that is why I support Maura Sullivan for Congress. Just this year, my school district needed to end the contracts of over a dozen teachers due to inadequate funding and rising healthcare costs. I see seniors in my town struggling every day to get by due to rising costs and higher property tax bills. I see my grandmother, who has diabetes, not able to afford her insulin and medication that is vital to her health. We need to elect candidates who will tackle these issues, not play political games and follow party lines. I trust Maura to fight for better and more affordable healthcare, lower costs, and for the people, not profit.

In a short time, many of my peers and I will be heading to college, needing to buy a home, have the funds for groceries, utilities, and everyday life expenses. Right now, I have concerns about how I will do these things because too many members of Congress care more about the wealthy and well-connected than working- and middle-class families.

Maura Sullivan knows and has faced these issues. She worked her way through college on an ROTC scholarship. She served our country in uniform and deployed overseas, and she worked under President Obama to help veterans and expand healthcare access. Maura will fight for the people of New Hampshire, not billionaires and big corporations. I know that Maura Sullivan is the candidate we can trust to bring a new generation of leadership and actually get things done for the people. I hope you will vote for Maura on September 8th.

Anthony Pelletier
Merrimack, N.H.

Urrutia—Dedicated to Accountability

To the Editor:

We're about to vote in the N.H.1 congressional primary, while living through a profound crisis that threatens democracy in our country. According to historian Heather Cox

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Richardson, this crisis is more severe because the Supreme Court is helping the president accrue ever more power, while Congress, controlled by the Republican majority, refuses to rein in the president. In a time when our constitutional checks and balances are gone, how do we figure out which N.H.1 candidate best meets this perilous moment?

What this constitutional crisis requires—most of all—is accountability. We cannot move on to rebuild our democracy until the lawbreakers—from the president to cabinet secretaries on down—are held accountable for their crimes and corruption.

Only one candidate has made accountability the center of his campaign—Christian Urrutia. An attorney with a Master's in International Relations, Urrutia has practiced international and human rights law, and was Special Counsel in Biden's Pentagon, working on compliance with the Geneva Conventions and support for Ukraine in its fight for freedom. He joined the N.H. Army National Guard in his 30's because he believes in public service, and has become the trial defense attorney for N.H. Army National Guard.

Urrutia is dedicated to accountability. He says our freedoms "erode when corruption is excused, when power goes unexamined, and when the law is bent to serve the powerful ... Congress must act." He has the moral courage to act, and I'll be voting for him on Sept. 8th.

Chuck Hotchkiss
Durham, N.H.

—==—
"More of the Same Won't Fix This"
To the Editor:

Carleigh Beriont is a union organizer, teacher, local elected leader and mom of two who has spent her life strengthening communities and fighting for working families.

My husband and I hosted the first of several coffees in our garden

with Carleigh for our friends and neighbors over a year ago. The thing we love best about Carleigh? She listens. At house parties she asks—what are some things that you wish politicians understood about you and what keeps you up at night. Then she pulls out her clipboard, listens and takes notes.

New Hampshire and this country do not need another legacy candidate. We don't need another big money candidate beholden to corporate donors. That's what we mean when we say "More of the Same Won't Fix This."

What we need is someone like Carleigh, someone who will represent working families and retirees. If you're looking for a candidate who has real experience in governance, policy solutions and answers to all the problems facing our country, Carleigh Beriont is that person. Please go to her website for more information.

Ginger Hankins
Wolfeboro, N.H.

—==—
Beriont and Medicare for All
Dear Editor,

We are supporting Carleigh Beriont for Congress. We applaud Carleigh's initiative to support Medicare for All. We need a single payer system that provides health-care for all. We believe that every individual deserves high quality healthcare. Carleigh is intelligent, hard working and honest. She has demonstrated her ability to reach consensus among the Hampton Select Board that she chairs. We need someone like Carleigh in Washington to represent us with integrity and compassion.

Henry and Suzanne Sonneborn
Rye, N.H.

—==—
Christian Urrutia: An FDR Progressive
To the Editor:

You'd think that any politician worth a vote would fight to ensure that people in need have safety nets. That's what the 1930s New Deal

agenda delivered, in Social Security, pro-labor law, and finally Medicare (in the 60s), providing a foundation for our people and economy to thrive during post-WWII decades. That's a "progressive" agenda. It was mainstream for half a century. Why is this label seen as radical?

Christian Urrutia, N.H.1 candidate for Congress, doesn't care about labels. As he said in a WMUR interview, "I'm all for fixing people's problems." A plain-vanilla "progressive" platform is based on common sense and decency. It's what we want for every American, regardless of the luck they were born into. Because luck is unevenly distributed, ensuring basic rights and opportunities gives individuals who work hard the

Puppets and Proxies?:

The Politics of Agency

by Richard M. Balzano

The algorithm-driven debate-industrial complex recently gifted the internet another installment of its ongoing effort to merge cable news, professional wrestling, and civic collapse into a single monetized spectacle: Jubilee Media and Straight Arrow News released a video titled "1 Journalist vs 20 Trump Supporters" in which constitutional law attorney-turned-journalist Glenn Greenwald volleyed geopolitical common sense into a clown car of personalities parroting curated conservative talking points and outright falsehoods about the Iran war—"Operation Epstein Fury." I highly recommend the video to anyone wishing to observe the effectiveness of propaganda and the failures of the American educational system in real time. Among the panel's favorite talking points was the oft-repeated claim that Iran acts as an aggressor "through its proxies," namely Hamas, Hezbollah, and Yemen's Houthis. The assertion sounds analytical until one begins examining how the architects of foreign policy narratives selectively deploy the language of "proxies" to strip some movements of political agency while affording others the dignity of acting in their own interests. The result is a public conditioned to interpret adversaries of the American-led order as foreign-controlled puppets while U.S.-aligned armed actors are understood as legitimate expressions of nationalism, security, or self-determination.

During the Cold War, Washington routinely framed left-wing insurgencies and anti-colonial movements as extensions of Moscow or Havana. Global South exertions of sovereignty, self-determination, and efforts to reverse the inequities of colonialism and neocolonialism were routinely delegitimized, framed as foreign manipulation and flattened into a global communist puppet show. Revisionist historians and anti-colonial scholars spent decades pushing back, emphasizing the local roots and political agency of movements routinely dismissed as Soviet or Cuban proxies, a position increasingly vindicated by the archival record

chance to grow into their potential.

To get there, we must hold accountable those who have attacked and destroyed our fundamental democratic institutions. Urrutia understands that most of the problems facing us are complex and won't be solved overnight. He's passionate about the issues, but reason rules his arguments. He'll stand up for us in Congress. He has the chops to do so. He's shown courage as a military member, a JAG defense attorney, and a legal defender of human rights. Let's put that courage to work to shape an America that will benefit us all. He's got our vote on September 8.

Dan and Kathy Bean
Durham N.H.

with each wave of declassification, from Latin America to the Eastern Bloc. After the Cold War—and especially after 9/11—the proxy narrative returned with remarkable force. Soviet puppetry gave way to the Iranian proxy, the Putin puppet, and the broader assumption that smaller Western adversaries are extensions or instruments of larger geopolitical rivals.

Hezbollah did not emerge from an Iranian laboratory, but from the wreckage of the Lebanese Civil War, the marginalization of Lebanon's Shi'a population, and the Israeli invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon in 1982. Hamas emerged during the First Intifada in 1987 amid decades of military occupation, dispossession, and collapsing faith in existing Palestinian leadership; Palestinians did not require Iranian instruction to resist life under occupation. Yemen's Houthis emerged from the political marginalization of Yemen's Zaydi population, government corruption, economic grievances, and repeated conflicts with the Yemeni state years before becoming fixtures in American cable-news graphics explaining "Iranian aggression." Even mainstream explanatory outlets have acknowledged that the Houthis are not simply Iranian creations, but movements rooted in Yemen's own political and historical conditions. In practice, the Houthis were the only actors willing to uphold their commitments under the Genocide Convention by targeting Israeli-bound ships during the ongoing Gaza genocide, while Western signatories largely confined "prevention" efforts to press releases, procedural caveats, and fresh weapons shipments. Iranian support for these groups is real, but material support does not reduce regional actors into remote-controlled Tehranian appendages. No serious historian would argue that American support for the Contras transformed Nicaragua's anti-Sandinista forces into mindless automatons devoid of local motives, yet movements opposed to Washington or its allies are routinely denied the same analytical complexity.

The double standard becomes evident in the language Washington reserves for its allies. American-backed Cold War insurgencies, dictatorships, and death squads were rarely written off as proxies devoid of

—==—
A Mash Note

Dear Editor —

Your paper is still the Beacon of Light in such a dark world...

I still send them to my sister in the North Country of N.H. to pass them on.

Bill A.
Higganum, Conn.

Dear Bill:

We spend so much time mocking and deriding our "betters" that we often find it hard to take ourselves seriously. Speaking very deliberately here, for all of us who collaborate on this project, it is tremendously gratifying to hear that what we do has value and meaning for you. Thank you.

The Editor

agency. Nicaragua's Contras, the Afghan Mujahideen, anti-communist militias across Latin America, and countless Cold War client regimes were instead framed as freedom fighters, security partners, anti-terror forces, or flawed but sovereign actors pursuing legitimate national interests. Material support from Washington did not erase their political agency; indeed, that agency often became politically convenient precisely when American officials sought distance from the atrocities committed by their clients. Agency, however, is not absolution.

Movements opposing American or Israeli regional dominance are routinely denied the same analytical complexity, reduced instead to the hostile state allegedly pulling their strings. The distinction is not merely semantic. "Proxy" functions as a delegitimizing category, one that transforms political grievances, occupations, sectarian tensions, and anti-colonial resistance into the manufactured products of foreign adversaries, suitable not for diplomacy or historical understanding, but for sanctions, bombings, and regime-change rhetoric. Curiously, once the archival record begins vindicating the agency of yesterday's alleged Soviet puppets—from Latin America to the Eastern Bloc—enthusiasm for revisiting those exaggerations tends to evaporate. Narrative management is generally less interested in correcting yesterday's propaganda than in manufacturing tomorrow's.

One need not endorse Hezbollah, Hamas, or the Houthis to recognize their political agency. "Proxy" has become less an analytical category than a political branding tool, one selectively deployed to deny adversaries legitimacy while preserving complexity for allies and clients. Selling costly foreign policy interventions to the American public requires recasting movements responding to occupation, inequality, or repression as extensions of larger enemies whose villainous status has already been carefully cultivated by Washington's foreign policy narrative architects.

—==—
Richard M. Balzano is an historian and political analyst peddling truths at several institutions of higher learning, quietly devoted to the art of sedition and comfortably resigned to the peripheral left.

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Russian Potato Dumplings

by W.D. Ehrhart

I inherited a “fat gene” from my mother. She was maybe 5'4" or 5'5". When she got married in 1943, she weighed 103 pounds. When she died in 1990, she weighed over 300 pounds.

Her younger brother was in ROTC in college, so he couldn't have been too heavy back then, but by the time I was old enough to remember him, he was badly overweight, obese really. Others of her siblings had weight problems, too.

In 9th grade, at age 14, I had a double chin and used to have to buy my clothing in what were called “husky” sizes. By then I was getting interested in girls, but they weren't interested in Russian potato dumplings, so at 15, I went my entire sophomore year without eating breakfast. My mother said this was unhealthy, but by the beginning of my junior year, I had taken four inches off my waist while growing six inches taller without gaining a pound. Ann Broderick kissed me on our first date, and she used her tongue.

I enlisted in the Marines after high school. When I finished boot camp, I weighed 155 pounds. A year and a half later, when I got back to the States from thirteen months in Vietnam, I weighed 120 pounds, but it was all sinewy muscle, like steel cable.

Eventually, my weight stabilized

at about 135 pounds. I was a varsity swimmer in college, swam laps on my own in subsequent years when I had access to a pool, then became a regular jogger just before I turned 30, and kept that up for more than twenty years.

My weight seldom got above 135, but I had to work at it. When my weight would start to drift up, I would cut back on my eating and jack up my mileage jogging. I ran two marathons in my 30s and regularly did 10K races into my 40s.

But in the early years of this millennium, I started gaining weight again. In fact, I put on 70 pounds in less than a decade. By the time I was in my early 60s, I was well over 200 pounds, and again bore a striking resemblance to a Russian potato dumpling. Because I had become medically obese, my employer offered to pay for a weight loss program.

I lost forty pounds in three months, and got down to around 160. But as often happens with “miracle” weight loss programs, within less than two years, I had regained all the weight I'd lost, and I just gave up. I had been struggling against weight gain all my life, and I just got tired of fighting it. It was just my genetic fate.

But I was ashamed of myself. I hated looking at photographs of myself. I didn't go to my 50th high school class reunion because I didn't want the kids I'd grown up with see-

ing what I'd let myself become.

Then a year and a half ago, I went to dinner with friends of mine. I put on a relatively new pair of pants, but realized before I even left the house that the pants were too tight to wear, and I had to change. And then I went out and ate a bacon cheeseburger, French fries, and onion rings.

I woke up the next morning thoroughly, utterly disgusted. “This has got to stop,” I thought. “I don't want to look like this anymore.” I stopped eating bacon cheeseburgers, French fries, and onion rings. With only occasional exceptions—none at all in the first six months—I stopped eating potatoes, rice, pasta, and bread, and cut way back on cheese.

I stopped eating candy, cookies, cake, pie, donuts, pastries, and ice cream (that one was hard to let go). I ate only oatmeal for breakfast, sweetened with half a tablespoon of honey and some fruit, usually blueberries. I ate a lot of vegetables, cooked and raw. Dessert became fresh fruit. I ate only three times a day, and never snacked between meals.

And the weight started dropping away steadily, about a pound a week for maybe six months before it began to slow down. The next six months



went much slower, but steadily trended downward until it plateaued at about 152.

I had wanted to go lower, maybe hit 140, but my doctor told me something I'd never heard in all my 77 years: “Don't lose any more weight.” He says I've stopped losing because my body likes where it is and doesn't want to give up any more weight.

I am not a doctor. I am not giving anyone medical advice. But I have managed to shed over 25 per cent of my body weight, and to do it gradually over about 15 months, simply by changing my diet and my eating habits. Not by heavily exercising (I walk a few times a week at a very slow pace). Not by using weight-loss drugs. Just by putting healthy food into my mouth three times a day.

When I finally shuffle off this mortal coil, I am going to have a “green burial.” They're going to wrap me in a winding sheet and stick me in a hole in the ground. And when they do, no one will mistake me for a Russian potato dumpling.

~~~~~

*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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Who's Behind the GOP's Assault on Homeless People?

by Jim Hightower

Memo from corporate headquarters to staff:

“Notice—the beatings will continue until employee morale improves.”

That corporate joke would also fit the perverse ethic of the Republican Party's latest assault on homeless Americans. Believe it or not, the Party's new homeless policy—officially embraced by the Trump regime and already enacted by 16 right-wing state governments—is to blame homelessness on (guess who?) the homeless! Yes, hundreds of thousands of individuals and families living on the streets in our Land of Plenty are being ordered to go inside—even though they have no “inside.”

But pious GOP politicians are not merely *chiding* the poor. They're using Big Government's authoritarian might to criminalize, arrest, incarcerate, and forcibly medicate some of the hardest-hit people in our country. It's a raw, disgraceful example of the aristocratic arrogance of today's billionaire brat class. Such as Silicon Valley Trumpster, Joe Lonsdale. He's been on a sadistic crusade to ban homeless indigents from making alleys, underpasses, and other vacant spots into their “home.” A multi-billionaire profiteer of the Palantir espionage conglomerate, Lonsdale lives in splendor in his mansions, but he doesn't want to be “bothered” by the poor who might be perturbed by the inequality he perpetuates. Indeed, Jon recently demanded that angry poor people who might pose a threat to upright, uptight royals like him should be subjected to *public hangings*.

In a democratic society, government's role is not to protect the privileged from the people, but to protect the people from the oppression and ever-grasping greed of royal wannabes like Lonsdale. To keep track of the Republican assault on the poor, go to the National Homelessness Law Center: homelesslaw.org.

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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](http://HightowerLowdown.org).

## BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

“That's my last vote, probably.” He was taken ill next day, and died early in the morning on the 15th.

- A heavy freight train bound west from this city, Thursday forenoon, came to a standstill just after crossing the overhead bridge at the Creek, and was unable to get any further until a shifting engine was sent out to give a push behind as far as the top of the grade. You can always tell when an engineer is mad about anything, by the wrathful tone he in some way manages to give the screech of the whistle.
- El Coyote, the famous and infamous Mexican bandit, has been killed by National troops, with two of his lieutenants and six men.
- The silver mine recently discovered in Malden, Mass., shows richer ore

as the shaft deepens; ore piece assayed \$900 to the ton.

- A school boy named Stillman stabbed a companion named Wilson Sherman at Rockland, Me., with a pocket knife on the 18th inst., inflicting wounds that may prove dangerous. Stillman, who has been arrested, is a dangerous boy, and has often threatened to stab his schoolmates.
- A man has been arrested at Covington, Ky., who claims that he killed the late Mayor [John B.] Bowman of East St. Louis, and that he was paid \$2,500 by a railroad vice president for the murder. [Note—Bowman was shot in the back, on the street in front of his home. Despite the arrest, no one was ever brought to trial. —The Ed.]
- The Gypsies whose passage to America from England some time

ago was prevented by the refusal of the steamship companies to carry them, and who attempted to reach New York by going to Germany and taking a steamer from there, were not allowed to land at Hamburg, and have returned to England and landed at Hull. The Hull authorities forbade their entrance into the town, and they encamped without its boundaries.

- The defaulting pay clerk of the USS *Iroquois*, who left that vessel at Callao, Peru, a short time ago, with \$4000 belonging to his shipmates, is supposed to have been murdered in Chili [sic].
- John Holtoffer, a keeper at the Cincinnati Zoological garden, was mangled by grizzly bears while cleaning a cage, and died soon after.
- Capt. Joseph Weare, for many years postmaster at Cape Neddick village, York, having been despoiled of his

office by the democratic Philistines, has sold his grocery and general store business to Mr. Edward A. Talpey, well and favorably known as clerk for Capt. Weare.

- John Wyatt and Demps Loftin had a fight at a funeral in Marshall county, Ky., Sept. 15th, and Loftin made preliminary arrangements for another funeral by stabbing Wyatt to death.

*The New Hampshire Gazette*  
September 23, 1886

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



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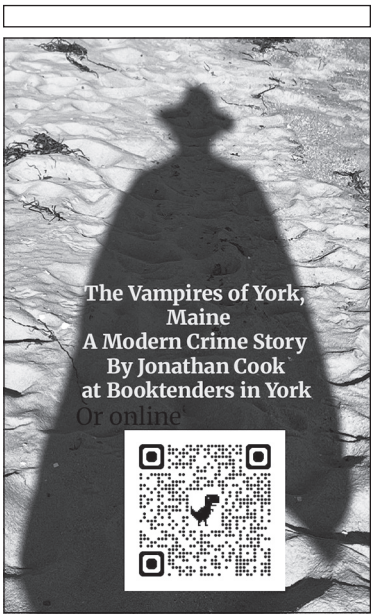
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ADMIRAL FOWLE’S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

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, SEPTEMBER 6	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
2010—Alabama prison officials ban the reading of a Pulitzer-winning history of Black forced labor. 1978—The U.S. House opens hearings on the assassinations of JFK & MLK. On Dec. 30th they conclude that conspiracies were likely. 1966—The second term of South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd, the architect of apartheid, is cut short by five stab wounds. 1949—World War II vet and devout churchgoer Howard Unruh kills 13 of his N.J. neighbors in 12 minutes. 1939—Britain’s legendary Spitfire gets its first ‘kill.’ It’s a British Hurricane mistaken for a German plane. 1939—FDR OKs FBI investigation of “subversive activity.” Oops.... 1934—Dan Beacham, Super at the Chiquolla Mill in Honea Path, S.C., tells armed scabs to shoot strikers. Seven die, shot in the back; scores are wounded. Beacham’s also the Mayor and Magistrate, so no one is punished. 1901—Pres. Wm. McKinley is assassinated by anarchist Leon Czolgosz. 1872—Rather than pay his deputy a \$10 fee, Erie Co. Sheriff and future President #22 and #24 Grover “Big Steve” Cleveland hangs mother-murderer Patrick Morrissey himself. 1869—Pennsylvania’s Avondale Colliery catches fire while 200 men are underground; 110 of them die. Management first to blames the miners, but their union fights back and wins some basic mine safety regulation.	2003—Warren Zevon sleeps. 1996—Two women walk into the Norfolk (Va.) Naval Base with a banner reading “Love Your Enemies.” They’re promptly arrested. 1988—“Today is Pearl Harbor Day”: WW II vet George H.[H.]W. Bush. 1977—In the Oval Office, Eric Gairy, Grenada’s PM, presents Jimmy Carter with an invitation to visit from the supreme leader of Titania, a moon of Saturn. Zbigniew Brzezinski asks, deadpan, if Carter, were he to visit, would be expected to give a speech. 1974—R. Nixon, irate that G. Ford is demanding a show of contrition, issues a threat: if Ford doesn’t pardon him, he’ll accuse Ford of promising a pardon in exchange for the Presidency. 1970—“Plant one, plant two [Secret Service agents] on [Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass.],” Richard Nixon says to aides. “We might just get lucky and catch this son-of-a-bitch—ruin him for ’76. It’s going to be fun.” 1914—French generals send 6,000 infantrymen from Paris to the Battle of the Marne in taxicabs. They hold the line and save the city. 1737—Thomas Penn’s “Walking Purchase” swindles the Lenni Lenape out of an area the size of Rhode Island. 1676—Major Richard Waldron invites 400 natives to a mock battle with his militia. Their guns discharged, they’re taken prisoner, sent to Boston, and executed or sold into slavery. Waldron is slain in revenge 12 years later.	2018—Secretary of the Army Mark Esper posts an anti-suicide message on Facebook. It features a photo of Army SSgt. Robert Bales, then doing life for murdering 16 Afghan civilians. 2002—<i>The N.Y. Times</i> publishes lies about tubes based on a White House leak; the White House cites that story as proof Iraq plans to build nukes. 1988—Dan Quayle says, “Republicans understand the importance of bondage between parent and child.” 1978—The Shah uses U.S.-made weapons to crush Tehran riots; 89 die. It’s a pyrrhic victory: six months later the Ayatollah is boss. 1974—Ford pardons Nixon; Lady Liberty gets a knife in the back. 1972—As the Federal Price Commission OKs a previously-denied price hike for McDonalds’ quarter-pounders, the Nixon re-election campaign gets a \$200,000 contribution from McDonalds’ owner, Ray A. Kroc. 1965—The Delano Grape Strike begins. Five years later, it’s victorious. 1964—Concord, N.H.-born “Rebel Girl” Elizabeth Gurley Flynn is given a state funeral at the Kremlin. 1935—One bullet kills Sen. Huey P. Long [D-La.]. Carl Weiss is shot 60 times by Long’s bodyguards—one of whom might have actually shot Long. 1934—In a nor’easter off New Jersey, its captain dead of a heart attack, the <i>Morro Castle</i> catches fire. The blazing hulk runs aground with 137 passengers and crew dead.	2008—Lehman Bros., the nation’s fourth largest investment bank, loses 45 percent of its value. 2005—“You know,” says Glenn Beck, “it took me about a year to start hating the 9/11 victims families...When I see a 9/11 victim family on television...I’m just, like ‘Oh, shut up.’” 1988—Dan Quayle, who got into law school via an “equal opportunity” program for disadvantaged minorities, says the process was “fair and square.” 1971—Rioting prisoners take nine guards hostage at the Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, N.Y. 1949—Canadian Albert Guay becomes the first person to destroy an airliner with a bomb. His recently-insured wife was on board, he was not. He’s hanged 16 months later. 1945—U.S. General John R. Hodge, Military Governor of Korea, announces that just-liberated nation will continue to be run by the Japanese. 1919—Cops in Boston—many of them WW I vets—go on strike. Gov. Cal Coolidge calls them “deserters.” Harvard students serve as scabs. 1917—Hundreds of fed-up British soldiers mutiny in Étapes, France. 1776—The Second Continental Congress votes to ditch “United Colonies” in favor of “United States.” 1739—In South Carolina, 20 enslaved Black people kill two storekeepers, steal guns and powder, recruit allies, kill about 20 whites, and march towards Florida.	2008—Lehman Brothers execs say their firm has all the capital it needs. Five days later it declares bankruptcy. 2001—Donald Rumsfeld admits the Defense Department can’t account for about \$2.3 trillion dollars. One day later, no one remembers—or cares. 1980—“Approximately eighty percent of our air pollution stems from hydrocarbons released by vegetation,” says GOP candidate Ronald Reagan. 1977—One-legged Tunisian pimp Hamida Djandoubi becomes the last man to die by a French guillotine. 1969—The AEC fires off a nuke beneath Grand Valley, Colo., to “liberate large quantities of gas.” It works, but no one wants irradiated natural gas. 1945—In Fruita, Colo., Lloyd Wilson chops the head off a young rooster. The decapitated fowl survives, to enjoy an 18-month career as “Mike The Headless Wonder Chicken.” 1939—B&M Railroad Engineer John Beattie and Fireman Charles Towle are killed when the Old Piscataqua Bridge, damaged during construction of the Mildred Long Bridge, dumps their locomotive into the river. 1939—HMS <i>Oxley</i> becomes the first British sub sunk in WW II. It was torpedoed by the sub HMS <i>Titan</i>. 1897—A posse massacres 19 strikers and wounds 36 at a Lattimer, Pa. coal mine; none are shot in the back. 1739—South Carolina militiamen overpower and kill the participants of the Stono Rebellion.	2016—The GOP nominee for President tweets “best wishes to all, even the haters and losers, on this special date, September 11th.” 2012—<i>Benghazi!!!</i> 2006—At Ground Zero, for a photo op, President Bush and the First Lady stand on an American flag carpet. 2001—Four American airlines are hijacked by Saudis and crashed; thousands die. George W.[MD] Bush scurries to safety, Donald Rumsfeld looks for excuses to attack Iraq, and Dick “Dick” Cheney authorizes the shooting down of civilian airliners. 1973—Salvador Allende, duly-elected President of Chile, is overthrown by CIA-backed thugs. 1957—A Denver H-bomb factory burns, releasing a pound of plutonium particles. The AEC, lying, says there’s only a minor risk of contamination. 1942—Wheeler Lipes, a 22-year old dropout, successfully removes an appendix aboard the submerged USS <i>Seadragon</i>. The U.S. Surgeon General threatens to court martial him. 1857—<i>En route</i> to California, 120 Arkansans are murdered by Mormons at Mountain Meadows, Utah. 1777—Washington is defeated at Brandywine, the largest, longest battle of the Revolution—but N.H.’s Gen. Sullivan staves off catastrophe. 1649—Oliver Cromwell’s Roundheads, in “a righteous judgment of God,” slaughter nearly 4,000 Irish, mostly civilians, in Drogheda.	2008—Hank Paulson, ex-Goldman Sachs, tells Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers “No Fed \$ for you.” 2001—George W.[MD] Bush tells Richard Clarke, his top counter-terror guy, “go back over everything, everything [to] see if Saddam did this.” Told it was al-Qaeda, he says, “I know, I know but...see if Saddam was involved. ... I want to know any shred.” 1996—Roger Stone is 86’d from Bob “Bob Dole” Dole’s “Clinton accountability team” when his ads for group sex partners become public. 1994—Frank E. Corder, 38, dies at 1:49 a.m., crash-landing a stolen Cessna on the White House grounds after a day-long beer and crack spree. 1983—Puerto Rican nationalists <i>Los Macheteros</i> rob a Wells Fargo depot in West Hartford, Conn. of \$7 million. They throw some cash from the roof to display their disdain for capitalism. 1970—Tim Leary busts out, leaving in his cell a clipping in which Gov. Reagan says he’s “not a security risk.” 1940—The Hercules plant in New Jersey is leveled by 150 tons of gunpowder—set off, perhaps, by Nazis. 1860—U.S.-born William Walker, deposed dictator of Nicaragua, is executed by a Honduran firing squad. 1857—SS <i>Central America</i> sinks in a hurricane off the Carolinas, with 420 souls and 10 tons of gold. The gold loss contributes to the Panic of 1857. 1776—Nathan Hale, 21, sets out on a spying mission.
2010—After calling for civility in the Primary, ex-Gov. John H. Sununu tells the <i>N.Y. Times</i>, “I came in [as N.H. GOP Chair] to clean the vermin [Democrats] out, then I’ll leave.” 2005—Two weeks after the catastrophe, George W.[MD] Bush admits the Federal response to Hurricane Katrina was less than ideal. 2001—Reverend Jerry Falwell says “The ACLU’s got to take a lot of blame for [9/11].” Reverend Pat Robertson replies, “I totally concur.” 1987—Today’s 1,612 page <i>New York Times</i> weighs twelve pounds. 1981—William Loeb, alleged newspaperman, goes to his eternal torment. 1971—Staties blast Attica with 2,200 rounds in nine minutes; the dead include 29 prisoners and ten guards. 1971—In the Oval Office, Dick Nixon says to Bob Haldeman, about Attica, “You know what stops them? Kill a few.” Haldeman replies, “Sure.” 1970—<i>The New York Times Magazine</i> publishes Milton Friedman’s article, “The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits.” Capitalists read it as a license to pillage. 1926—The KKK parade in Washington, D.C. has only 15,000 marchers—less than half the size of last year’s. The Illinois Grand Dragon’s recent conviction for rape and murder is blamed. 1913—Mary, an elephant who had killed her cruel, untrained trainer the day before, is hanged from a railroad crane in Erwin, Tenn.	2019—A solid gold toilet is stolen from Winston Churchill’s birthplace. 2008—At his gym, Lehman Brothers CEO Richard Fuld gets punched in the face by a complete stranger. 2005—At the UN, during the World Summit, the Leader of the Free World passes a note to his Secretary of State saying, “I think I may need a bathroom break. Is that possible?” 2001—In Manhattan, standing in rubble his failure helped to create, George W.[MD] Bush fatuously declares that America’s “responsibility to history” is to “rid the world of evil.” 2001—Barbara Lee [D-Calif.] casts the lone vote against letting George W.[MD] Bush do whatever he wants. 1964—LBJ pins the Medal of Freedom on notorious crypto-fascist and arch-propagandist Walt Disney. 1960—In N.Y.C., Maine-born Robert Maheu and a CIA officer offer Chicago mobster Johnny Roselli \$150,000 to whack Fidel Castro. He says he’ll get the job done for free. 1959—Ike signs the Landrum-Griffin Act. An “anti-union corruption” measure, it’s really just anti-union. 1938—The 803-foot <i>Graf Zeppelin II</i>—world’s largest airship—first flies. 1899—New Yorker Henry Bliss becomes the first person in the U.S. to be killed by an automobile (an electric). 1874—New Orleans’ Crescent City White League takes over Louisiana for three days in a bloody coup d’etat. 1867—<i>Das Kapital</i> is published.	2008—Lehman Bros. drops 90 percent; the Dow is down 500 points. 2007—Laura Bush condemns Myanmar’s crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators. Hours later thousands march in D.C. against the Iraq War; 190 are arrested, many are Iraq vets. 1985—Charles Taylor, future Liberian despot, escapes from a Mass. prison with help from the CIA and DIA. 1982—Israeli Defense Forces surround Palestinian refugee camps Sabra and Shatila and let Christian Phalangist militiamen slaughter 3,500. 1980—A nuclear-armed B-52 burns for hours at Grand Forks AFB, N.D. 1970—In the Oval Office, Richard Nixon orders CIA boss Dick Helms to prevent the inauguration of Chile’s just-elected socialist Salvador Allende, or overthrow him afterwards. 1963—Two Klansmen bomb Birmingham’s 16th St. Baptist Church, killing four girls and injuring 22. One bomber is convicted 14 years later, despite the FBI withholding evidence. 1915—The Portsmouth-built USS <i>Portsmouth</i>, which took San Francisco (then Yerba Buena) from Mexico in 1846, helped Britain take Canton in the Second Opium War, and blockaded Texas during the Civil War, is torched as part of a festival in Boston. 1830—At the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, the first steam railroad, William Huskisson, M.P., becomes the first person to be killed by a railroad train.	2016—D. Trump gets a free 1.5 hour infomercial from all the networks. 2009—Nashua-born news anchor Ernie Anastos tells a weatherman, on air, “Keep fucking that chicken.” 2001—Dick “Dick” Cheney vows to work on “the dark side”—his only side. 1992—Rudy Giuliani uses a bullhorn to lead 10,000 cops in a riot protesting a civilian police review board. 1976—Nelson Rockefeller, Veep, is photographed “giving the finger” to students at SUNY Binghamton. 1975—After winning by 355 votes, losing a recount by ten votes, and winning a ballot appeal by two votes, notorious Red-baiter Louis Wyman [R]—an appointed but not-seated Senator for three days—loses a special election to the droll John Durkin [D]. 1968—Richard M. Nixon appears on “Laugh-In” and says, “Sock it to me”—which, eventually, they do. 1964—UC Berkeley bans free speech. 1942—Off the coast of Africa, a U.S. B-24 spots <i>U-156</i>. On its deck: a big Red Cross and survivors of the sunken RMS <i>Laconia</i>. Following orders, the B-24 attacks. The sub submerges; the survivors are left adrift. 1940—The peacetime draft begins. 1932—Peg Entwistle’s dramatic career comes to an abrupt end at the foot of the Hollywoodland sign. 1920—A bomb in a horse-drawn-wagon explodes in front of the J.P. Morgan building on Wall Street, killing 38 and wounding 400.	2011—Wall Street gets Occupied. 2002—President George W.[MD] Bush says, “... fool me once, shame on—shame on you. Fool me ...you can’t get fooled again.” 2001—President George W.[MD] Bush gives the CIA secret authority to do... secret stuff. It’s classified. 1980—It’s “Operation Reptile” in Paraguay—a Sandinista team whacks Anastasio Somoza with an RPG. 1967—The Mount Washington Cog Railway train derails; eight die. 1955—A B-36 carrying a live nuclear reactor takes flight; a planeful of paratroopers follows, thus ensuring safety. 1948—In Jerusalem, Zionists assassinate Count Folke Bernadotte, the UN’s peace envoy. 1942—B-24 pilot J.D. Hardin sights and tries to sink <i>U-506</i>, but <i>Laconia</i> survivors on board survive yet again. 1908—Lieutenant Thomas Selfridge becomes the first plane crash fatality, in a Wright Flyer piloted by Wilbur. 1862—At Antietam, in Maryland, 113,000 men clash; 3,654 are killed and 17,292 are wounded. It’s the bloodiest day in U.S. military history. 1859—Norton I, Emperor of the United States, proclaims his reign. 1787—Having signed the Constitution, its authors head to a tavern. 1665—Charles II is crowned King of Spain. His father was his mother’s uncle. He is his mother’s first cousin, and his father’s grand-nephew. He’s three, and an idiot; his reign goes poorly.	2023—John Waters gets his star on Hollywood’s filthy Walk of Fame. 2014—A scientific study concludes that the U.S. is not a democracy, but an oligarchy: the rich rule the people. 2001—Five journalists receive letters laced with anthrax. Five people die, the perps remain unknown. 2001—Complying with a White House request, EPA head Christine Todd Whitman says it’s safe to breathe the air at “Ground Zero.” It isn’t. 1975—The FBI catches “Tania,” a press baron Wm. Randolph Hearst’s bank-robbing granddaughter. 1970—RIP Jimi Hendrix. 1961—UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld and 15 others are murdered when their DC-6 is brought down in Northern Rhodesia. 1947—The CIA’s fell meddling starts. 1931—Japanese troops blow up their own railroad at Mukden, Manchuria, blaming it on the Chinese to justify an attack on Chinese Nationalists. 1873—Railroad baron Jay Cooke goes bust, sparking the Panic of 1873. A five-year depression ensues. 1850—The Fugitive Slave Act becomes law. Free Blacks in the North are at risk of enslavement; non-compliant whites risk imprisonment. 1755—Mark and Phillis, enslaved Blacks, are executed in Charlestown, Mass. for poisoning Captain John Codman, their “owner.” She is burned at the stake; he is hanged. His gibbetted body is displayed for 20 years.	2014—Iraq War veteran Omar J. Gonzalez jumps the White House fence and runs into the East Room. 2001—George W.[MD] Bush tells CIA chief George Tenet to look for links between S. Hussein and al-Qaeda. Lacking credible evidence, he suggests Dick “Dick” Cheney as a source. 2001—The U.S. goes to war against Afghanistan—what could go wrong? 1991—Alpine tourists discover 5,300 year-old Ötzi the Iceman. 1980—After eight hours of fire, a missile silo in Arkansas explodes, hurling a nuclear weapon 600 feet. Somehow only one person is killed. 1964—The first gay rights demonstration is held at the Whitehall Army Induction Center in New York City. 1961—Betty and Barney Hill of Portsmouth, N.H. find their trip back home from a vacation takes two hours longer than expected due to a detour. 1945—William “Lord Haw-Haw” Joyce, U.S.-born fascist of Irish descent, is sentenced to death in England for broadcasting German propaganda. 1944—William of Orange, a pigeon set loose by Brits surrounded at Arnheim, arrives in Blighty, saving 2,000. 1881—Shot July 2nd by loony Charles J. Guiteau, President James Garfield dies of malpractice. Adverse result notwithstanding, loony Dr. Doctor [sic] Willard Bliss submits a huge bill. 1868—The sheriff of Camilla, Ga., leads a massacre of 9-15 Blacks and a few white sympathizers.
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

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Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable — Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Portsmouth Democrats Coffee Meetup — Friday, September 25th 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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— MICHEL DE CERVANTES (DON QUIXOTE)

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