

The Fortnightly Rant

What Have We Learned?

Exactly one week ago the big media outfits went through the mandatory ritual of marking the 25th anniversary of... That Day.

Being what they are, they could hardly have done otherwise. Their marching orders were to be solemn and respectful, to note how many people died in less than two hours—enough to constitute a modest New Hampshire town—and remember all the people who loved them, and whose lives have been forever changed. Not to have done any and all of this would have been unthinkable.

The more daring of the news franchises, having temporarily appeased their audience's apparently insatiable appetite for ritualized catharsis, may have brought up some of the effects of That Day on our daily lives. Like mediocre jokes from stereotypical stand-up comics, these typically cited various petty annoyances associated with air travel.

The boldest among those who peddle gab about current events might even have mentioned Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. The alleged mastermind of the plot that shocked the nation is still notoriously unprosecuted, despite the passage of all these years.

Things start getting dicey when a "respectable" news organization—by which we mean, one that is either seeking to make a profit, or funded by a non-profit that is governed by a board of directors who value their reputations among their well-heeled peers—tries to explain why this alleged Arch Villain is still festering in a cell, on a leased plot of land, on an island with a communist government we've been trying to overthrow for more than 60 years.

Unhindered by such fetters, we can reveal that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed is still stuck at Gitmo because Secretary of Testosterone Pete Hegseth has not yet bothered to replace the woke lawyers of the Office of Military Commissions who are supposed to be prosecuting him. Apparently they think there's a problem with the fact that their prisoner has spent more time underwater than Flipper.

Oh, dear. So much for our effort to emulate the staid and dignified demeanor of all these newcomers to the news racket. What an ignominious fate for the oldest news organization in the world's oldest democracy—apparently unable not to act the fool. [Sigh.]

If such is to be our fate, we might as well embrace and enjoy it. Considering who the electorate put in the construction zone once known as the White House, why shouldn't our editorial fedora be topped with curved, spikey things with little round bells dangling on the ends?

Now, where were we before we indulged in yet another moment of introspection? Is there a point to any of this? Well, yes, though it scares the hell out of us to even bring it up. Maybe that's why we're stalling.

We were attacked that day, according to then-President George W. Bush, because "they hate our freedoms." As with so many things he said, that simply was not true. KSM and his sponsor, the late Osama bin Laden, attacked us because we had military bases in Saudi Arabia, the home of Islam's holy sites, and because we supported Israel, to the detriment of the Palestinians. By any objective measures, their jihad has nearly succeeded.

Obviously these two did not set out to put a rapidly-deteriorating, senescent, money-laundering egomaniac in a position where he could do the maximum amount of damage. They just kicked the hornet's nest and got lucky. The rest we did to ourselves.

Our own power-mad politicians took advantage of the chaos to concentrate unprecedented power in an unconstitutional "unitary executive" branch. No follower of Islam put that power in the hands of the guy who tore up the nuclear treaty with Iran because his own name was not scribbled on it.

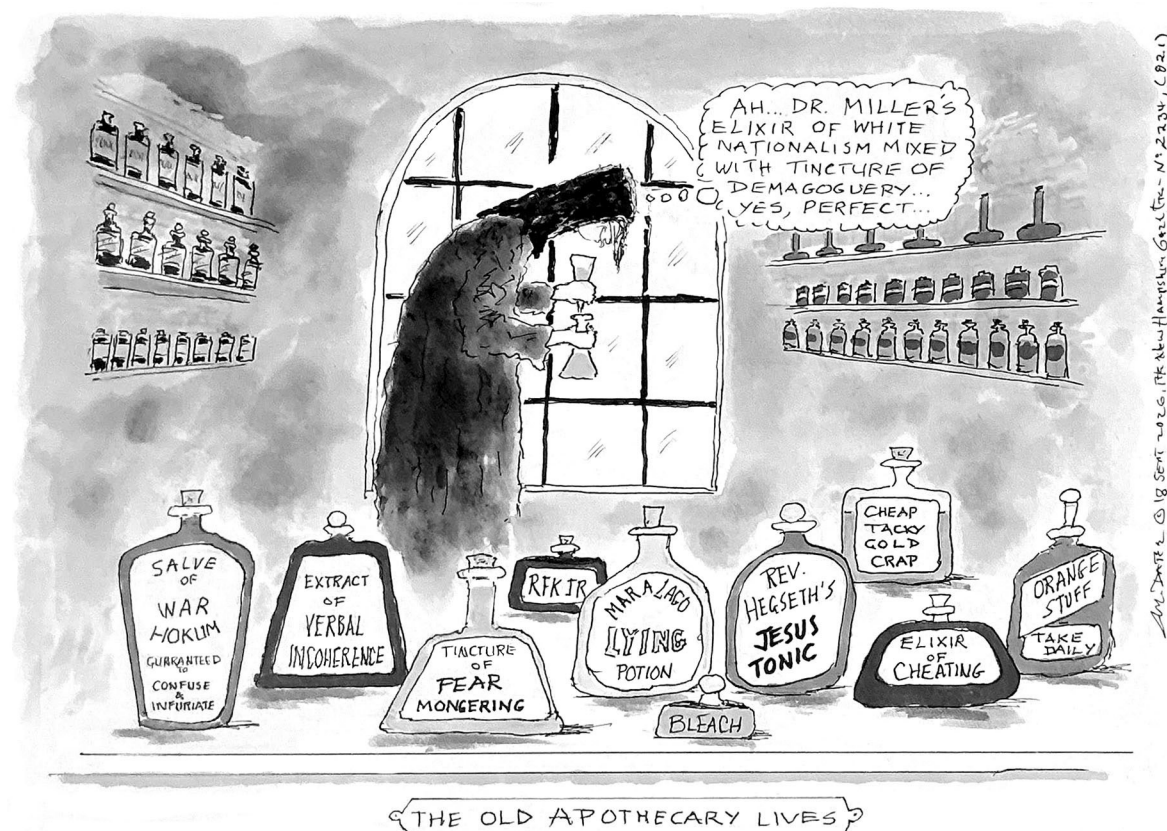
That Guy is, at this moment, finishing up the project KSM and OBL started at the dawn of this millennium.

In a "what could possibly go wrong?" moment that will be remembered down through the ages—assuming that mankind somehow survives the present moment and has the leisure to ponder history when it's not grubbing in the ground searching for edible roots—he blithely launched a war even George W. Bush knew better than to start.

Now dozens of military bases—built with taxpayer dollars that might otherwise have been spent on U.S. hospitals, schools, and day care centers—lie in ruins across the Middle East. A vast arsenal of exotic and hard-to-replace munitions have been expended, mostly to blow up a small fraction of our enemy's huge inventory of far cheaper, simpler weapons.

As for our allies, the Saudis—so well represented among the hijackers 25 years ago—for all their access to our top-shelf weaponry, they seem unable to defeat the Houthies who just grabbed the vital Bab al-Mandab strait.

All is not yet lost, though. With effort, and some luck, the gang of idiots losing in the Middle East may be defeated here in America, too, on this coming November 3rd.

What Happened After New York Raised Taxes on the Rich?
More Millionaires Moved In

by Julia Conley

The threats came in a steady stream last year from Fox News, hedge fund manager Bill Ackman, and Gristedes grocery chain CEO John Catsimatidis, who insisted that wealthy New York City residents were "panicking" at the possibility that then-state Rep. Zohran Mamdani, a democratic socialist, could become the mayor and ensure rich locals pay more in taxes to help fund crucial services.

"It only takes a handful of successful people to leave to decimate the city's tax base," cautioned Ackman, while Catsimatidis suggested many rich New Yorkers would likely join him in fleeing to "the promised land": Florida, which has no state income tax.

But the progressive think tank Groundwork Collaborative said September 10th that new Internal Revenue Service (IRS) data should be "the final nail in the coffin" of the evidence-free, perennial claim that higher taxes cause wealthy residents to leave their cities and states.

The agency released its 2023 Statistics of Income (SOI) data, covering the period before Mamdani became mayor and introduced a tax on second homes, ranging from 0.8 percent to 1.3 percent for properties valued at \$5 million or more, which he estimated will raise \$500 million annually.

The data shows how the tax base was impacted after the state imposed a separate tax policy in 2022, raising its top tax rate on the highest earners.

Poking a giant hole in the persistent theory that wealthy people won't want to live in states that require more from them in taxes, the number of New Yorkers reporting more than \$1 million in income grew by about 3 percent after the tax

rate was raised, the SOI data shows.

"If there was any merit to the myth that tax increases on New York's wealthy drive them away, the new IRS data should show it. It doesn't."

The number of millionaires nationwide went down in 2023, but New York counted 2,000 more than it had the previous year. The number of tax filers earning between \$500,000 and \$1 million also grew by over 8,500—more than 7 percent.

The average adjusted gross income of New Yorkers who left the state from 2022-23 fell 15 percent, from over \$125,000 to \$106,900.

"If the past is prologue, the SOI data suggest few, if any, of the city's wealthiest residents will leave as a result of a modest tax. Instead they are likely to remain rooted in the social, business, and economic networks that make New York uniquely valuable to them," said Groundwork Collaborative. "The New Yorkers actually at risk of leaving the city are the lower-income workers who

power the economy."

Lindsay Owens, president and CEO of Groundwork Collaborative, said the new data makes clear that "tax flight is nothing more than a myth, and should be given as much credence as flat-earthers."

"If there was any merit to the myth that tax increases on New York's wealthy drive them away, the new IRS data should show it," said Owens. "It doesn't—New York's millionaire population kept climbing years after the state raised taxes on top earners."

Wealthy New Yorkers, said Groundwork, are shown by the data to be "a settled population that may squawk about a tax increase, but not pack up and leave."

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

• C.S. Hays, editor of the *Traver Tidings*, was shot dead at Lamoor, Col., by some unknown person, while sitting beside his fiancée in the house of Dr. Lovelace. A. Locaver, an admirer of Mr. Hays' betrothed, has been arrested on suspicion.

• Estella M. Hunter died in Hinsdale, Sept. 21st. In June last her husband was found shot beside his bed. His wife was suspected of the crime, but after arrest and confinement for some months in jail she was liberated. Recently her mental troubles have been such that relatives had to watch her constantly, and it is reported that no others were allowed access to her for fear she might make confessions implicating others.

• Edward Soloman, the American

composer, who ran off with Lillian Russell, the actress, wife of Braham the musician, and married her after Braham had procured a divorce, has been arrested in London for bigamy, an English actress, Lilly Gray, claiming to be his legal wife.

• The cause of Secretary [of the Treasury Daniel] Manning's sickness is discovered in the presence of pipes leading directly to the sewer.

• It is announced that the town of Hollis, Me., had a little private earthquake of its own at one o'clock Sunday morning, Sept. 19th. A deep rumbling sound was heard, shaking the doors and windows of houses for several miles around. It was fol-

to next page

Whistleblower Says DHS Voter Fraud Hunters Were Ordered to Break Laws

by Brett Wilkins

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla on Monday accused the Trump administration of directing federal immigration officers to violate state laws in an aggressively quixotic campaign to identify supposed “unlawful voters,” warning that the operation could ensnare American citizens and undermine the November mid-term elections.

At a press conference, Padilla (Calif.) and Schumer (D-N.Y.) cited a whistleblower disclosure alleging that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) personnel were instructed to access sensitive state voter records by misrepresenting their identities and falsely claiming authorization to obtain individual voters’ information.

According to the disclosure: *An anonymous federal whistleblower disclosed that USCIS headquarters has directed USCIS Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate (FDNS) officers to use individuals’ personal information to search state voter registration systems—likely resulting in thousands of violations of state laws. If necessary, officers are even told to lie and misrepresent themselves as voters on state election agency websites. USCIS leaders are directing officers to generate law enforcement records against so-called “unlawful voters” based on adding “magic” to data which in many cases will be inaccurate. Tens or hundreds of thousands of people in all 50 states, including naturalized*

U.S. citizens, are being swept up in this rushed effort in the lead-up to Election Day.

The New York Times noted that the whistleblower disclosure “offers an inside view of what the Department of Homeland Security is calling the ‘Unlawful Voter Initiative,’” which the paper revealed earlier this month.

According to the whistleblower, hundreds of FDNS employees were abruptly pulled from their regular immigration and national security work to investigate alleged noncitizen voting—a practically nonexistent occurrence.

For example, a Brennan Center for Justice analysis of around 23.5 million votes cast during the 2016 election cycle found 30 suspected cases of noncitizens voting, or 0.0001 percent of all votes cast. A 25-year-audit in Republican-controlled Georgia found zero votes cast by noncitizens.

The two senators said in a joint statement that the whistleblower’s allegations “are especially alarming because they come just weeks before the November 2026 midterm elections.”

“The administration is publicly asserting, without evidence, that large numbers of noncitizens are unlawfully registered to vote and deploying federal law enforcement resources to investigate those claims,” they added.

Schumer warned that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security “is sending hundreds of officers who should be focused on our

security on a wild goose chase to prove [President Donald] Trump’s long-debunked election conspiracy theories—and DHS is telling officers to lie to do it.”

“This new DHS initiative is nothing more than an unlawful order by the government to silence the voices of Americans,” he added.

Padilla said that “Donald Trump and his administration are obsessed with election conspiracy theories and operate under the wrong assumption that they are above the law—they are not.”

“The whistleblower’s disclosure outlines shocking allegations of unlawful and unethical conduct that includes potentially thousands of violations of state law and the use of highly questionable data, which they refer to as ‘supplemental magic,’ to falsely flag naturalized U.S. citizens as ineligible voters in federal law enforcement records,” the son of Mexican immigrants continued.

“At the same time, USCIS is directing employees to ignore the law in search of voters’ personal information because this administration’s unlawful attempts to coerce states to hand over their voter rolls have been rejected by the courts,” Padilla said. “I thank the whistleblower for the bravery and integrity to come forward with these shocking reports and for standing up for the rule of law.”

Padilla added that U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin “must be transparent and shut down this sham ‘investigation’ now.”

On Sunday, Padilla and Schumer sent a letter to Mullin and USCIS Director Joseph Edlow accusing DHS of prioritizing “manufacturing evidence for election conspiracy theories, rather than FDNS’ fraud detection and national security mission.”



AN ORIGINAL PORTRAIT OF CAPTAIN SWING

“The disclosure shows how DHS is deploying federal law enforcement resources to go around those judicial rulings and gather state voter information by any means, regardless of state laws,” the senators continued. “Further, the administration’s continued claims of election fraud signal its intent to use this unreliable evidence of ‘unlawful voters’ in ways that can disenfranchise eligible voters, disrupt state and local election administration, and subject election officials to additional unwarranted threats of prosecution.”

The lawmakers demanded that DHS and USCIS “be transparent about what they intend to do with the unreliable records they are generating, immediately stop this initiative and related activities, and remove any TECS or other law enforcement or administrative records generated from it.”

The legal nonprofit advocacy group Democracy Defenders Fund—which is representing the whistleblower—said Monday that its client “feels it is their duty to come forward and reveal potentially unlawful conduct related to the ‘unlawful voter initiative.’”

“Our client is understandably extremely concerned about retaliation by administration officials should their identity become known,” the group continued. “As such, we ask

that reasonable steps be taken to maintain their anonymity throughout the whistleblowing process.”

“The whistleblower makes this disclosure out of concern that law enforcement records are being used against individuals, including U.S. citizens, created through potentially unlawful means and based upon unreliable information,” Democracy Defenders Fund added. “That is a dangerous abuse of the power of the federal government. We respectfully submit this disclosure for inquiry and investigation.”

League of Women Voters of the United States CEO Celina Stewart said in a statement that “if these reports are true, this is not merely alarming. It is a five-alarm fire for American democracy.”

“Allegations that federal workers were pressured to fabricate evidence and falsely frame citizens as criminals strike at the heart of the Constitution and the rule of law,” she continued. “The power of government must never be used to manufacture suspicion, silence dissent, or, as reported, create false justification for investigations. Yet these reports suggest an effort to further fuel unfounded narratives about our elections while placing eligible voters at risk of intimidation and government scrutiny.”

“Every eligible voter deserves to participate in our democracy free from fear, harassment, or wrongful investigation,” Stewart added. “The federal government has a duty to protect constitutional rights, not undermine them through unreliable data, flawed processes, or political pressure.”

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Beware of Cruise Ships

— a Bar Harbor reader

Is It Socialism Or Just Common Sense?

Inequality has destroyed the American Dream.
It's no wonder many Americans want something different.

By Chuck Collins

The debate over capitalism vs. socialism often looks like a battle of cartoon caricatures: Monopoly Man versus the Marx Monster.

Across the planet there are countless flavors of capitalism and socialism, unique mashups of free markets and government policies. Into this muddle wade the right-wing ideologues who fear the red "socialist" demon hiding in every corner.

If Fox News existed in the 1950s, they would've labeled Republican President Dwight Eisenhower a socialist for taxing the wealthy and making broad public investments to expand homeownership, enable debt-free higher education, and build infrastructure and technology that expanded the modern middle class.

Yet, what do these labelers call modern-day China, a country that mints hundreds of billionaires a year and dominates global markets with private production? Are they socialist or capitalist?

Meanwhile, social democracies, like Canada and the northern European countries, have progressive tax systems and strong social safety nets. Sweden, with its generous welfare state, has higher rates of entrepreneurship than the United States.

These countries also have higher rates of social mobility than the United States—meaning it's easier

for lower-income people to escape poverty and become stable. The American Dream, apparently, has moved offshore.

These welfare states, with their higher taxes on the wealthy, exist comfortably alongside healthy market economies. However, in the United States, whenever a politician proposes that billionaires pay their fair share of taxes so we make public investments in opportunities for everyone else, they are labeled socialist or even communist.

These criticisms conflate a set of policy proposals, most of them quite popular, with an economic system where the government owns the means of production. However, this well-trod attack doesn't seem to be working anymore, especially for younger generations.

Younger voters see the grotesque inequalities of wealth and power that distort the economy and block opportunity for the non-rich. They witness how large corporations have captured Congress and blocked popular reforms to defend consumers and counter monopolies.

They watch with alarm as billionaire-backed private equity firms buy up healthcare facilities and squeeze consumers in every corner of the economy. They see how both major political parties have been captured by the billionaire donor class and failed to address stagnant wages and

rising basic costs.

All generations now understand that the old American Dream has expired, with seven in 10 experiencing economic insecurity. These folks still hope hard work could lead to a decent life—to own a home, take a vacation, pass opportunities to their children, and retire before they die. They feel the constant stress of knowing they're one job loss, illness, disability or divorce away from living in their car.

Without a strong party representing working people's concerns, political realignments are happening in both parties. A new generation of progressives and a handful of self-described democratic socialists argue the economy should work for everyone, not just the billionaire class.

They believe new technologies—such as AI—should serve everyone, not just billionaire tech bros and their global conglomerates. They believe the government has an important role in expanding healthcare, blocking oligarchy and breaking up big corporations.

They advocate for expanding affordable housing to aid people struggling to find decent housing in a hyper-speculative market. Instead of subsidizing private developers, they advocate for housing owned by nonprofit organizations, resident cooperatives, and—egads!—government entities, like housing authorities.

These progressives believe we should stop subsidizing the fossil fuel industry and end tax breaks to



the Jeffrey Epstein class. They support investments to help us transition to sustainable energy, lower energy costs and reduce climate disruption.

The right-wing pundits—and some so-called moderates, too—are hoping that when they trot out the "socialist" bugaboo, your mind will freeze and you'll start frothing at the mouth. They're afraid that you will ask why the current system isn't working and wonder if there are alternatives. Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain!

When someone brandishes the word "socialism" like it's a stink bomb, take a courageous look at the

actual ideas—higher taxes on the rich? Medicare for All? A raise for working people?—being proposed. There might be more common sense than you thought.

Chuck Collins directs the Program on Inequality and co-edits Inequality.org for the Institute for Policy Studies. His latest book is *Burned by Billionaires: How Concentrated Wealth and Power Are Ruining Our Lives and Planet*. He wrote this piece for InsideSources.com. It is reprinted here under a Creative Commons Attribution-No Derivative 3.0 License.



Here's a rare discovery: something relatively new in the North End that isn't a huge eyesore built to accommodate the apparently endless demand for overpriced real estate. It is, instead, a tasteful and informative panel providing some history of the location, including an homage to one of the many immigrant families driven out of here by "market forces."

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"One of the things I'm most proud of about my country is the fact that we did lick McCarthyism back in the fifties."
— Pete Seeger (1919-2014)
musician, activist

"Now look, I happen to know a little about leadership... And I tell you this: you do not lead by hitting people over the head. Any damn fool can do that, but it's usually called 'assault,' not 'leadership.' ... I'll tell you what leadership is. It's persuasion and conciliation and education and patience. It's long, slow, tough work. That's the only kind of leadership I know—or believe in—or will practice."
— President Dwight D. Eisenhower
john@wordpraxis.com

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

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page two

suspicion of kicking to death Mary B. Sharpe, a dissolute woman with whom he lived, and of whom he was jealous.

- Mamie Gannor, aged twenty-four years, daughter of a wealthy copper-smith of Jersey City, N.J., publicly cowhided a reporter who was responsible for a newspaper article she did not like.
- Frank Whiting and Charles Havens, two of the most notorious thieves and desperadoes in the Indiana penitentiary at Michigan City, attempted to escape Sept. 27th by seizing a locomotive. As the engine dashed out of the yard a guard shot Whiting through the heart; Havens jumped off when outside the yard, and ran, but was hit in the head by a bullet, stunned, and recaptured. The convicts were both under twenty-five years of age.
- As Mrs. Philander Moore, of Ashland, was driving her cows on the 17th inst., a beautiful deer joined the herd and followed them into the barn, where Mrs. Moore easily captured it.

The New Hampshire Gazette
September 30, 1886

- Bartley Campbell, the playwright, ["The White Slave"] and Ex-Congressman [Thompson H.] Murch of Maine, are hopelessly deranged.
- Joseph Baker, a political ward boss of New Orleans, had a quarrel with Frank Waters, a reporter, Sept. 26th, and was fatally shot.

- An old sign "N.H. Gazette Office," painted on sheet iron and evidently at some time nailed to a door or other part of a building, has been presented to this office by Dr. G. Alexander Emery, who worked in the *Gazette* office in his boyhood days, and has had the old sign in his possession over half a century. [Note: A reward is offered for the return of this sign. — The Ed.]
- The Penobscot Indians who have been encamped near the Universalist church for some weeks, have taken part of a house on Hanover street, and will remain here some time longer.

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Has the Bill Finally Come Due?
To the editor;

Unless you are an economist or an avid investor, you probably do not pay much attention to the bond market, yet its transactions directly affect your financial welfare because it is the place where the \$32 trillion of long-term U.S. Treasury Bills are bought and sold. Many believe that Federal Reserve policy is the primary determinant of interest rates in the economy, but the fed sets short-term bank rates that have only an indirect effect on most interest rates. It is the market-determined yield (interest rate) on the ten-year Treasury Bill that is used to directly determine rates for most consumer debt including mortgages, auto loans, credit card debt, and business loans.

For decades, the stability of the U.S. financial system has caused Treasuries to be perceived as a “risk-free” investment. Countries used them as a store of wealth to guard against volatile economic conditions, and investors sought them out as a hedge against riskier investments. As a result, except for periods of persistent inflation, Treasury debt has carried low rates of interest, allowing the government to finance deficits cheaply, and consumers to borrow at relatively low rates of interest. For the past several months, however, the yield on ten-to-thirty-year Treasury bonds has trended upward and now is at a twenty-year high. This has increased U.S. borrowing costs and the amount that consumers pay on their loans. Estimates are that the U.S. government will pay \$1 trillion in interest this year on outstanding Treasury debt, more than the Defense Department budget and only exceeded by spending on Medicare and Social Security.

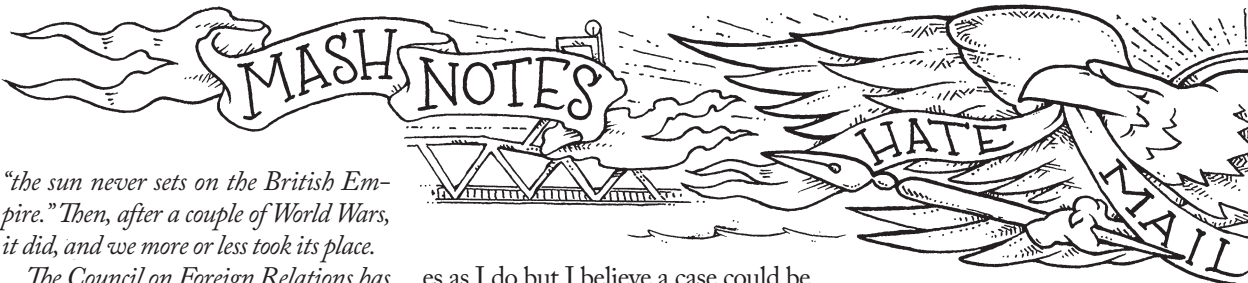
Treasury yields tend to increase if investors perceive that inflation has become persistent—rate increases guard against a loss of value due to a dollar that becomes less valuable over the period of inflation. That may explain some of the recent increase in Treasury yield. Although inflation has significantly declined after heavy COVID spending, the rate has stubbornly remained above the Fed’s target

under Trump. The continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz and continued conflict with Iran as well as new tariff initiatives are likely to increase inflation in the near future.

Several commentators, however, have a more worrying interpretation. They point to the fact that the U.S. national debt has reached \$40 trillion, the highest in history. The astronomical debt has been accumulated over decades by both parties which have enacted tax cuts while increasing spending without regard to the cost. Trump’s One Big Beautiful Act added an estimated \$4.7 trillion to the deficit and his spending on the Iran War will add still more. With mid-term elections looming, neither party is likely to advocate tax increases or spending cuts to reduce the debt. Given these conditions, bond investors may be signaling that they lack confidence in U.S. policy makers to control deficit spending and that they perceive U.S. Treasuries as no longer being a risk-free investment that they are no longer willing to finance at low interest rates.

The opportunity cost of refinancing an enormous national debt at a cost of \$1 trillion or more is that spending on beneficial social welfare programs as well as necessary technology development may be restricted or eliminated. If bond investors have decided that U.S. Treasuries are no longer a risk-free investment, the era of low-cost financing of government deficits may be over along with low-cost mortgages. Long term consequences could be dire if yield rates continue to rise and spook investors to demand even higher yields in a debt spiral. In any event, the warning signs seem clear that the days of piling deficit upon deficit without regard to the financial consequences may be over.

Robert D. Russell, PhD
Harrisburg, Pa.
Robert:
As always, we are grateful for your letters offering well-informed views on newsworthy topics. Our comments are usually limited to some version of an affirmation which surely will date us: “Right on, Brother.”
In this case we think you may be understating the risk. It used to be said that



“the sun never sets on the British Empire.” Then, after a couple of World Wars, it did, and we more or less took its place.

The Council on Foreign Relations has called the U.S. dollar “the world’s principal reserve currency since the end of WWII.” We suspect that through the U.S. government’s increasingly insane defense spending, coupled with relentless tax cuts for the rich, the sun may finally be setting on the dollar.

This is not to say that we believe the U.S. should rule the world. It’s just to say that if we’re going to step down from our prior position of global dominance, it might be well to do so intentionally, according to some sort of plan.

Also, specifically, we must take issue with the following sentence: “The astronomical debt has been accumulated over decades by both parties which have enacted tax cuts while increasing spending without regard to the cost.” Intentionally or not, this seems to suggest that the both parties have been equally irresponsible.

Far be it from us to defend the Democratic Party, but let’s recap some ancient history:

The Kennedy and Johnson administrations, for all their massive spending in Vietnam, ended with a budget surplus of \$3.2 billion.

Nixon left office with a budget deficit of more than \$6 billion—and inflation at around 11 percent.

Ford made Nixon look prudent, leaving with a \$65 billion deficit.

Carter nearly held the line. His last deficit was \$79 billion. He lowered it, though, as a percentage of GDP, from four percent down to under three percent.

Reagan doubled the deficit and tripled the national debt. Bush #41 carried on.

Clinton, like the good neoliberal he was, balanced the budget for the first time since Johnson, mainly by screwing the poor.

Since then it’s been impossible to overlook, though it’s rarely mentioned and never truly addressed: fiscal prudence is for Democrats; Republicans can do as they like.

The Editor

We Should Act Like Major Watson
Dear Editor:
I seriously doubt most Americans view our present political circumstance

as I do but I believe a case could be made that we are reliving the dilemma the colonists faced: the government that held authority over them didn’t represent them.

I recall (so vividly) elementary school lessons pertaining to “taxation without representation.” We need not prove whether we can govern ourselves but perhaps need reminding, our government doesn’t own us, we own it. We’re obligated, therefore, to reclaim what is rightfully ours or we will lose it.

I was reminded (and made aware of the colonists’ predicament this past summer) when the King of England felt compelled to traverse “The Pond” that separates us, visit our “Great Commanding Theater” (as Thomas Jefferson described Congress), to refresh our memories why we once chose war to settle the issue of governance, review our Constitution, checks and balances, laws, rules, and sacred canons.

Make no mistake, we’ve allowed ourselves to be ruled by a conman, liar and master grifter who (promising peace) has brought only suffering and economic collapse to an already troubled world. Trump incited an armed mob to attack our Capitol (and kill its defenders if necessary) to overturn an election he knew he’d lost. He then wrongly pardoned 1,600 insurrectionists. This president has been convicted of more crimes than the vast majority of the people he’s deported.

The United States is the undisputed epicenter of a chaotic and shattered society of nations. We have never looked weaker, more ridiculous, incompetent and untrustworthy, to allies and adversaries alike, around the world, than we do right now.

Consequently, a new world order has emerged and we’re not in it. To our allies our credibility no longer exists. This Administration has tossed that overboard along with our dignity, our integrity, and the last vestiges of our moral conscience.

To the rest of the world we appear a seriously flawed society with the intellectual characteristics akin to and

paired with the moral virtues and integrity of a fur ball.

Through it all, even as Trump purges the experienced and knowledgeable leadership from our institutions, from the Department of Homeland Security to the Pentagon, the veteran community remains deafeningly silent, seemingly willing to be complicit in this Administration’s wrongdoings.

However, one USAF Major (Jason Watson) carried out what the U.S. Congress (together with veterans organizations: The American Legion, VFW and others) should have. Major Watson stood on the Capitol steps (in uniform), knowing full well he might sacrifice both his career and his freedom, and demanded President Trump be impeached, held accountable for his crimes against the Constitution, violations of U.S. and International laws, and be removed from office. One man regarded his oath as sacred and acted on it.

Americans must understand, there can be no justice in a nation where men like Trump are allowed to flourish. Does this once principled and prosperous nation not have a sufficient number of men and women of courage and enough soul left to say: “No More – Enough???”

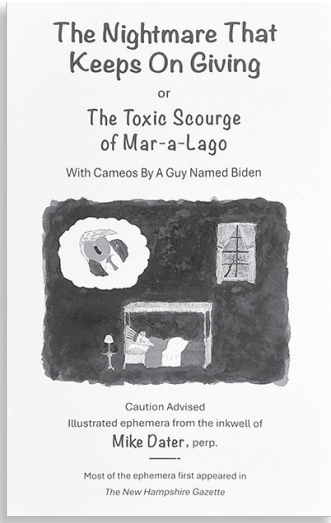
David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.
David:

Having experienced life in the enlisted ranks of Uncle Sam’s army, during a time when relations with officers were as fractious as they get, we are hardly accustomed to heaping praise on military officers. That said, in our view, Major Watson truly is a hero.

The Editor
—==—
Throw the Bums Out

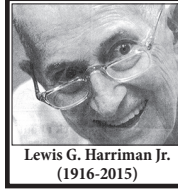
Dear Editor,
Are Republicans fixing or causing waste, fraud, and abuse?
WASTE - Republicans support the pointless war with Iran that wasted most of our best missiles and critical munitions, along with \$40 billion and nearly 1,000 Americans injured or

**Trouble Sleeping These Days?
Then Laugh, Instead!**



a compendium of drawings by Mike Dater
most of which first appeared in
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killed. For what? To open the Strait that was open before the war?

FRAUD - Republicans condone trump's open acceptance of bribes and gifts in exchange for government policies and pardons. It's flat-out corruption. Setting loose convicted fraudsters doesn't help America. America is weaker because trump allowed Qatar to buy our best, classified AI chips after giving him a jet. Qatar doesn't develop AI; but they do sell stuff to our adversaries.

ABUSE - More law-abiding people are imprisoned here than in any other country. Undocumented immigrants who have been living here for years with no problem are now being abused in Republican-funded prisons.

It's time to kick out the corrupt bums.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:
Hear, hear. Of course, in our book, it's always a good time to throw the bums out.
The Editor

~~~~~  
**This Is Blowback**

Dear Sir:

In a recent letter to *Seacoastonline*, the author claimed that the current war with Iran began 45 years ago. Actually, the current problem with Iran began over 70 years ago. In August, 1953, the CIA orchestrated a coup known as Operation Ajax, to overthrow Iran's democratically-elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossaddegh. The U.S. then installed Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, The Shah as its leader.

The Shah ruled as a dictator until he was overthrown by the Islamic Revolution in 1979. The Shah used his secret police SAVAK to crush political dissent, jail opponents and restrict freedom. The brutality of the Shah's dictatorship led to the Islamic Revolution and the current system in Iran.

It was the U.S. that started the problem with Iran in 1953, not the Iranian Government. If we had not overthrown the democratically elected

government in 1953, there may never have been an Islamic Revolution and the problem we have faced since 1979.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

*Rich:*  
The 1953 coup in Iran was just one of many, many examples of U.S. meddling. Chalmers Johnson wrote three excellent books on them, starting with *Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire, in 2000. The term "blowback," he wrote, "does not just mean retaliation for things our government has done to and in foreign countries. It refers to retaliation for the numerous illegal operations we have carried out abroad that were kept totally secret from the American public. This means that when the retaliation comes—as it did so spectacularly on September 11, 2001—the American public is unable to put the events in context. So they tend to support acts intended to lash out against the perpetrators, thereby most commonly preparing the ground for yet another cycle of blowback."*  
*The Editor*

~~~~~  
On Disparities in Tax Enforcement

To the Editor:

We always hear that Republicans are the party of fiscal responsibility. Presently the Republicans control all levers of government: the executive, the house, and the senate, as well as the supreme court. Recently, DOGE made deep cuts in a wide array of government programs ostensibly to save huge amounts of money. How then, one might ask, is the U.S. debt now greater than the whole U.S. economy for the first time since WW II?

In fact, the Republicans only allege fiscal responsibility when they cut programs that benefit all Americans so they can spend more on failing foreign adventures and immigration police. Republicans claim Democrats spend foolishly on social programs due to fraud, waste and abuse.

Not only are the Republicans fiscally irresponsible when it comes to spending, they claim when they cut taxes for the wealthy they will bring in increased revenue. The theory behind

this is disproved each time Republicans have instituted huge tax cuts for the rich and the resulting revenues did not increase substantially.

In order to better please their richest donors, Republicans have cut those IRS workers trained in collecting taxes from the richest taxpayers who engage in elaborate, often illegal, schemes to avoid taxes. IRS workers are encouraged to concentrate on taxpayers in the working class.

It's time we abandon the myth that Republicans are fiscally responsible. We must face the fact that their assertions of fiscal responsibility are made only to hide their real purpose—to institute policies that favor the well-heeled.

Lorraine L. Hansen
Rollinsford, N.H.

Lorraine:
If the rich won't let us tax 'em, we're just gonna have to eat 'em.
The Editor

~~~~~  
**Time for Medicare for All**

To Editor:

Nancy J. Altman's book *The Road to Medicare for All: A Call to Action* explains what is wrong with the U.S. medical delivery system, and champions Medicare For All. Every opportunity to get the message out should be welcomed.

Some health care advocates regard U.S. Medicare as a path to Medicare For All. But is it an Obama tar baby instead?

Current Medicare is actually a roadblock, as it provides aid and comfort to the enemies of Medicare For All. Insurance, Pharmaceutical, and HMO industries (IPH for short), are content with the current system, because it increases their bottom line. They can focus less on elders 65 and over, statistically the most expensive medical period of life. IPH can take full advantage of those younger, who have fewer health problems. Elder care can be billed to the government, which our taxes support. Also, Medicare is compromised by co-pays and exclusions, requiring payment directly from the elderly to the IPH anyway.

This IPH triple threat to our physi-



cal and financial health is well funded so they can buy enough politicians and propaganda to keep the status quo.

An informed electorate may finally wrest government from bribery and control of the IPH and other monopolies and call them to account. Altman's book could help, but many knowing the difference between "Some Medicare For Some" and complete "Medicare For All" must become more active, as her book recommends.

David Ecklein  
Rumney, N.H.

*David:*  
We found this critique of "current Medicare" confusing, and the reference to "an Obama tar baby" both baffling and offensive. On about the third reading, though, we concluded that you are, in fact, trying to support Medicare for All. We are, too.  
*The Editor*

~~~~~  
He Is On The Ballot

Dear Editor:

Donald Trump has told voters to "pretend I'm on the ballot" when they vote in the midterm elections. There is no need to "pretend," because in effect a vote for any Republican is a vote for Trump and all his failed policies, corruption, disturbing behavior, and the destruction of our democracy.

In New Hampshire, a vote for Ayotte, Sununu, DeLorenzo, Williams, Stevens or any Republican running for State Representative or Senator would tell them that you support Mr. Trump and for them to continue to support his policies.

While I suspect that some Republicans will try to distance themselves from Mr. Trump the reality is that, once elected, they will follow his orders for fear of retribution. With regard to federal offices, voting for Republicans will help them retain control of Congress. With that control Republicans will continue to prevent Congressional oversight of the Executive and allow the Senate to confirm more extreme judges.

If Americans have any hope of restoring our democracy, placing limits on Trump's behavior and finally getting the Epstein files released, we need to end Republicans' control of

Congress and our State House. To do otherwise would be a disaster.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:
Remember when straight ticket voting was a thing? Long frowned upon by good government-types—Goo-gos, they were called—that practice seems to have vanished along with portly ward-beelers, spats and spittoons. These days it doesn't look so bad.
The Editor

~~~~~  
**Social Security, Medicare, and Debt**

To the editors:

We hear more and more concern about the national debt these days. This always seems to include politicians who insist that cutting social programs is the only way to solve the problem. But I find that among voters, there is little understanding about how Social Security and Medicare affect the national debt.

When the payroll taxes that are explicitly collected for Social Security and Medicare exceeds the amount needed to pay benefits, the surplus goes into the respective Trust Funds which convert those tax dollars to Treasury Securities, thereby increasing the national debt.

And when the amount collected is not sufficient to pay benefits, the Trust Funds cash in some of their Treasury Securities, thereby forcing the government to use other tax revenues, revenues not collected explicitly for Social Security and Medicare, to pay for benefits.

Finally, interest is paid to ALL holders of Treasury Securities, not just the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds.

That surplus payroll Social Security and Medicare funds increase the national debt; that a shortfall of Social Security and Medicare payroll funds uses other tax revenues to pay benefits; and that tax revenues are used to pay the interest on Treasury Securities held by ALL the many and various holders of Treasury Securities—these are what form the basis of the three main complaints we keep hearing

to next page



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from  
previous page

from politicians, who express concern but cannot agree on a solution. What to do?

First of all, the interest that is due periodically to ALL holders of Treasury Securities, must be paid, or else the United States defaults on its debt, certainly collapsing the worldwide financial system. That should be considered unacceptable. The threat that this might happen has already damaged our bond rating, resulting in higher interest rates. If we truly wished to reduce the amount of taxes used to pay the interest on the national debt, we would have to collect more than we spend and use that surplus to buy back Treasury Securities thereby reducing the national debt.

But for the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds, we could avoid or greatly minimize the shortages and surpluses of payroll taxes collected for these programs, by adjusting the rate or the cap periodically—not a “one-and-done” adjustment. These programs would then have little effect on the national debt and would make them sustainable and more reliable for recipients of the benefits. And it would answer the criticisms of the politicians who would target cutting these social programs as solutions for the national debt. The national debt is certainly a big problem, but eliminating, severely cutting, or “privatizing” Social Security and/or Medicaid, won’t “fix” the problem.

Paul Cully  
Dover, N.H.

Paul:

*If you make less than \$185,500 a year, you pay the FICA tax on every dollar.*

*What if you make more than that? Hey, it's all your money now!*

*What's the rationale for this disparity? Apparently Congress thinks that only the rich deserve to have enough money to live.*

The Editor

### What the Republican Congress Has Done For You

To the Editor:

The United States is in a real predicament: National Debt over \$40T; a war with no exit strategy, showing our enemies how weak we are; a soused, incompetent Secretary of Defense who keeps firing competent generals and replacing them with yes-men; a Secretary of Health and Human Services who has caused two major epidemics, Measles and Pertussis (whooping cough) because he doesn't believe in science.

Inflation, aided by the Republican tariffs, is driving costs of everything up. Diesel fuel, a component of all things trucked, is the **highest in history** and going up! Home prices, building supplies, clothing, toys, equipment, and especially food, are all way up.

But fear not. Your very own Republican congress is on the job! They will not let you down. Here's legislation they have introduced or passed to ease your suffering.

- Rename the Kennedy Center after Trump
- Put Trump on Mt. Rushmore
- Rename the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America
- Rename Lake Ontario Lake America
- Make Trump's Birthday a national holiday
- Name the Washington Metro and Dulles Airport after Trump
- Put Trump's face on the \$100 bill
- Steal taxpayer \$ for his \$900M Ballroom and pointy Trump arch

This Republican congress has done nothing on education, health-care, veterans affairs, seniors, children, or rising prices. They have been out of session 56 percent of the time!

This is not a do-nothing congress, this is a suck-up congress. **Throw them out!**

Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, N.H.

## Randy Fine and the Ministry of Acceptable Journalism

by Richard Balzano

Calla Walsh, Jackson Hinkle and Christopher Helali have been accused of disinformation and propaganda. They are non-traditional journalists, certainly. They do not spend their days interviewing retired generals for mainstream outlets about why this week's bombing campaign is regrettable but necessary, and they don't wait until truth commissions to be on the right side of history. Instead, they travel to countries the United States considers enemies, talk to people Americans are told to hate and fear, and report perspectives that rarely penetrate our Western media echo chamber. The trio were among the remarkably few Western media figures who attended the funeral procession for Ayatollah Ali Khomeini. Funny thing about journalism: sometimes it's more than transcribing State Department talking points; sometimes it requires going places and observing first hand.

For that, Congressman Randy Fine and six Republican colleagues have called them “traitors and terrorists” and asked the Justice Department to investigate whether their journalism amounts to material support for terrorism. Because that's how a democracy works, apparently: a free and fair press is welcome to report whatever it wants, so long as the State Department agrees.

Who are the accused? Walsh is a few clicks left of the Democratic Socialists of America with whom she was formerly affiliated, and she has reported extensively on recent conflict in the Middle East. Hinkle is a co-founder of the American Communist Party whose enormous online following and “MAGA Communist” politics have made him a particularly strange creature in American media. Helali, meanwhile, has local ties. He attended graduate school at Dartmouth College, and he taught high school in Hanover, NH. He ran for Vermont's U.S. House seat in 2020 as a communist, winning 1 percent of the vote, and he was subsequently elected High Bailiff of Orange County, VT.

The trio weren't alone. Max Blumenthal, editor of *The Grayzone* and persistent critic of American foreign policy, was also in Iran to cover the procession. Blumenthal was curiously absent from Fine's list, and even conservative pundit Laura Loomer questioned his omission, but Blumenthal received a special homecoming that many left-leaning journalists now receive: Customs and Border Protection detained him for roughly two hours and seized two of his phones.

So what was the crime? All three are outspoken critics of U.S. policy in the Middle East. Walsh praised Khomeini as the world's “greatest anti-imperialist leader.” Helali, who is of partial Iranian descent, expressed solidarity with Iran. Hinkle, less subtly, participated in chants of “Down with U.S.A.” These are political statements—different political statements, at that, and allegedly protected speech.

The July 17th congressional letter

says the event was organized and orchestrated by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which the United States designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization in 2019. The letter alleges that the Americans' participation was “in service of the IRGC.” That distinction matters. Reporting favorably about an organization and working for it are not the same thing—unless Washington gets to decide that journalism becomes terrorism whenever the journalist takes the wrong side.

Enter Congressman Randy Fine (R-Florida), the Peter Griffin of supporting Israel. The Florida Republican's devotion is sufficiently enthusiastic that, as a state legislator, he invoked Florida's anti-BDS law against singer Lorde after she canceled a concert in Tel Aviv and called the boycott movement an “antisemitic, terrorist movement.” There exists an infamous video of Fine wandering around the Florida House pressing voting buttons at other legislators' desks, allegedly regarding legislation outlawing boycotts of Israel. The footage is real and Fine acknowledged being the man in it; the specific claim that it captured the anti-BDS vote, however, has not been independently established. Given the leniency around violating the Leahy Laws when it comes to supporting Israel, we can presume there would not be consequences for Fine's actions.

Fine's feelings about the Iran delegation require considerably less interpretation: “This is treason,” he wrote about Helali. “Arrest this scumbag the second he lands back in America.”

Fine then joined Max Miller, Randy Weber, Claudia Tenney, Derrick Van Orden, Keith Self and Addison McDowell in sending their letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche. “The only thing American about these people are their passports,” they wrote. “They are traitors and terrorists that must be held accountable.” The lawmakers suggested the three be denied re-entry to the United States and asked the administration to investigate whether their participation constituted material support for terrorism.

Charging journalists critical of U.S. policy with material support for terrorism could bring Richard Nixon to orgasm from beyond the grave, but the First Amendment poses an obstacle. Fine's letter invokes *Holder v Humanitarian Law Project*, the 2010 Supreme Court case upholding restrictions on certain coordinated activities performed with or under the direction of designated terrorist organizations. The opera-

tive word is “coordinated.” The federal material-support statute does not make independent advocacy a terrorist offense merely because that advocacy benefits a foreign terrorist organization, but it specifically addresses services performed “to, under the direction of, or in coordination with” one. Fine's letter simply declares that “there is no question” the journalists' activities were in service of the IRGC. Yet whether there was actual coordination is precisely the question upon which the criminal accusation depends.

“Treason” is narrower still. The Constitution deliberately restricts the act to levying war against the United States or adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort. The Framers knew what governments tended to do with the word “traitor.”

The most disturbing part of the letter is what its authors offer as evidence. Walsh, they complain, produces content for Iranian television. Hinkle and Helali, on the other hand, are guilty of appearing on Russian and Chinese outlets to “promote anti-American and anti-Western narratives.”

Read that again—their journalism is being offered as evidence against them, and this is where the implications become considerably larger than three communist journalists at an Iranian funeral. Our corporate media already gives Americans an astonishingly narrow spectrum of acceptable opinion about American empire. Washington's adversaries are “dictators,” its friends are “allies,” its military interventions are “operations” at worst and “self-defense” at best, and its official pronouncements are reported with a credulity unavailable to anyone on the receiving end of American bombs.

Independent journalists exist precisely to break that consensus. Walsh, Hinkle, Helali and Blumenthal went somewhere most Western journalists didn't. They saw something Americans otherwise would not have seen. They reported from a perspective our political establishment despises, and Randy Fine is perfectly free to despise it; but he does not get to transform criticism of American foreign policy into terrorism and journalism into treason. Orwell called that sort of thing thoughtcrime; apparently in 2026 we call it “congressional oversight.”

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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# All the News That's Fit to Print?

by W.D. Ehrhart

For the past few months, I have largely avoided political events and especially contemporary goings-on involving the staggeringly comically greedy egotistical narcissistic bigoted hate-fueled criminal he-would-be-unbelievable-except-that-we're seeing-it-daily-with-our-own-eyes excuse for a human being occupying what has become the Whitewash House.

Instead, I've written essays that made fun of King Charles III's impressive chest of medals and decorations, eulogized the writer Philip Caputo, mourned the passing of our 22-year-old cat, mocked the inability of politicians to keep their penises in their pants, remembered my high school graduating class of 1966, and written about my struggles with weight gain.

But today I've decided that it's time to come out of hibernation and get back into the game. So I've gone through this week's *The Week* magazine in a quest to discover what the Orange Cheeto has been up to lately. And here's what I've discovered:

For starters, there he is on the front cover of the magazine, cuddled up close to Natalie Harp, who in an article on p.6 is described as Trump's "binkie," providing him with "constant adoration."

Just inside the cover, the magazine's editor-at-large details a litany of disasters resulting from global warming, "dismissed by Donald Trump as the 'greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world.'"

A long article about Trump's latest tariffs against Canada, and the negative consequences of the Trump team's "clodhopping bullying," takes up most of the next page, though mention is also made of Trump's renaming of Lake Ontario as "Lake America."

Half of the next page is an article about Trump's efforts to tamper with mail-in balloting, most recently assisted by the lickspittle Injustices of his Supremely MAGA Court. The other half of the page deals with Trump's effort to win his so-far-failing war-of-choice against Iran by levying sanctions against any country doing business with Iran, which would necessarily include China, Iran's largest trading partner.

Then we get the article about Trump's "adoring, omnipresent 'human printer'" Natalie Harp, along with brief items about a Justice Department lawyer who told a court that if Trump is not allowed to put his name on the Kennedy Center, Trump will order the building taken down as "unsafe." And another

item mentioning that Trump's State Department will no longer process asylum claims from people who entered the U.S. *legally* in the past decade.

In a section called "The U.S. at a Glance," we learn that the wife of an active duty U.S. army sergeant was deported to Honduras this week, the lickspittle Injustices of his Supremely MAGA Court have ruled that construction on the Whitewash House ballroom and underground bunker can continue, Trump's handpicked replacement for Lindsay Graham—his sister, who admits she's "not that informed on national security"—will stand for her brother's seat in November, and the future U.S. aircraft carrier that was to be named for African American Pearl Harbor hero Doris Miller will not be named for him after all.

On p. 10, we read a heartwarming item about how Trump has "forgiven" Michael Cohen, who paid hush money to the porn star Trump wanted silenced, but then testified against Trump, claiming now that he was coerced and bullied into testifying.

The following page contains a long article excoriating the Taliban, but mentions that it was Trump who signed a deal in 2020 to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan while much more recently cancelling the legal immigrant status of 190,000 Afghans who had worked with or aided the U.S. during our long war there.

On the very next page, we learn that our new Attorney General, formerly Trump's personal lawyer, refuses to pledge that he will "act independently of the White House," and that his boss would "never ask him to do anything unethical or illegal." Seriously; the guy said that.

And just below that we hear—this is the *Wall Street Journal*, no less—that "Trump is engaging in breathtaking levels of self-dealing, including his family's crypto schemes, business deals with foreign governments, the sale of pardons, and demands for contributions and tribute from companies seeking regulatory favor."

Under "Best Columns: International," we are reminded once again that Trump thinks North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un is "very good." Trump has drastically curtailed annual military exercises with South Korea, insinuating that the South Koreans must be punished for not supporting his war-of-choice against Iran. And under "Best Columns: Europe," a British publication characterizes Prince Harry's joke that America has "elected a king" as

"tone-deaf" (though the only problem I can see with what he said is that it isn't a joke).

An article in "Talking Points" about the rise of Islamophobia in the U.S. mentions that a real "shift" in American attitudes began in 2016 with Trump's call for a "Muslim ban," claiming falsely that thousands of New Jersey Muslims had cheered when the Twin Towers fell.



RICHMOND NEWSBOY ANNOUNCING THE REBEL SUCCESS!!!

On the next page, we are told that the Trump Administration has begun the first deportations of Haitian immigrants, Trump claiming that conditions in Haiti are "safe enough for their return"—though back on p.8, we read about the largest mass abduction of Haitians by armed gangs since 2021, and this in a community that had never before been attacked.

That same page also carries an article about our staggeringly huge national debt, which can only be reduced by eliminating the tax cuts given to the wealthy and to corporations by G.W. Bush and Trump, and returning to a tax system that was geared to adjust for aging Baby Boomers, changes Trump has rejected out of hand.

Of the six "Pick of the Week's Cartoons," three of them depict Trump, and a fourth is directly connected to him.

We get a respite for a few pages,

but *The Nerd Reich*, reviewed in the "Book of the Week" section, argues that uber-rich tech moguls are working to replace our republic with a CEO-style monarchy, and that the Trump regime is a favorable vehicle for that transformation.

A few pages later, we encounter an article about Trump lifting the tariff on foreign ground beef in order to try to bring down the cost, which has usually Republican ranchers up in arms, even though the temporary lifting of the tariff would only be for three months, just enough to get shoppers for ground beef past the November elections.

On the same page, we read that most companies are pocketing the refunds from tariffs illegally imposed by Trump rather than passing the savings on to customers. And we also learn that Trump has ordered his Justice Department to terminate its anti-trust case against Live Nation, allowing that company to keep control of Ticketmaster and—effectively—continue to charge outrageous prices for tickets.

And last but not least, on p.34 we read that Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is at odds with Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh over how to reduce the cost of borrowing, which can only be accomplished by reducing this administration's spending or raising taxes, two solutions Trump will not even consider.

So there you have it: just one week of the news with our portly, petulant, petty, Primadonna-in-Chief. I don't know, folks. I may just have to go back into hibernation for another few months. This is just really freakin' hard to take.

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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.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

- Mrs. Charles Besse died suddenly at Albion, Me. Oct. 3d, after stating the reason of her trouble to be malpractice, in which she implicates a well-known physician.
- Melvin S. Fuller of Winslow, Me., was arrested last Thursday on a charge the [sic] forgery of notes to the amount of \$1000. The accused has hitherto borne an unblemished reputation.
- John Fowle of Woburn, Mass., who was injured by a collision on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, near Canton, Md., died Oct. 1st.
- John Hughes, "the dangerous blacksmith," of New York, murdered Brazilla Vandervees, a young man, in an oyster saloon Sunday, with a blow

of his fist. Hughes was drunk, and with several ruffianly companions was making a row.

- City Treasurer Merrill S. Holway, of Chelsea, Mass., shot himself dead Monday evening. Insane.
- Miss Kate Haven will pass the winter in the south.

The New Hampshire Gazette
October 7, 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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Corporate Data Centers + NDAs = Secret Government

by Jim Hightower

A West Texas cowboy saying advises: "Never sign nothing by neon."

But that's exactly the key operational method of the AI data center hucksters who're foisting their exploitative, multibillion-dollar scams on local folks all across America. Corporate slicks for outfits like Amazon, Meta, Open AI, and Google are slithering through the countryside, luring locals to surrender land, water, electric power, and democratic rights to profiteering billionaires who promise pie-in-the-sky prosperity.

The deals are typically cut in the dim light of secret meetings, where corporate lawyers whisper to bedazzled local officials: "Just sign here, cowboy." The key to this mass deception is a legalistic corporate contrivance called an NDA (non-disclosure agreement). It allows data center owners and a small group of insiders to "negotiate" a raw deal for area residents by hiding essential details from the public. Details like: Who pays, how much, who profits, what are the side effects, who's responsible for damages... and why the hell is this room so dark?

These NDAs even have corporate code names like "Project Lightning." What's the rush? As one opponent of a Louisiana rush job said, "We live here. We want to know how it impacts us." The inside schemers pushing that deal clucked sympathetically, winked at each other, then assured bothersome locals that "an independent study" had shown the proposed data center would cause no harm. Maybe... but the profiteers then said the study itself could not be released for public review. Why? Because the developer had covered it with an NDA.

Government by corporate-imposed secrecy is totalitarianism. Didn't "We the People" have an armed revolution against that 250 years ago?

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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).



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new poetry by W.D. Ehrhart  
<https://tinyurl.com/5f82utt9>

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**  
Every Day All

The Vampires of York, Maine  
A Modern Crime Story  
By Jonathan Cook  
at Booktenders in York  
Or online

## 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 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   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| <p><b>2024</b>—Tom Homan, who’s now Border Czar, accepts \$50,000 cash in a paper bag, telling FBI agents he’ll help them get contracts if Trump is elected.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—“The devil came here yesterday,” says Hugo Chavez at the UN, “and it smells of sulfur still today.”</p> <p><b>2001</b>—George W.[MD] Bush declares a War on a noun, <i>viz.</i>, Terror, before a joint session of Congress, which somehow takes him seriously.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—A U.S. military spokesman in Saigon says Agent Orange has no harmful effects on human health.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—A deranged woman stabs Martin Luther King, Jr. while he’s autographing books in Harlem.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Ex-Nazi, former SS member, and rocket scientist Wernher von Braun begins working for the U.S.</p> <p><b>1830</b>—In Philadelphia, 38 free Blacks form the National Negro Convention to abolish slavery.</p> <p><b>1797</b>—The frigate <i>Constitution</i> is launched in Boston.</p> <p><b>1797</b>—Captain Pigot of HMS <i>Hermione</i> orders that the bodies of three sailors who died trying to fulfill his orders be thrown overboard.</p> <p><b>1777</b>—British troops conduct a surprise nighttime bayonet attack near present-day Malvern, Pa. The Paoli Massacre leaves 272 dead, wounded, captured, or missing.</p> <p><b>1565</b>—Spanish forces slaughter 135 Frenchmen in Florida, “for heresy.” It’s the first clash between European colonialists in the New World.</p>               | <p><b>2014</b>—ISIS calls Sec. of State John Kerry an “uncircumcised old geezer.”</p> <p><b>2001</b>—CIA chief George Tenet tells the V.P. his claim that Iraq and al-Qaeda are linked is crap, but Dick “Dick” Cheney goes on repeating it.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—The Chase Manhattan Bank accepts for deposit a check sent as a prank by <i>Spy Magazine</i>. Endorsed by “short-fingered vulgarian” Donald J. Trump, it’s for \$0.13.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—President Reagan’s Interior Secretary James G. Watt boasts about his staff’s diversity: “I have a Black, a woman, two Jews, and a cripple.”</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Edward Lee Howard, a CIA officer suspected of spying for the U.S.S.R., eludes FBI surveillance in Santa Fe and splits for Helsinki.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Agents of Augusto Pinochet — Chile’s dictator, thanks to the U.S. — assassinate ex-Ambassador Orlando Letelier and Ronni Moffitt with a car bomb in Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Testing a Grumman F-11, T.W. Attridge, Jr. hits the afterburner. Its jets ingest just-fired 20 mm rounds: he shoots himself down—but lives.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Loathsome Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza García is assassinated by Rigoberto López, poet.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—A nameless 183 m.p.h hurricane kills 700 in New England.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—On a whim, Cecil Chubb pays £6,600 at an auction for Stonehenge.</p> <p><b>1897</b>—A <i>New York Sun</i> editorial lies to a girl named Virginia, telling her a mythical “Santa Claus” is real.</p> | <p><b>2023</b>—Canada’s Parliament gives a standing ovation to “Ukrainian hero” Yaroslav Hunka—an SS vet of WWII.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—“A year from now,” Richard Perle says, “I’ll be very surprised if there is not some grand square in Baghdad that is named after President Bush.”</p> <p><b>1987</b>—Navy Reserve Capt. Timothy J. Dorsey shoots down a Navy plane during a training exercise. Its crew survives with injuries. Dorsey’s career is unscathed: daddy’s an Admiral.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Nam vet Oliver Sipple deflects Sarah Jane Moore’s shot, saving Jerry Ford. Harvey Milk outs him; newspapers report he’s gay. He dies at 47, drunk, disowned, and alone.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—President Nixon demands more FBI spies for college campuses.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—Air-raid sirens celebrate the White Sox’s pennant win. Some Chicagoans mistakenly assume it’s signaling war with the Russkies.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—Truman vetoes the McCarran Act, but Congress overrides him. Commies must now register; the gov’t can preventively detain “threats.”</p> <p><b>1922</b>—American Capitalists form “Sentinels of the Republic,” a front group for the fascist American Liberty Lobby; 11 years later many of them join a plot to overthrow FDR.</p> <p><b>1906</b>—Two Atlanta newspapers, both run by racist Democratic candidates for governor, publish unsubstantiated stories 10,000 whites use as an excuse to attack Blacks in Atlanta. Death toll: 25 Blacks and two whites.</p> | <p><b>1999</b>—The \$328 million Climate Orbiter crashes on Mars, because Lockheed forgot to use the metric system.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—As Dan Quayle speaks at a \$2,500-plate fundraiser in Portland, Ore., the Reverse Peristalsis Painters protest by vomiting red, white, and blue mashed potatoes.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—Army Rangers and a gang of drug dealers have a half-hour gun battle across Tacoma’s Ash Street; despite 300 rounds fired, there are no KIAs.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Already fired for spying on citizens, ex-CIA counterintelligence chief James Jesus Angleton testifies, “certain individual rights have to be sacrificed for the national security.”</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Allen Ginsberg, Peter Orlovsky, and LeRoi Jones meet in Manhattan with Fidel Castro.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Nine Black students enter Little Rock High School but are escorted out again by police to pacify a howling mob of white segregationists.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—A white male jury, which believes they’re guilty, finds Emmett Till’s murderers “not guilty.”</p> <p><b>1952</b>—R. Nixon uses his daughter’s pet dog to deflect corruption charges.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—French soldiers who’d been detained in Saigon by the Japanese are released and armed by British General Douglas Gracey. Terrorizing the Vietnamese, they stage a <i>coup d’état</i>.</p> <p><b>1806</b>—Lewis and Clark return.</p> <p><b>1779</b>—John Paul Jones takes the British ship <i>Serapis</i> as the <i>Bonhomme Richard</i> sinks under him.</p>                               | <p><b>2007</b>—A plane once used for “rendition” flights, carrying alleged terror-ists to Gitmo, crashes in the Yucatan with 3.3 tons of cocaine on board.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—The <i>New York Times</i> reports that our spies think the Iraq War makes Islamic terrorism more likely.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—George W.[MD] Bush says, “When the final history is written on Iraq, it will look just like a comma.”</p> <p><b>1981</b>—CIA boss Bill Casey says the Freedom of Information Act shouldn’t apply to intelligence agencies.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—On his yacht in Chesapeake Bay, right-handed CIA spook John Paisley takes a shotgun blast behind his left ear. It’s ruled suicide.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Protestors destroy 10,000 draft files in Milwaukee, Wis.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—<i>Peyton Place</i>, by New Hampshire’s own Grace Metalious, is published. All hell breaks loose.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—Ike’s doc mistakes a heart attack for indigestion; he fakes papers to protect his rep and get Ike re-elected.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Reacting to yesterday’s French coup, the Viet Minh paralyze Saigon with a general strike, storm the jail, and liberate hundreds of comrades.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—“Shall We All Commit Suicide?”, an essay by Winston Churchill, frets about “a bomb no bigger than an orange” that could “blast a township.”</p> <p><b>1911</b>—Portsmouth-born U.S. Navy Ensign Charles Emerson Hovey, 26, is shot and killed by natives on the island of Basilan in the Philippines.</p> <p><b>1896</b>—F. Scott Fitzgerald is born.</p> | <p><b>2025</b>—The Presidential Sharpie scribbles on NSDM-7, re-defining reality. Now if you don’t love America, Christianity, or capitalism enough — or if you love immigrants too much — you’re fomenting political violence.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—Because Judge Sharon Keller refuses to work overtime, Texas gets to kill Michael Richard on schedule.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Disregarding facts, George W.[MD] Bush says, “You can’t distinguish between al-Qaeda and Saddam when you talk about the war on terror.”</p> <p><b>1966</b>—The White Sox beat the Yankees 4-1, at Yankee Stadium. Attendance is 413, the lowest ever.</p> <p><b>1961</b>—State Rep. E.H. Hurst murders Black voting advocate Herbert Lee at mid-day in Magnolia, Miss. Coroner’s jury: “justifiable homicide.”</p> <p><b>1959</b>—The U.S. Navy loses a nuclear depth charge in Puget Sound. Fortunately it’s lacking a fissile core.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Nine Black kids get to enter Little Rock High School, courtesy of the President and the 101st Airborne.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Vietnamese of all factions massacre French civilians in Saigon.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Henry Ford announces the eight-hour, five-day work week.</p> <p><b>1915</b>—At Loos, France, British forces release 150 tons of chlorine gas towards German troops. To their chagrin, the wind then shifts.</p> <p><b>1789</b>—The Bill of Rights passes.</p> <p><b>1662</b>—Portsmouth adopts a bounty: £5 for every wolf killed whose head is “nayle[d] upon the meeting house.”</p> | <p><b>2022</b>—Mysterious forces sabotage Russia’s NordStream gas pipeline.</p> <p><b>2016</b>—“We’ve got a couple things up our sleeve that should turn this thing around,” says Rudy Giuliani, two days before Jim Comey reveals the Clinton email investigation is on again.</p> <p><b>2001</b>—Six or eight CIA spooks invade Afghanistan in a Soviet Mi-17 helicopter with \$3 million cash.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—Lieutenant Colonel Stanislav Petrov disregards Red Army computers showing attacking American nuclear missiles. For thus averting World War III, Col. Petrov is reprimanded.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—A U.S. Navy minesweeper begins six days of spraying live bacteria into the air two miles upwind of San Francisco; 800K citizens get a dose.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Mistaking him for a French officer, Viet Minh in Saigon kill OSS Lieut. Col. Peter Dewey. Days before he had filed a report saying the U.S. “ought to clear out of Southeast Asia.”</p> <p><b>1937</b>—The same day G-Men arrest Machine Gun Kelly, ten men escape from an Indiana prison using guns smuggled in by John Dillinger.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—The Battle of the Meuse-Argonne begins, the last great battle of the War to End All Wars.</p> <p><b>1908</b>—Józef Piłsudski, Poland’s future Chief of State, loots a Russian mail train to fund a revolution.</p> <p><b>1901</b>—Lincoln’s body is viewed before being covered with two tons of concrete. Among 23 present is Fleetwood Linley, 13, who lives until 1963.</p>       |
| SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   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| <p><b>2018</b>—Brett Kavanaugh whines, weeps, and shouts while badgering the Senate Judiciary Committee.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Donald Rumsfeld says a made-up link between al-Qaeda and Iraq is “accurate and not debatable.”</p> <p><b>2000</b>—Frank Wills, the guard who discovered the Watergate burglary, dies at 52, of a brain tumor, in poverty.</p> <p><b>1994</b>—On the Capitol steps, 350 GOP candidates led by Newt Gingrich take out a Contract on America.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—To show kids there are more constructive things to do than take drugs, Jeffrey Petkovitch and Peter DeBernardi climb into a barrel and go over Niagara’s Horseshoe Falls.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—The United Way of Cleveland holds a fundraiser, releasing 1,429,643 helium balloons. Rain and a cold front bring them down, where they clog the harbor, halt a Coast Guard search, close an airport, and spook horses.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Ex-CIA boss A. Dulles &amp; the Warren Commission report that L.H. Oswald, acting alone, killed JFK.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—A group of 35 U.S. B-24s, isolated over Germany by a navigational error, are jumped by 100 enemy fighters; only four survive.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—William T. “Bloody Bill” Anderson and his 80 guerrillas, including Jesse James, massacre 150 Union soldiers in Centralia, Mo.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—Holed in a collision off Newfoundland, the SS <i>Arcic</i> sinks. The crew commandeers the lifeboats, leaving 300 passengers to drown.</p> | <p><b>2015</b>—After meeting with evangelicals, Trump asks an aide, “Can you believe people believe that bullshit?”</p> <p><b>2001</b>—To avoid further scorn in these pages, Fleet Bank removes its 18-foot tall green, illuminated sign from the middle of Pleasant Street’s sidewalk.</p> <p><b>1978</b>—Pope John Paul I dies 33 days into his papacy under circumstances that raise suspicions of murder.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—Ted Williams takes the plate at Fenway for his last at bat. He hits his 521st home run. Most seats are empty.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—As Franco visits Barcelona, Quico Sabaté roams the city in a cab, distributing anti-regime leaflets through the sun-roof with a mortar.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Ten thousand rioting whites storm the Omaha courthouse, drag out Will Brown, a Black man, and lynch him. From his father’s printing plant across the street, Henry Fonda, 14, watches in horror.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—In Philadelphia, Pa., 200,000 people gather to watch a Liberty Bond parade—and spread influenza. In weeks it kills 12,000 of them.</p> <p><b>1868</b>—Knights of the White Camelia massacre between 25 and a few hundred Blacks in Opelousas, La.</p> <p><b>1859</b>—Fifty loggers, farmers, and laborers, irate over the damage it causes, try but fail to destroy the dam controlling the outflow of Lake Winnepesaukee. Later they’re crushed in court by Boston-based capitalists.</p> <p><b>1066</b>—While disembarking, William of Normandy falls on his face.</p>                | <p><b>2008</b>—The Dow drops 777 points.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Anti child-porn crusader Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) resigns after his lurid e-mails to young males leak.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W.[MD] Bush claims Iraq has WMDs and al-Qaeda terrorists, and will soon have a nuke.</p> <p><b>1976</b>—Congress arrogates to itself, in the Hyde Amendment, the power to make medical decisions for women.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—A short, bearded man in sneakers spontaneously grabs ex-Secretary of Defense Robert Strange McNamara and tries to throw him off the ferry into Vineyard Sound.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The U.S. Army drops murder charges against Special Forces Col. Robert Rheault—the CIA won’t let its agents testify. “Terminate with extreme prejudice” enters the lexicon.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—A Soviet nuclear fuel plant blows up near Kyshtym, killing hundreds and spewing more radiation than anything until Chernobyl. The CIA suppresses the news to protect the U.S. nuclear power industry.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—Rudolph Diesel, inventor of the eponymous engine, disappears from the steamer <i>Dresden</i>: a suicide, a murder victim, or an absconder.</p> <p><b>1864</b>—Black Union soldiers capture Confederate entrenchments at the Battle of New Market Heights.</p> <p><b>1862</b>—Jefferson C. Davis [the Union General, not the rebel President] shoots Union General William “Bull” Nelson dead. Never charged, Davis goes back to fighting Rebels.</p>                   | <p><b>2025</b>—Former Fox “News” guy Pete Hegseth assembles the DOD’s top brass and orders them to “Stop being fat.”</p> <p><b>2016</b>—N.H.’s Attorney General reports that ex-Rep. Kyle Tasker [R-Nottingham] sold pot to five other State Reps. — for medicinal purposes.</p> <p><b>2011</b>—U.S. citizen Anwar al-Awlaki is smote by a drone in Yemen. Trial? We don’t need no stinkin’ trial!</p> <p><b>2005</b>—<i>N.Y. Times</i>’s Judith Miller tells a Grand Jury that Dick “Dick” Cheney outed Valerie Plame to her.</p> <p><b>1998</b>—The GAO reports that Ken “Ahab” Starr blew \$40 million failing to harpoon Bill “Moby Dick” Clinton.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—César Chávez founds what becomes the United Farm Workers.</p> <p><b>1956</b>—Drunk-flying a stolen Cessna, Thomas Fitzpatrick lands on St. Nicholas St. in Manhattan, taxis to Joe’s on the corner, and orders a beer.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—The sub USS <i>Nautilus</i>, the first atomic-powered ship, is launched.</p> <p><b>1938</b>—Thanks to the Munich Agreement, peace in Europe is assured.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—A white man dies in a shootout in Elaine, Ark. Over the next three days, 240 Blacks and five whites die in the U.S.’s worst single racial conflict.</p> <p><b>1847</b>—Dr. Valorous P. Coolidge, of Waterville, Me., autopsies Edward Mathews—superfluously, since he had just poisoned the deceased, then struck him on the head to disguise the cause of death. He is later hanged.</p> <p><b>1630</b>—John Billington becomes the first Pilgrim hanged for murder.</p> | <p><b>2013</b>—In the name of fiscal discipline, Republicans shut down the government. Cost to the economy: \$24 billion.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—With the blessings of Gov. Benson [R-§], Free Staters choose New Hampshire as their libertarian paradise.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Northern Command is established to “Defend America’s Homeland”—<i>posse comitatus</i> be damned.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W.[MD] Bush claims he hasn’t “made up his mind we’re going to war with Iraq.” Right. Got it.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—<i>Dovo 36,000</i> is published. In real life the Dow peaks months later at 11,722, then loses 37% of its value.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—Caving under pressure, the IRS grants tax-free status to the “Church” of Scientology.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Campus cops at U.C. Berkeley arrest Jack Weinberg; big mistake. The Free Speech Movement ensues.</p> <p><b>1952</b>—The first issue of <i>Mad</i> is unleashed on an unsuspecting world.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Arabs led by T.E. Lawrence capture Damascus.</p> <p><b>1910</b>—A union bombing campaign peaks in L.A. at the virulently anti-union <i>Times</i>’ HQ. Fire from a gas main brings the death toll to 21.</p> <p><b>1903</b>—Fred Van Wormer’s autopsy is halted because he’s breathing. Taken back to Sing Sing’s electric chair, he is found to have died. He is electrocuted again anyway, just for good measure.</p> <p><b>1854</b>—California’s Supreme Court rules that “No black, mulatto or indian shall be allowed to give evidence in favor of or against a white man.”</p>         | <p><b>2003</b>—Survey chief David Kay reports that his three-month, \$300 million search for Saddam Hussein’s WMD has turned up squat.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—George W.[MD] Bush calls Iraq “a threat of unique urgency,” because of its arsenal of scary WMDs.</p> <p><b>1990</b>—Three Texans in a Cessna come within 30 feet of clearing Mt. Washington. Their bodies are brought down on the Cog Railway.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Senior members of the Reagan campaign team meet in D.C. with a representative of the Ayatollah, who offers to release U.S. hostages.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Michael Myers (D-Pa.) becomes the first Rep. expelled in 120 years, for bribe-taking and conspiracy. Why only him? Who knows.</p> <p><b>1975</b>—Congress shuts down a \$6 billion anti-ABM site in Nebraska, one day after it becomes operational.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Thurgood Marshall becomes the first Black Supreme Court Justice.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—In Natchez, Miss., 500 people are sent without trial to the Parchman Penitentiary for protesting the denial of their right to register to vote.</p> <p><b>1941</b>—On Malta, Major-General Clifford Thomason Beckett of the Royal Artillery tells Major H.S. Fowle he is “not fit to command anything.”</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Woodrow Wilson has a stroke; the U.S. gets its 1st woman president.</p> <p><b>1766</b>—High prices and shortages turn Nottingham, England’s annual Goose Fair into a Cheese Riot, which is suppressed by the Light Dragons.</p>                                | <p><b>2009</b>—Combat Outpost Keating, in Nuristan, badly-sited and scheduled for abandonment, is mostly overrun by Taliban fighters who capture weapons and ammunition, leaving eight Americans dead and 27 wounded.</p> <p><b>2006</b>—Republicans in Congress try to “roll over” \$20 million set aside for a celebration of victory in Iraq.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—<i>National Enquirer</i>: Rush Limbaugh is under investigation for illegally procuring prescription opioids.</p> <p><b>1993</b>—Berlin, N.H. native Michael Durant’s helicopter is one of two shot down in the First Battle of Mogadishu. Durant, played by Ron Eldard in <i>Black Hawk Down</i>, survives.</p> <p><b>1986</b>—Missile sub <i>K-219</i> catches fire. Soviets blame an alleged collision with USS <i>Augusta</i>. The Pentagon blames sloppy Commie work habits.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Moral Majority co-founder and U.S. Rep. Bob Bauman (R-Md.) is charged with making sexual solicitations to an under-aged boy.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Donald Segretti testifies before the Senate about the dirty tricks he used to get Nixon re-elected.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—A CH-47 Chinook and a C-7 Caribou collide over Camp Evans in Vietnam; no survivors, 22 perish.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—George Wallace’s running mate, ex-SAC Commander Curtis LeMay, says he’s not afraid of nuking Vietnam, but deems that unnecessary.</p> <p><b>1955</b>—CIA HQ gets a cable from the Caracas Station: a former SS trooper says Hitler is alive in Argentina.</p> |
| <p>12:48</p> <p>7:12</p> <p>7:24</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   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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*.

“IT TAKES FOUR MEN TO DRESS A SALAD: A MADMAN FOR THE PEPPER, A MISER FOR THE VINEGAR, A SPENDTHRIFT FOR THE OIL, AND A WISE MAN FOR THE SALT.” — UNKNOWN

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