

The Fortnightly Rant

Jack Gets His Day in Kangaroo Court

This has been, we regret to report, the most maddening decade in American history. Trust us, we have seen it all.

Typically our hard times have given us something: independence, the end of chattel slavery, an improved standard of living, and so forth.

All we have gotten over the past ten years, though, has been the constant degradation of... just about everything.

The only exceptions seem to have been the laws of physics, but you can bet your bippy that otherwise unemployable asshats at some lavishly-funded think tank are conjuring up a scheme for doubling the speed of light and cutting gravity in half.

This presents us with a conundrum for which the trade journal *Editor & Publisher* offers no solution. Every fiber in our being strives to present the truest and most accurate account possible of current events. Under present circumstances, the better we do our job, the more deeply we drive our readers into a state of catatonic despair—so, hardly a good business model.

But enough of our whining. This Empire of Gilded Bullshit must inevitably someday crumble. If the luck that has sustained us this long continues, we may even get to report on it.

In fact, there are plenty of reasons to think that various components of what had seemed like a solid and cohesive MAGAlith are far less connected than they used to be. This should come as no surprise since individually they are so repulsive. Over time those parts are destined to lose their cohesion and fall into a fetid heap—hence the Heritage Foundation's frantic work on anti-gravity.

Early last month the Center for Strategic Politics asked 683 Democratic voters to describe how they'd feel if Trump were removed from office via five different routes.

Unsurprisingly, 86 percent said they'd have a positive view of impeachment and conviction in the Senate. Sure, that'll happen—then the House's Sergeant at Arms will hoist Trump backwards onto a unicorn, slap its ass, and banish him forever from Washington, D.C. And what's up with those 14 percent? Smelling salts, please!

Nearly as many, 84 percent, would be happy to see the Blowhard-in-Chief get 86'd by his own cabinet under the 25th Amendment. This method would require either a cure for terminal sycophancy or a whole herd of unicorns plus an army of flying monkeys.

Approval declines significantly as the possible exits get grimmer. Still, more than half the respondents—56 percent, to be exact—said that if they were to learn that Trump had woken up dead, it would enhance

their enjoyment of breakfast.

The responses to these three scenarios perhaps were predictable. As to the other two, even we were shocked.

Fifty-nine percent of the people polled said they'd have a positive view of a military coup.* Here we see the danger inherent in a system that relies on a hermetic warrior caste for national defense. If more of those Democrats had ever worn the uniform of our armed forces, that number would be proportionally lower.

Finally we come, most literally, to the *coup de grâce*: an unsettlingly large minority—31 percent—said they'd have a positive view if someone were to Charlie Kirk Trump during one of his political rallies. [Note: For the record, not only would this be morally reprehensible, it would be strategically idiotic, as well. — The Ed.]

How did our political discourse come to this? The answer might be found in Tuesday's Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

Hold on... Did we just call that event a hearing? Our bad. The room itself was a giveaway. That vast marble wall, that dais, that row of pompous asses... we know a show trial when we see one.

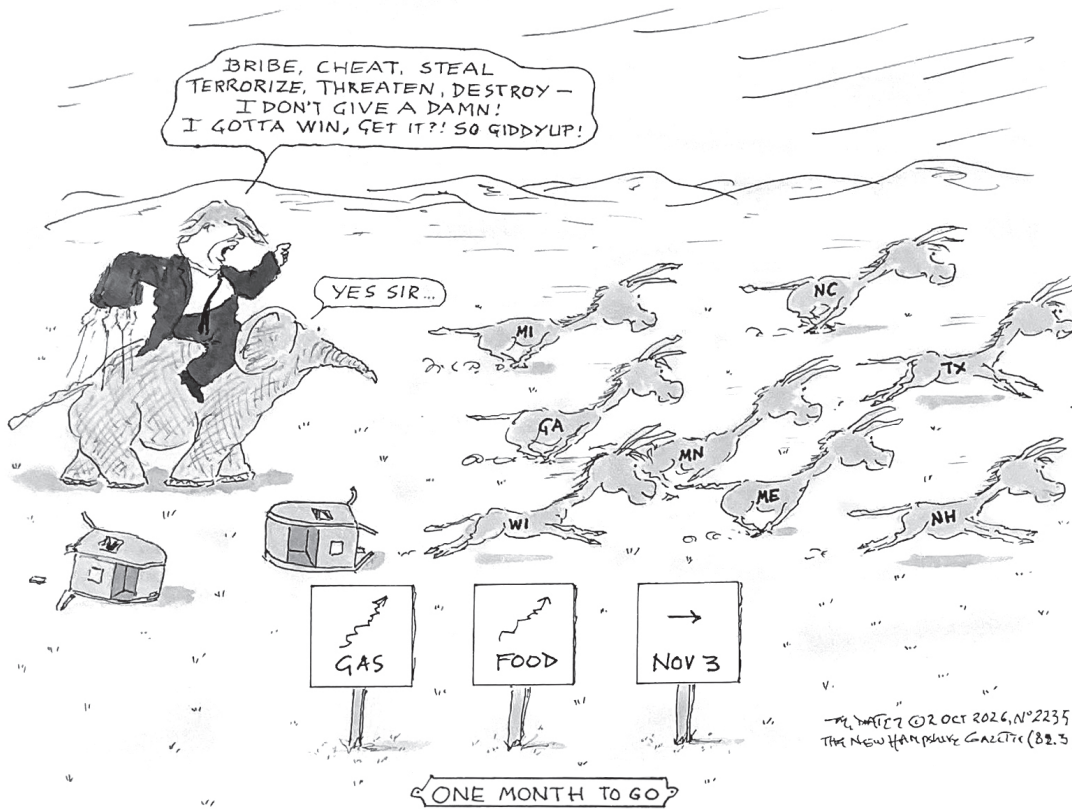
We also know, unfortunately, what an attempted coup looks like. We saw one less than six years ago. Not that we're special. Hundreds of millions of people saw it, and not all of them were so foolish as to mistake a violent insurrection for a "peaceful protest" taking place during a "normal tourist visit" which just happened to include some "legitimate political discourse."

After endless dithering by a string of lily-livered Democrats, Jack Smith was eventually given the go-ahead to prepare a legal case against the perpetrator of the coup; another case was thrown in for pilfering Top Secret government documents.

Money, it seems, has a gravitational pull. Over half a century it has influenced both the decisions of the Supreme Court and the values of the Democratic Party. The crossing of those to streams turned Jack Smith—the man who could have, and should have been allowed to, put Donald Trump in jail, was instead made the designated victim of Tuesday's show trial.

After Trump was elected, Smith moved to dismiss both cases. Amid general apoplexy on the left, former U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade pointed out that "it's the only move he had. By filing preemptively, he keeps the cases alive for 2029."

* The exact scenario: "To 'safeguard the Constitution,' a group of U.S. military leaders have removed President Donald Trump from power and assumed control of the United States."



The Diagnosis Is Unambiguous:

2026 Planetary Health Report Finds Pressure Mounting on Earth Systems

by Julia Conley

Like other recent warnings from climate scientists, the message sent by the latest Planetary Health Check report is clear: "We need to move fast," as the director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, the group behind the report, said.

"Seven of nine planetary boundaries are transgressed, and pressure on all seven is at its highest recorded level," said Johan Rockström, director of the Potsdam Institute (PIK).

The report finds that seven measures of the Earth's health are no longer within the "safe operating space": ocean acidification, freshwater change, land system change, climate change, modification of biogeochemical flows, introduction of novel entities, and change in biosphere integrity.

Just two markers, stratospheric ozone depletion and the increase in atmospheric aerosol loading, have shown improvement over the last decade, said the Planetary Boundaries Science Lab at PIK.

"The diagnosis is unambiguous," said Boris Sakschewski, the lead author of the report. "Pressure is rising across every planetary boundary already outside the safe operating space. It means that the risk of large-scale, persistent, and potentially irreversible change is increasing, while our margin for error in tackling these problems is shrinking."

The scientists behind the report emphasized that with recent news regarding the state of the planet's crucial coral reefs, forests, and extreme weather events like heatwaves and flooding, it should come as no surprise that the Earth's boundaries have been transgressed, as continued fossil fuel emissions have caused runaway planetary heating.

Earlier this month, United Nations scientists said the planet can

no longer avoid at least a temporary temperature rise above 1.5°C over preindustrial levels.

Oceans have also become so warm that stressed coral reefs have less and less time to recover from climate damage, as *Common Dreams* reported last month; and a UN report last year found that the world's governments are not moving fast enough to end the destruction of forests.

Last month and the summer of 2026 both set heat records, with extreme heat killing more than 1,000 people across Europe and wildfires spreading across the continent and Canada. Record-breaking heat was also recorded in parts of Asia and the Middle East.

In June, the UN Children's Fund found that nearly every child on Earth is now exposed to at least one climate hazard driven by fossil fuel emissions, including flooding, heatwaves, and drought.

"Pakistan's 2025 monsoon floods affected more than 6.9 million people," said PIK. "Global ocean heat content reached a new record in 2025, with Hurricane Melissa rapidly ramping up to a Category 5 hurricane and striking Jamaica after passing over exceptionally warm seas. From January 2023 to September 2025, bleaching-level heat stress impacted about 84.4 percent of the

world's coral reef area, making it the largest global coral-bleaching event observed to date."

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, chair of Planetary Guardians, implored readers of the Planetary Health Check report to "read that list again: Pakistan, the Caribbean, Europe, the reefs beneath our oceans. These are not separate emergencies; the planet is telling us, in every region at once, that it is out of balance."

"As chair of Planetary Guardians, I hear this same story wherever I go, whether from a pastoralist watching the rains fail season after season or a coastal community watching the sea rise," said Ibrahim. "The 2026 Planetary Health Check puts data behind what communities on the frontlines already know from living it. We do not have the luxury of treating these as separate crises any longer."

Rockström emphasized that while "we do not have the luxury of time... we do have the knowledge, capacity, and solutions to change course."

"Accelerating action to return to the safe operating space across all planetary boundaries is essential to protect lives and livelihoods," said Rockström, "and to deliver on the promise of shared future prosperity."

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

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

- The steamer *La Mascotte*, plying between St. Louis and Cape Girardeau, Mo., exploded her boilers when near the latter place on the 5th inst., killing between eighteen and twenty-two persons, and wounding others. The steamer was only ninety days old, and was valued at \$90,000.
- A column of British troops sent from Minhla to relieve the surrounded garrison at Myotheit, Burmah, performed its mission. It took the column six days to make a march

of thirty miles through one jungle. In this the troops found several crucified British messengers. Every officer and nearly every man in the rescued garrison was prostrated with fever when the relieving expedition reached them.

• Mrs. William Cunningham and her little children, Eddie and Millie, were run over by a switching train at Galesburg, Ill. The mother was

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Bringing CBS News and CNN Under One Trump-Friendly Roof is a Disaster for Freedom of the Press

by Dan Kennedy

My students and I were talking Tuesday morning* about press freedoms in the U.S. and in other Western democracies. How, I asked, could countries like Britain, Canada, Germany and France ensure such freedoms in the absence of something like the First Amendment?

The answer is that they can't, at least not as comprehensively as we do. Libel protections and the right to publish information about criminal trials, government secrets and the like are in fact more robust here than they are in other countries. Yet according to the Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders, the U.S. ranks just 64th, behind Botswana but ahead of Panama. Norway is No. 1.

How can this be? A large part of the explanation came Monday, when the last remaining legal opposition to Paramount's \$111 billion acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery melted away, transforming two behemoths into one super-behemoth. Nearly all of this corrupt (as in the sense of rotting flesh, not whether it's legal) transaction involves entertainment properties, which is where the money is. But what many of us really care about is that CNN is moving under the same corporate umbrella as CBS News.

You know the backstory. Para-

* September 22nd.

mount acquired CBS in the first year of Donald Trump's second presidency, with the skids greased by \$16 million paid to settle a baseless lawsuit Trump had filed over the way "60 Minutes" edited an interview with Kamala Harris. Paramount's chair and CEO, David Ellison, put Bari Weiss in charge of CBS News, including "60 Minutes."

Weiss, whose politics might be described as anti-anti-Trump (please, God, spare us from Trump-curious contrarians) and who had no prior television experience, has presided over a journalistic and ratings disaster. It's so bad that you'd like to think Ellison won't hand her the keys to CNN, but it seems probable that he's going to dictate a Trumpier direction for the news organization. Expect to see CBS News and CNN sharing talent as well.

The immediate upshot is that two of the three major cable news outlets—CNN and Fox News—are now in the hands of executives who are friendly to Trump, with MS NOW the only holdout. ("Friendly" barely begins to describe it in the case of Fox.) What's more, one of the Big Three broadcast television networks, CBS, is also in Trump's orbit. Needless to say, if we had actual antitrust enforcement in this country, such concentration could not take place.

What paved the way for Monday's news was the capitulation of California Attorney General Rob

Bonta, who was leading an effort by a number of state attorneys general to stop the merger. Bonta, to be fair, was in a difficult situation: if he'd stood on principle, Ellison was threatening to move Paramount out of state, costing California 58,000 jobs and \$21 billion annually, according to an economic analysis cited by the *New York Post*.

At the media news site *Status*, Oliver Darcy reports (paywall) that Bonta's critics are especially unhappy that the deal he struck calls for no structural changes (such as selling CNN) and is grounded entirely in behavioral rules such as how many movies Paramount promises to make. Among those behavioral rules is the establishment of an editorial advisory board that will assess the journalistic independence of CBS News and CNN. Good luck with that. As Darcy writes:

"Not only will CNN need to be walled off from potential interference by Ellison, but it will also need to be protected from possible meddling stemming from the Middle East. The Saudis, Qataris, and Emirates will own 49.5% of the newly combined company, a proposal that allows for an astonishing stake of foreign ownership of a U.S. media company, requiring special clearance by the Federal Communications Commission, led by the Trump-friendly Brendan Carr."

Such advisory boards have been set up following other mergers, including Rupert Murdoch's acquisition of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* in the U.K. in 1981 and of *The Wall Street Journal* in 2007. Joshua Benton of Nieman Lab took a look at how those boards worked out and reported that, in both cases, Murdoch did as he pleased. In the case of the *Journal*, all he had to do to get around a stipulation that he not fire managing editor Marcus Brauchli without board permission was to hire a publisher who had control of the newsroom, thus marginalizing the editor. Brauchli quit. As Benton wrote, "These 'independent' boards are PR gestures, not vehicles for editorial protection."

After Monday's deal was announced, outrage was voiced by a number of advocacy groups. Here's Seth Stern, chief of advocacy for the Free Press Foundation, as reported by *The Verge*: "The fish rots from the head, and this particular fish is headed by a compromised oligarch with a history of throwing journalists under the bus to advance his business



Paramount Studios released "The Big Bus," featuring Cyclops, a nuclear-powered, double-decker, articulated bus, in 1975.

interests."

Next up is Jessica González, co-CEO of Free Press, a media-reform organization: "Based on all reports, this weak deal contains nothing but unenforceable, empty Paramount promises."

And the Block the Merger Coalition, comprising a number of organizations led by the Media and Democracy Project: "This is a bad deal for the future of film, entertainment, independent journalism, and a strong democracy in this country. We are disappointed and angry that the interests of average Americans have been trampled to benefit oligarch billionaires."

I'll end where I began, with the Press Freedom Index. Why does the U.S. rank just 64th worldwide? There are a variety of reasons, from violence against journalists to low levels of public trust in the news media. But the overarching reason cited by Reporters Without Borders is this:

"The U.S. media landscape is relatively diverse, especially online, but ownership of traditional and mainstream media is highly concentrated."

Many large media companies are seeking to merge, risking reductions in journalism jobs and weakening media pluralism. President Trump, meanwhile, has tried to pressure these companies to soften their stance on him and install his allies in leadership positions."

Monday was a dark day for journalism and democracy. Yes, there are still many large, independent news outlets reporting on the depredations of the Trump regime. But national broadcast networks and cable news is how a broad swath of the public informs itself. The damage that Trump has done and continues to do is wide-ranging, and we can only hope that we can find our way back once this terrible moment has passed.

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Dan Kennedy is a professor at Northeastern University's School of Journalism, specializing in opinion journalism, media ethics and the future of local news. This article was originally posted at his blog, Media Nation. It is re-published here under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 4.0 United States License.



THE ARSENIC WALTZ.

The current administration is famously determined to restore the nation to a condition it asserts was great. For reasons which remain unclear to many, this requires a ballroom, attached to the White House, of which French King Louis XVI might approve. Concurrently, to restore the exuberance of 19th century capitalism, environmental and workplace safety laws are being repealed, defanged, and ignored on a scale that, as the oft-heard expression would have it, "you've never seen." Inspired by the confluence of these trends, we present John Leech's 1862 cartoon for *Punch*, inspired by a report in the *Times* about high levels of arsenic in green dyes for clothing.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

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were killed outright. Fred Berlin was badly cut, and is not expected to live. The bodies of the killed were blown in pieces, and the remains taken out in barrels. The five men had gone to sleep on a box used for powder, when a spark from one of the men's pipes caused the explosion.

- Rev. Dr. Twort, pastor of the Pine street Freewill Baptist church in

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Beware of  
Cruise Ships  
— a Bar Harbor reader

## Impeachment Calls Grow Over Taxpayer Funding of Pro-Trump Ads

by Jessica Corbett

As critics condemn President Donald Trump's trio of taxpayer-funded advertisements as illegal propaganda and "an impeachable offense," *The Wall Street Journal* and leading congressional Democrats revealed Tuesday that the administration appears to have used U.S. Department of Homeland Security funding to pay for the ads.

Citing unnamed sources, the *Journal* reported that "Trump personally pushed for the ads and has been involved in their creation," and that the money came from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, an agency of DHS. Top Democrats in the Senate and House of Representatives said the administration apparently used CBP funding allocated in Republicans' One Big Beautiful Bill Act last year.

Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chair Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Homeland Security Subcommittee Ranking Member Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) on Tuesday sent a letter to DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin about the "outrageous scheme" of using "Americans' hard-earned tax dollars to bankroll the obscene political ads celebrating President Trump."

The pair noted that on September 19th, the Office of Management and Budget approved a release of money to CBP, including "\$20 million in new funding under the line item 'Commemorative Events,' which we suspect may well be the funding tapped to run this govern-

ment propaganda."

"We should not have to remind you that using government funding to create or air political ads like the ones that have been running over the last few days is illegal and a shockingly corrupt misuse of taxpayer dollars," they told Mullin, a former senator who voted for the GOP's 2025 budget package.

Specifically, as the watchdog Public Citizen detailed in a Tuesday complaint to the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, and broadcasters, the three campaign ads "appear to violate the federal law against using taxpayer funds to finance propaganda (5 USC §3107) and related provisions of the appropriations laws as well as the Hatch Act (5 USC §7324)."

Margaret Dylus-Yukins, senior legal counsel for ethics at the non-partisan Campaign Legal Center, highlighted on Monday that the unlawful ads come on top of the war chest that Trump has raised—mostly from rich people and corporations—since the last election for the super political action committee (PAC) MAGA Inc.

"At a minimum, this is an appalling abuse of taxpayer dollars, particularly when hundreds of millions of private dollars are already flowing into U.S. elections—and Trump has personally helped raise enormous sums from wealthy special interests for a super PAC devoted to advancing his political agenda," Dylus-Yukins said.

Axios on Tuesday corroborated

the *Journal's* reporting that "Trump is personally selecting which government-funded ads his administration is airing ahead of the midterms," and one unnamed official claimed that "this is just the beginning."

With the midterm elections that will determine control of Congress just five weeks away, the administration has claimed the ads are "public service announcements." Murray and Murphy called that defense "as absurd as it is offensive," and pointed out that "the White House has failed to answer our most basic questions about where these funds are coming from and who is responsible."

"The American people deserve answers about how this president is literally stealing their tax dollars to air campaign ads celebrating himself—while doing nothing to help them afford healthcare or housing. These ads need to immediately come off the air, taxpayers need to be paid back for this theft, and everyone responsible needs to be held accountable for this corrupt and illegal propaganda," the senators argued, demanding answers to a list of questions within 48 hours.

House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee Ranking Member Henry Cuellar (D-Texas) also spoke out Tuesday, saying that "after gutting \$1 trillion from Medicaid, stripping healthcare coverage from millions of Americans, giving the very richest Americans and large corporations massive tax breaks, adding more than \$4 trillion to the deficit, and more than quadrupling funding for mass deportations, it

turns out the Trump administration used Republicans' One Big Beautiful Bill to pay for President Trump's political ads."

"When Democrats reclaim control of Congress next year, the House Appropriations Committee will work to uncover and reverse misuses of taxpayer money like this and hold those who abused their power accountable," that pair pledged.

With Trump's approval rating dropping—largely due to poor economic conditions exacerbated by his illegal Iran War—Republicans are increasingly at risk of losing their current majorities in one or both chambers. In the House, that would likely mean not only DeLauro chairing the Appropriations Committee, but also Reps. Robert Garcia (D-Calif.), Jim Himes (D-Conn.) Jamie Raskin (D-Md.) respectively leading the Oversight, Intelligence, and Judiciary committees.

"For two years, Trump and his family have run the presidency like a family business, getting richer by the billions while Republicans in Congress held the door open," Congressional Integrity Project senior adviser Jeremy Funk said in a Tuesday statement.

Pointing to "Gulf money" for Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, "Pentagon contracts" for Donald Trump Jr., the first family's lucrative cryptocurrency schemes, and "now taxpayer-funded ads starring Trump himself," Funk charged that "every one of these rackets depended on a Republican Congress that refused to ask a single question."

"That era ends in January," he declared. "Jim Himes, Robert Garcia, and Jamie Raskin, and every other

Democratic committee chair, has the receipts, and soon they'll have the gavels and subpoena power. Trump's cronies are already lawyering up. They should be. Accountability is coming for all of them."

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), who could become speaker if Democrats reclaim the chamber, made clear in an interview with *The Associated Press* published on Saturday that "we are going to hold the crooks accountable," and "we haven't ruled anything out," including impeachment.

While some elected Democrats and political commentators have argued that impeaching Trump a historic third time wouldn't be a good use of the party's time—particularly as the Senate acquitted him in both of the previous cases—Jeffries' comments came just days after Congressman Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.), who is retiring after this term, introduced over two dozen more articles of impeachment against the president.

Meanwhile, Richard Painter, a University of Minnesota law professor who served as the White House ethics lawyer under former President George W. Bush, told *The New York Times* on Sunday that the use of federal funds for the ads could be "an impeachable offense."

"This is very dangerous," Painter said. "We do not allow government-sponsored propaganda in the United States."

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

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### BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

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Lewiston, Me., on the evening of the 5th inst. prepared a quantity of hydrogen gas at his house for use in a magic lantern, for the amusement of his four young daughters. Suddenly the gas exploded. All in the room were hurled violently against the walls, two being blown through a door. The doctor was bruised, one of the girls had her hearing destroyed, and the two remaining had arms broken. It is feared some of the children are injured so severely they will die. The furniture in the room, plastering, doors and windows were shattered, and some plants were thrown twenty feet from the house.

- Senator [Henry L.] Dawes [R-Mass.] says there are to-day 300,000 Indians who, to all intents and purposes, are as uncivilized as they were 250 years ago. [Note: In about three months, the Dawes Act goes into effect. Designed to encourage Indians to assimilate and take up subsistence farming, it ignores white settlers' inability to resist an opportunity to grab land. — The Ed.]
- Opium valued at \$20,000 has been seized by customs officers at San Francisco.
- There has been a serious revolt among the British troops at Aldershot, Eng., against the draft for service in Africa.
- Albert Koschminski, alias Bismark,

has been arrested in San Francisco, charged with complicity in the assassination at Sioux City, Iowa, of Rev. George C. Haddock, the prohibition advocate. The prisoner is said to be one of four desperadoes who were hired by bummers and liquor dealers to murder Haddock.

- While the turnkey of the Chippewa county, Mich. jail was serving supper to prisoners, the convicts locked up the jailor and escaped. They probably crossed the border.
- Gen. Miles' report, received at the war department, shows that Geronimo and his band of savages surrendered unconditionally.

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The round rock we humans call home follows a predictable path as it careens around the sun at the seemingly reckless speed of 67,100 miles per hour. We have now reached the stretch along that path where ghostly figures appear.

#### Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"If you have selfish, ignorant citizens, you're gonna get selfish, ignorant leaders."

— George Carlin (1937-2008)

"Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder."

— George Washington

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#### What's Going On

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

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**Ewing's Still Spewing**  
To the Editor:

The Democrat Party has a long anti-democratic history; now it's fielding Democrat Socialists of America (DSA) candidates who want to replace the American Constitution that protects our rights, and implement policies that will make American life more dangerous, less free, and much poorer.

Democrats use government to violate our rights or allow them to be violated. *E.g.*, FDR refused to criminalize lynchings (Trump did in 2018), Democrats established poll taxes and tests to prevent blacks from voting, the KKK went unchecked, Democrat gun laws prevented blacks from being able to defend themselves, and Biden opened our border letting about 15 million illegal aliens flood our country despite the harm to millions of (mostly poorer) Americans and costing tax-payers about \$150,000,000,000 annually.

Understanding that election integrity is needed to ensure majority (*i.e.*, democratic) rule, 70-80 percent of Americans support requiring Voter IDs and proof of citizenship to vote. Nevertheless, Congressional Democrats oppose requiring the evidence needed to ensure election integrity. Apparently Democrat politicians don't care about Democracy, only about winning even if that means cheating.

DSA supporters provide the energy in the Democrat Party; they defeated some, and threaten other Democrats to support their radical policies.

DSA candidates want to totally destroy our Constitutional Government. DSA Co-Chair Megan Romer and others identify DSA plans (<https://tinyurl.com/4mfwuch4>): eliminate the Senate and Presidency; defund: the police, ICE, Department of War, and prisons; open the borders; give amnesty and citizenship to all illegal aliens; and pack the Supreme Court (to change our Constitution and eliminate the Constitutional protections for our Freedoms, without the American people's approval).

Democrat leadership supports and funds radical, anti-democratic DSA candidates.

If you vote for Democrats, you'll lose our "Democracy," and you'll need to worry about losing your freedoms, prosperity, and becoming crime victims.

Vote Republican!  
Don Ewing  
Meredith, N.H.  
Don:

*Welcome back, we suppose. Presumably any wounds you may have incurred in your last visit have now healed. You do seem a bit rattled, though; your various gripes seem untethered to the passage of time.*

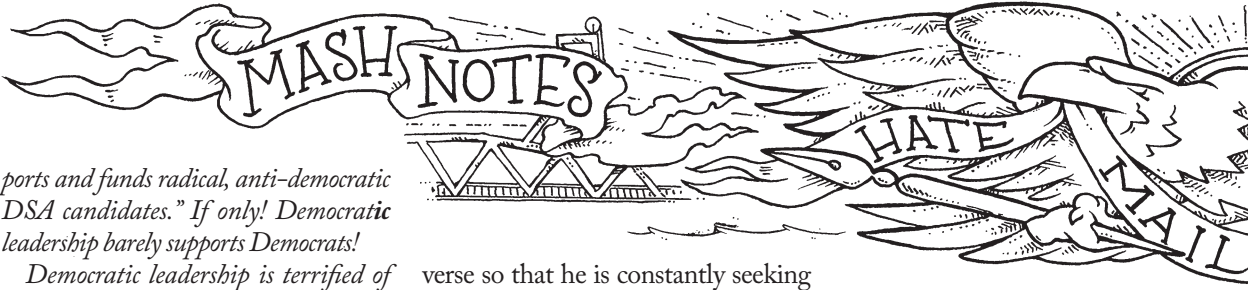
*You attempt to insult the memory of FDR, one of our greatest Presidents, by bringing up his strategic refusal to back an anti-lynching measure promoted by his wife, Eleanor. It's true, he did not support the bill. He knew that if he did, Southern Democrats—outright white supremacists, most of them—would desert him, thus killing his New Deal.*

*Oh, dear! Did we just call a bunch of Democrats racists? Indeed we did, because they were. Welcome to history. Over time, of course, those charming good ol' boys changed their registration from Democratic to Republican as the latter Party became increasingly reactionary under Goldwater and Reagan. It was Governor Reagan, by the way, who ended carry of loaded weapons in California by signing the Mulford Bill in 1967. He did it because he was scared spitless by the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense.*

*You claim that "70-80 percent of Americans support requiring Voter IDs and proof of citizenship to vote." That is what the White House says, but have you bought any \$Trump coins lately? An Economist/YouGov poll in March found that only 59 percent supported requiring proof of citizenship for voter registration.*

*Voters' concern over election integrity is the product of a decades-long propaganda campaign funded by oligarchs. The so-called "remedies" to this non-existent problem are essential components of their strategy. They bullshit the gullible into voting against their own interests, and suppress those voters who don't fall for it.*

*Believe it or not, we also have concerns about the Party whose name you insist on misspelling. They're just not the same ones. You claim that "Democrat leadership sup-*



*ports and funds radical, anti-democratic DSA candidates." If only! Democratic leadership barely supports Democrats!*

*Democratic leadership is terrified of insurgent left-leaning candidates, and is trying to smother them with "consultants from a wide array of losing campaigns, from Dan Goldman in New York to Haley Stevens and Mallory McMorrow in Michigan and Colin Allred in Texas," according to a September 25th piece at DropSite News.*

*You needn't go far for evidence; it's happening right next door: "After [Graham] Platner ran fiercely against AIPAC and Israel's genocide in Gaza, the [Troy] Jackson consultants have brought in Impact Research, one of AIPAC's top pollsters, to run polling for the campaign."*

*You keep on being you, though, Don. How else will we know we're going in the right—i.e., the other—direction?*

The Editor

=====  
**Where is Shame Now That We Need It?**

To the editor;

It has been my privilege to have voted in many elections over several years. During this time, I have voted for Republicans, Democrats and Independents depending on the candidate's policies and character. This November, however, I will not vote for a Republican candidate. The reason is straightforward—the Republican Party has become a cult. Once, it could claim to be the Party of Lincoln; now, it is the Party of Trump. Before Trump, Republicans stood for a set of conservative principles that included fiscal responsibility, *laissez-faire* economics, free markets, strong defense, and an internationalist foreign policy. Republicans respected Constitutional institutions and norms and practiced bipartisan civility. After Trump, however, few of these values are evident. They have been replaced with blind loyalty to Trump and unquestioning support for whatever policy whim he may espouse, no matter how destructive it may be.

The slavish devotion to Trump might be forgiven if he were a leader that embodied competence and dedication to the common good. He is not. He is possessed by a toxic ego that elevates himself to the center of the uni-

verse so that he is constantly seeking personal gratification and glorification. Trump is an inveterate liar, twisting or contriving facts to his benefit. His foundational lie is that the 2020 election was stolen from him, a contention that any rational person rejects. Acquiescence to the lie has become a litmus test for any Republican wishing to gain good standing with the Party. Any Republican candidate must either embrace the lie or be shunned by Trump supporters.

Trump's toxic ego has driven him to adopt foreign policies that an intelligent policymaker would avoid. Here are some examples: He has started a war with Iran that is unnecessary and lacks strategic vision. It has turned into an intractable quagmire, costing billions of dollars while wreaking havoc on global energy prices. Trump's tariff policy is shambolic. Tariffs seem to be randomly assigned to friend and foe alike with the claim that they will make America rich. The fact is that tariffs are paid by Americans either as a tax on American consumers or importers. They will contribute to an already problematic inflation rate. To achieve geopolitical goals, Trump browbeats and threatens allies, alienating the very countries that we need to maintain prosperity and a strong defense. His ridiculous trade war with Canada is an example.

Trump's domestic policies are equally damaging. He persistently attacks institutions and norms protected by the Constitution. He has assumed authoritarian power over federal agencies, treating them as his personal fiefs even in the face of judicial rulings against his actions. Based on his lie about election fraud, he has co-opted states' rights in the attempt to gain control over the election process. All these actions threaten Constitutional institutions and democratic processes. Meanwhile, he has accumulated a personal four-billion-dollar fortune through grift and self-dealing taking advantage of his office.

Trump's deranged actions have been primarily driven by his overwhelming

ego. Yet, he could not have pursued such damaging actions without the support of Congressional Republicans who have either actively abetted or simply ignored his aberrations. Republicans in Congress have abandoned their oath "To preserve and defend the Constitution," and sacrificed their moral responsibility to all citizens, to assuage the ego-driven whims of an authoritarian cult leader. They do not deserve re-election. Republican candidates that owe their fealty to Trump either lack the intelligence or the moral character to hold office.

Robert D. Russell, PhD  
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

*More than a century ago, Vice President Thomas R. Marshall famously remarked, "What this country needs is a really good five cent cigar." What we need now is a Hall of Shame, and we know just the place for it: the White House Ballroom.*

*We're almost serious about this. Most Americans with any sense are so thoroughly sick of this Bozo that they never want to hear his name or see his face again. When we say, "We get that," we're employing industrial-grade understatement.*

*'Twould be bliss to be shut of his pumpkin-shaded face, his fishy-looking lips, and his Fiberglass™ toupee, but we'd give up that bliss for some preventive measures to safeguard our future, should we somehow survive this administration.*

*Resuscitating the concept of shame would be a step in that direction.*

The Editor

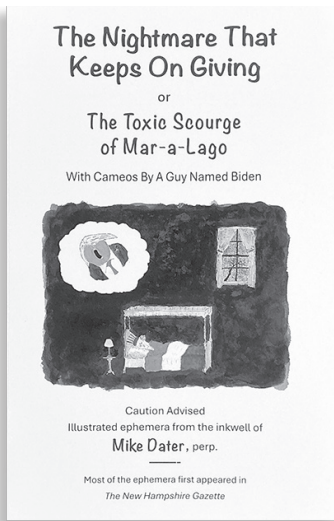
=====  
**Correcting the Sordid Record**

Dear Editor,

I hate to quibble, but two serious errors occur in the letters in your September 18th issue:

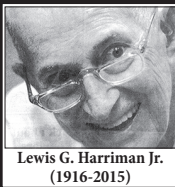
1) Rich DiPentima argues that the current war with Iran began 45 years ago. Actually, the real history of the conflict traces back to 1921 when an Iranian (then Persian) army officer named Reza Khan overthrew the hereditary monarch in a military

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



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

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Allows no inattention  
Or rest from labors.

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coup d'état, eventually having himself declared Shah, though he had about as much royal blood in him as I do. However, he was inordinately fond of Adolph Hitler, so in 1940 the Brits replaced him (with tacit U.S. approval) with his much more malleable son, Reza Pahlavi, the very same fellow the U.S. stuck with to the bitter end as he became ever more tyrannical and repressive until the ayatollahs finally overthrew him in 1979. In any case, thinking that this story begins in 1953 misses the true origin by about 32 years.

2) Meanwhile, David Snell refers to "this once principled and prosperous nation." While I certainly applaud the bravery and decency of Major Jason Watson, I must point out that much of the prosperity of this nation was built on the labor of slaves and immigrants like eastern Europeans, Mexicans and Chinese, the latter of which were not even allowed to become citizens until the middle of World War II.

As for "principled," Mr. Snell seems to be forgetting or is unaware of this country's long history of unprovoked violence and broken treaties with native societies, the theft of half of Mexico under fabricated circumstances, the conquest of the Philippines by duplicity and false promises, the practice of "slavery by another name," the Palmer Raids, the mislabeled McCarthy Era, the Nicaraguan Contras that Reagan called the equivalent of our Founding Fathers, the... oh, goodness, Principled?! This nation? How much space have you got? I'm just getting warmed up.

Bill Ehrhart  
Bryn Mawr, Pa.  
Bill:  
*It's a funny paradox, at least for those of us whose sense of humor is perhaps overly robust. Those most likely to take offense at the small selection of irrefutable facts you put before us are least likely to know any of them, but probably the loudest in their declarations of fidelity. Meanwhile, those who are aware of its frequently sordid record may be doing more than their noisy*

neighbors to improve it.  
*We would only add that this latter category includes both Messrs. DiPentima and Snell; they are, like yourself, veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.*  
The Editor

=====  
**Rights and Responsibilities**  
To the Editor:  
In his address to the United Nations General Assembly, President Trump emphasized freedom and U.S. sovereignty while dismissing the threat posed by climate change.

The principle of equal liberty calls on us to maximize our own freedom without interfering with the freedom of others. Human-induced climate change is causing sea-level rise by warming the oceans and melting land ice. Consider that millions of Bangladeshis are farming on land that is within a meter of high tide. Their freedoms should be meaningful as well.

Have we forgotten the horrific flooding in Nepal, where climate change has eroded glaciers and melted mountain permafrost, triggering a catastrophic collapse? These rapidly melting Himalayan glaciers feed rivers that sustain two billion people, many of whom live in India, Pakistan and China, which are nuclear powers.

How might President Trump's view on climate change be different if he was the head of a small island nation, whose survival is threatened by climate change, even though it has contributed very little to global carbon dioxide emissions? What about the sovereignty of Fiji and the Marshall Islands?

Climate change helps create the very refugees Trump condemned in his U.N. speech. His militarized immigration policies have turned the United States into what investigative journalist and author Christian Parenti calls an "armed lifeboat." Instead of cooperating globally or addressing the root causes of climate change, rich countries protect their own resources while shutting out the rest of the world.

Although liberty is a fundamental right, the flip side of every right is a re-

sponsibility. Indian scientist and activist Vandana Shiva points out that the "separation of rights and responsibilities is the beginning of any destructive enterprise."

America has extraordinary power to shape the world, and the U.S. should embrace that responsibility through climate action.

Terry Hansen  
Grafton, Wisconsin  
Terry:  
*The American people, we have little doubt, would by and large agree with the moral policies you propose. The difficulty lies in getting our representatives in government to carry out the will of the people.*

*The compromises necessary to acquire political power seem, far more often than not, to ultimately require that those who have attained it serve instead the interests of the owners of the industries that are doing all the damage.*  
The Editor

=====  
**Incompetence 101**  
To the Editor:

The Navy's 5th fleet patrols the Persian Gulf. Its home port is in Bahrain. The naval base there was home to 8,000 personnel and 1,300 family members. Then Donald Trump and Israel's prime minister decided to start a war with Iran. Iran responded by attacking our military bases in Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, the UAE and Saudi Arabia with missiles and drones.

Today, there are only 100 personnel and no family members at the base in Bahrain. The 5th fleet has no port to use in the region. It is the reason the aircraft carrier *Abraham Lincoln* was stuck at sea for nine months. It is likely that the naval base will never be used again because Iran can attack it at will.

President Trump calls the war small potatoes. Is it small potatoes when a country with no navy or air force can drive us out of our bases in the region and stop the flow of oil and natural gas from the region? Is it small potatoes that a president desperate to end the war can't because Iran won't let him?

Trump started this war claiming he was smarter than presidents Obama and Biden. He has proved the opposite and the country and the world are paying the price.

Walter Hamilton  
Portsmouth, N.H.  
Walter:  
*Dwight D. Eisenhower died on March 28, 1969, officially of congestive heart failure. Maybe so. Or maybe a time traveler went back and told him Donald Trump, Pete Hegseth, and Bibi Netanyahu had started a war with Iran.*  
*Seriously—how has this man not been impeached?*  
The Editor

=====  
**Scratch This Guy**  
Dear Editor:

At a meeting with the Portsmouth Rotary club, Republican candidate for Congress Anthony DiLorenzo faced some tough questions regarding his thoughts on Mr. Trump's policies and behavior. Considering that Mr. Trump has a 67 percent disapproval rating in New Hampshire, it was not surprising to hear Mr. DiLorenzo distance himself from Trump on issues such as tariffs and Canada. He is not the only Republican facing tight races to conveniently disagree with Trump on some issues, because they know doing otherwise will cost them votes. For example, even in the deep red state of Florida, the Republican candidate for Governor has removed all references to Trump from his campaign website.

Of course, we all know that politicians can say one thing during a campaign and act very differently once elected to office. While Mr. DiLorenzo may be sincere, the problem with electing a Republican to Congress has other major consequences. Having a Republican win a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives from New Hampshire could allow Republicans to retain control of the House and keep Mike Johnson as Speaker of the House. With that, we will continue to have a Congress that accomplishes nothing to help the American people, will continue to prevent any oversight and accountability of the Executive Branch and allow Trump to continue destroying our country and our relations with our former allies.

We must also remember that Mr.

DiLorenzo was endorsed by Mr. Trump and, as such, has some allegiance to him. While Mr. DiLorenzo says he does not like everything Trump has done, when push comes to shove when it comes to tough votes, he will most likely support Trump to maintain his favour and support for his reelection in two years. Considering the damage Trump and his Republican allies in Congress have inflicted on America and the world, we cannot afford to allow them to maintain total control of our government.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.  
Rich:  
*By our reckoning, New Hampshire hasn't had an automobile dealer worthy of public office since Hugh Gallen died in harness more than forty years ago.*  
The Editor

=====  
**Where is Beshear on Guns?**  
Dear Editor:

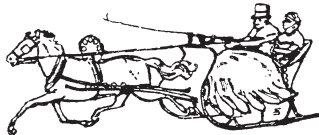
Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, before a crowded audience in Gibson's Bookstore, downtown Concord, N.H., elevated often flagging spirits.

Ongoing false claims and Constitutional violations by Pres. Trump are such downers. Gov. Beshear was introduced by former N.H. Gov. John Lynch, who'd read Beshear's debut book, *Go and Do Likewise*, its title being a quote from the Biblical parable of the Good Samaritan: "Treat others with kindness," rather than using government power for cruel acts. Gov. Lynch's questions let Gov. Beshear relate personal stories from the book, then the audience asked more questions.

A surprising uplift for me came with an answer naming other Democratic governors who are, "as a team," preparing for our 2028 election, so crucial for our nation's success. The best of minds can resurrect the U.S.'s reputation abroad, and practice humanity here. Our tax dollars could be directed, as now they are not, to good uses.

I never got to ask my question, so

to next page



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from  
previous page

I will here. An early question was about farmers and our food supply, facing barriers created by DJT. When I taught at a Massachusetts Community College, my student Michelle C., from Boston's inner-city, told our class that, "where I live it's easier to buy a gun than a good, crisp apple." I would have asked Gov. Beshear about the plague of guns in this country, and the unnecessary gun deaths. He'd told of violent shooting deaths at Old National Bank in Louisville, and lives lost there, including of a personal friend. His book also discusses Charlie Kirk's shooting death, saying it was part of "the price we pay" for our Constitution's Second Amendment.

Where does he stand on the tough question of gun availability?

Lynn Rudmin Chong  
Sanbornton, N.H.

—==—

### God Forbid They Act Like Christians

To the Editor:

Muslim Americans are our neighbors, coworkers and fellow citizens. They are entitled to the same full place in our national community as every other American.

Yet Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-Wisc.) has said that Islam "does not comport with modern Western thought," and that, when practiced as written, it is "a violent religion."

That rhetoric isn't limited to one person or one incident. Rep. Nancy Mace (R-S.C.) wrote on X that "Every single Muslim holding public office in America is a trojan horse and a threat to national security and the republic." Rep. Andy Ogles (R-Tenn.) also posted that "Muslims don't belong in American society." And Rep. Randy Fine (R-Fla.) went even further, writing: "If they force us to choose, the choice between dogs and Muslims is not a difficult one."

Notably, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) said he spoke with

the members about their "tone and message," but he declined to publicly condemn their statements.

These remarks do more than criticize particular ideas or policies. They portray an entire religious community—including families, students and public servants—as inherently suspect and outside the national "we." That is precisely the danger Holocaust survivor Herbert C. Kelman warned against in his essay, "Dignity and Dehumanization." Kelman wrote: "The central lesson that I have learned from the Holocaust is that we must never allow any people, any human group, to be excluded from our moral community." For Kelman, a moral community is one in which people recognize obligations to one another.

Public officials should reject language that casts millions of Americans as threats because of their faith, and instead affirm the equal dignity and safety of Muslim Americans.

Terry Hansen

Grafton, Wisconsin

Terry:

*We can't say it's true of all Republicans, but asking one in the MAGA cult to treat Muslims with the respect all human beings deserve would be asking a lot.*

*For one thing, you'd be asking them to put what most of them claim to be their deeply held religious faith above their political party. Not likely to happen, given their propensity for violating various Commandments.*

*As if that weren't enough, you'd also be asking them to forego the pleasure of bullying someone who, in all likelihood, is in an inferior socio-economic position. You spoilsport.*

The Editor

—==—

*"The unrestricted competition so commonly advocated does not leave us the survival of the fittest. The unscrupulous succeed best in accumulating wealth."*

— President Rutherford B. Hayes  
(1877–1881), Diary entry,  
December 12, 1890.

## The Hydrocarbon Doctrine:

# War is Hell, Energy is Business

by Richard M. Balzano

Venezuela, Iran, Ukraine, and Gaza appear to be separate crises, each with its own history and its own official Washington explanation. Viewed against the global energy economy, however, they begin to look considerably less distinct, as oil fields, gas reserves, pipelines, refineries, shipping lanes, sanctions, and competition for customers repeatedly intersect with American foreign policy. The countries and circumstances vary, but control over hydrocarbons and the markets through which they flow remains remarkably constant. Study the global energy economy if you want to understand American foreign policy.

After murdering fishermen accused of smuggling drugs in boats that could not plausibly make the journey across the Gulf to the United States and kidnapping Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, Washington moved remarkably quickly from military violence to the disposition of Venezuela's oil. The Trump administration calls its new arrangement the "biggest oil deal in world history": U.S. control over more than 65 billion barrels of proven reserves. A private company gets 100-year concessions on 17 fields, Washington gets rights to a 35 percent stake, and the United States gets preferential access to the crude, an extraordinary progression from gunboats and airstrikes to the kidnapping of a head of state and, finally, an oil deal.

This poses two problems that provide convenient solutions. First, Venezuela's Bolivarian Constitution reserves the petroleum industry and other strategic industries to the state and requires state ownership of PDVSA, while the new hydrocarbons framework moves explicitly toward privatization. Such concessions will likely discredit the Bolivarian government that Washington has long tried to remove.

Next, Venezuelan crude is exceptionally heavy and difficult to process, but certain Gulf Coast refineries were built to handle it. In particular, Saudi Aramco's American trading operation has already purchased Venezuelan heavy crude this year; and Aramco is the sole supplier to Motiva in Port Arthur, Texas, the largest refinery in the U.S. The money gets interesting here because Saudi Arabia's relationship with Trump extends well beyond ordinary diplomacy. Trump bragged during his first campaign that Saudis bought his properties and "pay me millions," while Saudi-funded lobbyists later spent hundreds of thousands at Trump's Washington hotel. The Saudi sovereign wealth fund put \$2 billion into Jared Kushner's investment firm after he left the White House, Saudi-backed LIV Golf has repeatedly brought tournaments to Trump properties, and the Trump family business continues expanding its Saudi real-estate interests. Allegations that Saudi and Emirati money was illegally funneled into

Trump's campaigns should not be taken lightly.

Saudi Aramco now owns the American refinery ideally positioned for renewed Venezuelan heavy crude, while domestic drillers may be considerably less enthusiastic about restoring Venezuelan production. More supply means downward pressure on prices, and although cheap gasoline is good politics, cheap oil is not necessarily good for producers in Texas, Oklahoma, and North Dakota. Venezuela needs enormous investment before production can increase substantially, however, allowing Trump to promise cheaper energy now while red-state producers may not feel the competitive squeeze until after the midterms.

Iran offers another illustration of the relationship between American military policy and energy markets. The Strait of Hormuz normally carries roughly one-fifth of global oil and LNG shipments, and a U.S. naval blockade has accomplished what years of sanctions could not by reducing Iranian crude exports through the strait. Disruption there raises oil prices, increases shipping costs, and convulses LNG markets, making war over Hormuz inseparable

from control over the movement and price of global energy. Trump has repeatedly juiced markets with bogus promises of imminent peace with Iran, boosting stocks and knocking down oil prices. Meanwhile, his accounts have traded millions in securities, including oil and gas stocks. Suspiciously large oil trades just before his Iran announcements have prompted calls for an insider-trading investigation, but a Congress accustomed to self-enrichment through insider trading will likely not mount an offensive on this front.

Ukraine presents much the same pattern. Ukrainian drones are systematically attacking Russia's petroleum industry, damaging refineries, disrupting fuel supplies, and imposing repairs made more difficult by sanctions. Whatever the military rationale, the campaign is simultaneously degrading one of America's principal energy competitors. Breaking Western Europe's dependence on Russian energy has been a Washington objective since the early Cold War, when policymakers regarded European reliance on Soviet oil and gas as a strategic vulnerability that gave Moscow leverage over Western Europe and undermined the American policy of containing and isolating the Soviet Union.

Nord Stream belongs within that longer history. Before Russia invaded Ukraine, Biden promised that if Putin invaded, "there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it." Months later, the pipeline was blown up. Seymour Hersh reported that Biden ordered the operation and that American divers planted the explosives with Norwegian assistance; Washington denied it, and later investigations pointed toward Ukrainians (dependent on U.S. support and taking their marching orders from Washington). Who actually planted the charges is

irrelevant, as the economic result is indisputable: infrastructure connecting Russia directly to Germany disappeared, Russian-European energy trade collapsed, and American LNG gained an enormous European market. Prices and profits are up.

The demand that Ukrainians continue fighting therefore deserves to be considered alongside the energy consequences of prolonging the war, particularly in light of Zelenskyy's firing of popular Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov. After his dismissal, Fedorov warned about corruption, a military culture of lies and unaccountability, and the absence of a coherent strategy for both targeted attacks and ending the war. His criticism raises the question Washington would prefer Americans not ask: after years of death, mobilization, forced conscription, destroyed infrastructure, and enormous Western expenditures, what exactly is the plan?

Zelenskyy may indeed have a plan, but ending the war does not appear to be part of it. Perhaps that



is unsurprising when Ukraine supplies the soldiers while Washington and its allies supply the money, weapons, and intelligence, and Ukrainian drones destroy Russian refineries.

Sanctions remain in place, Europe remains separated from Russian energy, and American energy dominates European markets, making the war's continuation a remarkably favorable strategic outcome for Washington.

With events moving so quickly, another hydrocarbon interest risks disappearing from view. Roughly 20 miles off Gaza sits the Gaza Marine field, containing about one trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Discovered by British Gas more than two decades ago, it could provide Palestinians with energy independence and billions in revenue, but it has never been developed. Israel retains the practical military power to determine whether it can be extracted, while British, American, and Israeli interests have maneuvered for decades around the eastern Mediterranean's energy resources. Amid Gaza's destruction and arguments over who controls what comes afterward, Anglo-American-Israeli ambitions to procure and control the region's hydrocarbons should not disappear from view.

As long as there is war, sanctions can exclude Russian energy and ensure that somebody else gets the customer. Venezuela, Hormuz, Nord Stream, Russian refineries, and Gaza have very different histories, but hydrocarbons repeatedly appear at the center of American strategic interests. Military power rearranges energy markets, sanctions help lock the new arrangements into place, and the resulting profits rarely figure in public explanations for the violence. The dead do not appear on the balance sheet, but hydrocarbons do.

—==—

*Richard M. Balzano is a 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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BETTER OLD NEWS  
THAN NEW LIES

from page three

- William Tayer Simpkins, a young New York millionaire, was thrown from his horse and killed.
- The condemned Chicago anarchist murderers are to be hanged Dec. 3rd.
- Clothes-line thieves are making frequent depredations at Concord.
- John Goodwin of Sandwich had about one-third of his potato crop stolen from the field.
- Barney Nones of Dover, aged seventy years, was found in a dying condition on the floor of his house last Thursday night, and died the next day. The doctors decided that death was due to starvation. His wife died three years ago, and he has lived a hermit's life since in his residence in an isolated part of the city.
- In a court at Lawrence, Mass., Oct., 11th, George A. Tucker of North Andover pleaded guilty to the charge of polygamy. On Oct. 8th, 1884, he married Mary Dillon, and on April 26th following he married Ida Nutting, who was subsequently found poisoned to death in Dover, N.H. Tucker was given two years in the house of correction.
- E.P. Schmidt, one of the best known Wall street speculators, has failed.

The New Hampshire Gazette  
October 14, 1886

- A son of Gen. Robert E. Lee, in accepting a congressional nomination down in Virginia the other day, had something to say about "the northern hordes who a few years ago overran, plundered and devastated the fair county of Culpepper." Our democratic brethren of the press will please rebuke this blatherskite for such an offensive waving of the bloody shirt. [Note: The item refers to William Henry Fitzhugh "Rooney" Lee, General Lee's second son. A Harvard dropout, Lee was described by classmate Henry Adams as big, handsome, and "simple beyond analysis; so simple... [n]o one knew enough to know how ignorant he was; how childlike; how helpless before the relative complexity of a school." A Confederate cavalry general during the Civil War, "Rooney" Lee was elected to the House in 1886 and served until his death in 1891. — The Ed.]
- The statue of liberty on Bedloe's island is all ready for dedication.
- Nashville, Tenn., has a citizen who in dress and general conduct appears

God Bless America  
(a prose poem)

"I find all are mad in your country."  
Edward Randolph, British royal agent for New England  
to Boston merchant Samuel Shrimpton, 1684

Talk about prescient! This guy was way ahead of his time, and didn't even yet know the half of it, though he's figured out Americans even before we were Americans. We were, of course, still hanging witches decades after Europeans realized that witches didn't actually exist, an insight into who we really are that Randolph might have noticed.



After all, the Puritans were actually religious loonies, utterly intolerant of anything and anyone who disagreed with their beliefs. Ask William Leddra, Mary Dyer, William Robinson. Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams ought to thank their lucky stars they only suffered banishment.

But like I said, Edward Randolph, prescient as he was, had no idea what all lay ahead: violent subjugation of a continent inhabited by others, violent subjugation of a people from still another continent, violent creation of an empire, all the while proclaiming liberty and justice, freedom and democracy.

Just make sure that you're not Black or Brown or Yellow, eastern European, communist or socialist or homosexual, female, poor, Muslim, Hindu, emigrating from any country different from the one those Puritans had come from.

And if you think we've finally gotten past our sordid past of violence and intolerance, have you not noticed everything we thought had finally changed wiped out in less than a decade? A woman's right to choose, gay rights, civil rights, diversity, equity, inclusion, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses." You're kidding, right? Half the people in this country—mostly white men like the leaders of those Puritans of old—actually support the madman in the Whitewash House.

Maybe Edward Randolph was exaggerating when he said that "all are mad" in America, but he wasn't too far off.

— W.D. Ehrhart

- to be perfectly sane, but each morning he gets up early, fills a small bag with food, a little tobacco and some stones, goes to the river and throws it in. Asked why he does this he says: "Brother can't get anything to eat under the water." One of his brothers was drowned.
- William E. Shaw, a paper-box manufacturer of Saugus, Mass., is missing. So is Mrs. Lillie Gill, who worked in Shaw's factory. Shaw is married and has three children.
  - The earth is supposed to lose time at the rate of half a second in a century. Very few of the present gener-

ation will live long enough to see it stop altogether.

- Louise Michel, the famous communist, has been pardoned, and will soon be released from a French prison. [Note: Famous doesn't begin to cover it. A combat veteran of the Paris Commune, Michel was sentenced to seven years in the French penal colony in New Caledonia. Back in France in 1883, she was the first person to raise the black flag of anarchy. She helped found La Révolution Cosmopolite, an anarchist newspaper. When she died of pneumonia in 1905, at the age of 74, 100,000 attended her funeral.

A Paris Metro station is named in her honor. — The Ed.]

The New Hampshire Gazette  
October 21, 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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Montana Proposes  
a Way to Stop "Dark  
Money" Corruption  
of Our Democracy

by Jim Hightower

It's the fall harvest season, when many farm stands and homes decorate with pumpkins, corn stalks, and maybe even a straw man.

How to make a straw man? Easy—stuff a couple of burlap bags with hay and dress your "man" in an old flannel shirt, overalls, and straw hat. But today's billionaires, corporate elites, and other political megadonors have come up with their own version of this creature—stuff a couple of silk pillows with thousand-dollar bills, dress him in a fine-tailored suit, and—*voilà!*—they turn a common straw man into a congress man.

The stuffing is what allows corporate powers to create a government that routinely serves their avarice at the expense of the rest of us. Indeed, in this election season, they've already stuffed about two billion dollars into congress creatures who'll support their AI data centers, tax breaks, and other boondoggles.

Who are these money stuffers? Ahh, that's the secret to their corruption. In 2010, America's partisan, corporatized Supreme Court handed a legalistic, anti-democracy weapon to them called "Dark Money" to giant corporations.

By judicial dictate, the Court's Republican majority ruled that executives can give unlimited sums of corporate cash to SuperPACs to elect their straw men—without telling us commoners who is buying which lawmakers and at what price.

Secret money equals secret government. Yet, both parties are going along with this corruption, claiming to be "powerless" to overturn the Court's edict.

Powerless? What about asking The People to intervene? An overwhelming majority of Americans of every political stripe despise the Dark Money trick and will rally behind any serious effort to kill it. A bipartisan effort to do just that is now underway in Montana. Learn about it from [transparentelection.org](http://transparentelection.org)—then go forth and multiply.

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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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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, OCTOBER 4 | MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 |
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**2017**—America learns the hard way it has 800 troops in Niger: four Green Berets are killed in an ambush. **2004**—*SpaceShipOne*, Burt Rutan's tourist rocket, makes it to space a second time, winning the Ansari X Prize. **2002**—Knight-Ridder: “The White House and the Pentagon...are pressuring intelligence analysts to highlight information that supports Bush’s Iraq policy.” One paper runs the story. **2001**—George W.[MD] Bush orders the NSA to spy on Americans without getting warrants, *i.e.*, illegally. **1986**—Dan Rather is attacked on the streets of New York by two men yelling, “What’s the frequency, Ken?” **1971**—Pres. Nguyen Van Thieu, unopposed, is reelected. He says it’s “an achievement for democracy” in “Nam. **1958**—At 12:45 a.m., Thomas “Fitz” Fitzpatrick wins a bar bet by landing a “borrowed” Cessna on Amsterdam Ave. and 187th St. in Manhattan, just as he had done two years earlier. **1957**—Two bombs wound 13 GIs in Saigon—the first announced U.S. casualties in Vietnam. **1936**—Two thousand British fascists try marching through largely-Jewish Stepney; 20,000 anti-fascists forcibly explain to them why that’s a bad idea. **1918**—The world’s largest munitions factory explodes in South Amboy, N.J., killing 80. Thousands more are made homeless and are left exposed to the elements. Many catch influenza; 300 of them die from it.

**2017**—The Senate confirms a new Ambassador to the Czech Republic: Steve King, who, in 1972, forcibly injected Martha Mitchell with tranquilizers on orders from her husband, ex-AG John Mitchell, to keep her from talking to the press. **2010**—“Fox and Friends” reports that Los Angeles has bought \$1 billion worth of jet packs for its Police and Fire Departments. They cribbed the story from the *Weekly World News*. **2003**—Timothy Treadwell and Amie Huguenard learn the hard way that their supposed “friends”—Alaskan grizzly bears—are not vegetarians. **2002**—George W.[MD] Bush tells N.H. Guardsmen that Saddam could inflict “massive and sudden horror” on the U.S. It’s not true. **2001**—Robert Stevens, an editor of the supermarket tabloid *The Sun*, dies of anthrax. The perp remains at large. **1988**—In a Vice-Presidential debate, Lloyd Bbentsen informs Dan Quayle that he’s “no Jack Kennedy.” **1986**—Nicaraguans shoot down a U.S. plane illegally supplying Contras with arms bought with the proceeds of U.S. illegal arms sales to Iran. **1971**—Pat Buchanan advises Nixon to take government action that would “cut [the country] in half,” because the GOP will get “the larger half.” **1945**—Goons from the mobbed-up union IATSE, in bed with movie studio bosses, attack CSU strikers in the “Battle of Burbank;” 40 are injured.

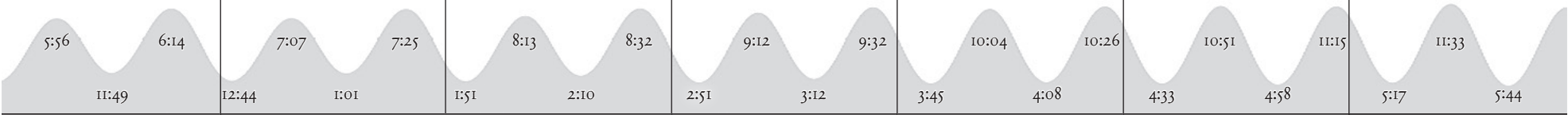
**1976**—Cubana Flight 455 is bombed over Barbados, killing 73. Everyone suspects CIA-trained Luis Posada Carriles, a Miami resident, is behind it; but the U.S. won’t extradite. **1970**—The replacement statue of a cop in Chicago’s Haymarket Square is blown to bits by the Weathermen. **1969**—The statue of a cop in Chicago’s Haymarket Square is blown to bits by the Weathermen. **1961**—President Kennedy recommends that, in case of nuclear war, American families get ready to live for a while in holes in the ground. **1932**—At a foreclosure auction in Elgin, Neb., neighbors buy the Von Bonn farm for pennies on the dollar and give it back to the owner, a widow. **1927**—Lawyer-turned bootlegger George Remus shoots his wife dead in front of witnesses in a Cincinnati park (she had an affair with a revenue agent and stole all his money). Defending himself, he’s acquitted on grounds of temporary insanity. Prosecutors try to have him committed, since he’s insane; but he cites their witnesses, who said he was sane, and goes free. **1856**—Portsmouth celebrates the centennial of the founding of *The New Hampshire Gazette*. Extra trains bring visitors from around New England and beyond for a parade, a regatta, and a banquet featuring many speeches. **1536**—William Tyndale is strangled and burned for printing a Bible in English so people could read it.

**2020**—The nation is mesmerized during the Vice Presidential debate, as a fly takes a stroll on Mike Pence’s hair. **2016**—The *Washington Post* releases a videotape on which the GOP Presidential candidate brags about grabbing women by their genitals. Hours later, hacked emails of his opponent’s campaign chairman are released. **2004**—George W.[MD] Bush and Dick “Dick” Cheney do the bait-and-switch: so what if Saddam didn’t have WMDs—he cheated on oil-for-food. **2001**—“Operation Enduring Freedom” begins with the CIA botching the first-ever drone strike; Taliban chief Mullah Omar gets away. **1996**—Fox News begins broadcasting mass quantities of insidious swill. **1985**—Attorney General Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese patiently explains that “Miranda only helps guilty defendants,” because “if a person is innocent of a crime, then he is not a suspect.” **1985**—Stop illegal meddling in Nicaragua? No, the Reagan administration pulls the U.S. out of the World Court. **1969**—Sam Melville bombs the Whitehall Induction Center in N.Y.C. A right-wing informer helps send him to Attica, where he’s murdered by a cop during the uprising. **1756**—Daniel Fowle and enslaved pressman Primus X begin printing *The New Hampshire Gazette* in Portsmouth. It achieves national seniority in 1839 when the *Maryland Gazette* [founded 1727] folds.

**2004**—American warplanes miss Abu Musab al Zarqawi but kill 13 people at a wedding instead. **1991**—House Speaker Tom Foley [D-Wash.] says the Sergeant-at-Arms will fix no more traffic tickets for Reps. **1985**—Dining at the White House, President Reagan “praises incessantly” his guest’s most recent work of art: *Rambo: First Blood, Part II*. **1974**—Undermined by Mafioso Michele Sindona, pal of President Nixon’s Treasury Secretary David Kennedy, Franklin National Bank goes bust. **1969**—A three-day riot branded “Days of Rage” begins in Chicago. **1968**—Washington, D.C. riots after police shoot a Black man. **1967**—Ernesto “Che” Guevara is captured by Bolivian troops led by the CIA’s Felix Rodriguez. **1955**—“The nations of the world will have to unite” warns loopy General Douglas MacArthur, “for the next war will be an interplanetary war.” **1942**—Shot down on a mission for which he volunteered, Capt. Earl Pease, of Plymouth, N.H., is beheaded by his Japanese captors. **1918**—In the Argonne, ex-pacifist Cpl. Alvin C. York kills 25 German soldiers and captures 132. **1871**—According to myth, a cow starts a fire that burns Chicago and kills 200. Meanwhile, Peshtigo, Wisc. burns completely and 600 die. **1775**—Washington and his generals decide: no Negroes in their Army.

**2005**—Four people die when the Cold River floods Alstead, N.H. **2001**—Two Democratic Senators receive letters carrying anthrax spores. **1998**—In “a mockery of the regulatory process” that “brazenly violates existing law,” Citicorp and Travelers Group merge into Citigroup, enriching Sandy Weill and Jamie Dimon but costing taxpayers billions. **1992**—A meteorite strike in Peekskill, N.Y. turns Michelle Knapp’s \$300 Chevy Malibu into a tourist attraction she sells for \$25,000. **1974**—Rep. Wilbur Mills [D-Ark.] is stopped at 2 a.m. for speeding with his headlights off. His passenger, Fanne [sic] Foxe, aka “The Argentine Firecracker,” hops into the Tidal Basin. **1967**—Ernesto “Che” Guevara taunts his executioner: “Just shoot, you coward. You are only killing a man.” **1966**—In a prop-driven Douglas A1 Skyraider, Lt. JG William T. Patton downs a MiG-17 jet over Vietnam. **1965**—“We should declare war on North Vietnam,” says WWII REMF Ronald Reagan. “We could pave the whole country and put parking strips on it, and still be home by Christmas.” **1940**—Race-neutral provisions of the Selective Service Act notwithstanding, FDR announces that the “Greatest Generation™” will fight the fascists in segregated units. **1776**—The Second Continental Congress renames the “United Colonies.” They’re now the United States.

**2019**—CNN: “Two men connected to Giuliani’s Ukraine efforts charged with funneling foreign money into [Donald Trump’s] U.S. election.” **2015**—News reports say two 1976 assassinations in Washington, D.C. were ordered by CIA-installed Chilean dictator A. Pinochet, and covered up by the CIA and President Reagan. **2012**—Donald Trump, projecting, accuses Barack Obama of “laundering money into his campaign from illegal online foreign donations.” **2002**—The House votes to let Presidents use the Pentagon as they please. **1991**—Seven of New Hampshire’s largest banks, holding 25% of all deposits and 60% of all commercial loans, are closed by regulators. **1990**—Coached by Hill & Knowlton, the Kuwaiti Ambassador’s daughter lies to Congress about incubators. **1973**—Pleading “nolo” to taking bribes, Spiro “Ted” Agnew resigns. **1969**—Richard Nixon puts his “mad-man theory” into practice, ordering a gratuitous global nuclear alert. **1963**—Atmospheric nuke tests are banned. Nuke use in war is still OK. **1963**—Robert Kennedy caves to J. Edgar Hoover’s demands and OKs wiretaps on MLK’s phone. **1957**—A three-day fire begins at Britain’s Windscale plutonium plant. **1933**—A Boeing 247 airliner is destroyed by a bomb over Indiana. Seven passengers and three crew die in the first such incident in history.



| SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 | MONDAY, OCTOBER 12 | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13 | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15 | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 |
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**2006**—Nine years after she was hit by a lamppost knocked over by a Macy’s parade balloon, Kathleen Caronna’s Manhattan apartment burns after being struck by Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle’s crashing Cirrus airplane. **2003**—Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez, 33, gives Yankee coach Don Zimmer a shove, knocking the 72-year old Zimmer to the ground. **2002**—The U.S. Senate approves the error made yesterday by the House. **1991**—Anita Hill testifies before Congress that she was sexually harassed by her former boss, Supreme Court Justice-to-be Clarence Thomas. **1973**—Henry Kissinger tells Brent Scowcroft that President Nixon can’t take a call from the British Prime Minister because he’s too “loaded.” **1963**—NSAM 263 lays out JFK’s (secret) plan: get out of Vietnam. Six weeks later he and his plan are dead. **1960**—At the podium, in the UN, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev drives his point home with a shoe. **1954**—The French driven out, the Viet Minh take over North Vietnam. **1945**—Mao’s Red Army goes to war against Chiang Kai-Shek’s kleptocracy. **1937**—Physicians warn the AMA that Massengil’s new miracle drug “Elixir Sulfanilamide” is causing their patients to die in agony. **1809**—At Grinder’s Stand, a tavern, Meriwether Lewis cuts his wrists and shoots himself twice—according to the official version of events.

**1984**—A Provisional IRA bomb in a Brighton hotel kills five, but its top target, Maggie Thatcher, is unscathed. **1972**—A race riot aboard the USS *Kitty Hawk* leaves 47 injured. **1970**—Lieut. William Calley is court-martialed for 102 murders. **1968**—Navy nurse Susan Schnall drops anti-war leaflets from a plane onto five Bay-area military bases. **1964**—JFK’s intimate friend Mary Pinchot Meyer is murdered under the murkiest of circumstances. **1964**—Canadian John Watkins, suspected of spying by CIA man James Jesus Angleton, is interrogated to death in a Montreal hotel. **1963**—Bone spurs? What bone spurs? Donald Trump leads a drill team in N.Y.C.’s Columbus Day Parade. **1961**—The FBI launches a “Socialist Worker Disruption Program.” **1960**—Otoya Yamaguchi, 17, a right-winger, runs a sword through Inejiro Asanuma, leader of the Socialists, during a televised debate. **1923**—Thousands of Ku Klux Klansmen hold a rally in Portland, Maine. **1920**—Rev. J. Holmes is arrested in Mt. Vernon, N.Y. for publicly reading the Constitution without a permit. **1917**—Passchendaele begins: 13,000 Allied casualties, no advance. **1492**—A lost European begins oppressing native Americans. **1131**—A black pig darts from a Paris dung heap and trips a horse, killing the rider: King Philip of France, 15.

**2004**—Ordered to deliver useless contaminated fuel across hostile Iraqi terrain in un-armored trucks, 19 U.S. Army Reservists wisely say “nope.” **2004**—Andrea Mackris sues her ex-boss, Fox’s Bill O’Reilly, for making lewd phones calls. Two weeks later O’Reilly pays her \$9M to shut up. **2004**—George W.[MD] Bush claims during a televised debate, “Gosh, I don’t think I ever said I’m not worried about Osama bin Laden. That’s kind of one of those exaggerations,” directly contradicting his own statement of March 3, 2002 that he’s “not that much concerned about him.” **1991**—A lie detector test suggests Anita Hill is telling the truth about her ex-boss Clarence Thomas. **1988**—Radiocarbon dating says the Shroud of Turin is 780 years old. **1972**—A plane carrying a Uruguayan rugby team crashes high in the Andes, leading to culinary improvisation. **1967**—Two Marines die and 21 are wounded when a Marine pilot accidentally bombs them at Con Thien. **1925**—Birth of Lenny Bruce. **1812**—Maj. Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer orders regulars across the Canadian border. Those who aren’t shot are forced to surrender. A troop of U.S. militia then refuses orders to invade. **1660**—Major General Thomas Harrison goes to his hanging, drawing, and quartering “looking as cheerful as any man could do in that condition,” according to diarist Samuel Pepys.

**2018**—RIP, Emilio V. Maddaloni. **2011**—Weeks after a U.S. drone smites his dad, a U.S. citizen in Yemen, Abdulrahman Anwar al-Awlaki, also a U.S. citizen, meets the same fate. Neither ever got a trial. **1984**—KFBK in Sacramento replaces Morton Downey Jr., with someone even worse: Rush Limbaugh. **1976**—The U.S., presided over by Gerald Ford, Republican, apologizes to Japan, offended by a Hiroshima re-enactment in which Paul Tibbets flew a B-29 over Harlingen, Texas, creating a [mock] mushroom cloud. **1968**—Protestors in the Army’s Presidio stockade sit and sing “We Shall Overcome.” They’re charged with mutiny, which carries the death penalty. **1968**—The Pentagon orders 24,000 troops back to Vietnam for an involuntary second tour. **1947**—Blaming it on “an alliance between industrialists and the Republican majority in Congress,” UMW President John L. Lewis calls Taft-Hartley “the first ugly, savage thrust of fascism in America.” **1947**—Broken ribs be damned: Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier. **1943**—Prisoners of Sobibor revolt, killing officers and guards. Half the 600 prisoners escape under fire. **1912**—William Schranck, who later says, “any man looking for a third term ought to be shot,” plugs Teddy Roosevelt in the chest. Though he’s bleeding, TR delivers the rest of his speech.

**2008**—The Dow loses 7.8 percent of its value in its 2nd worst day ever. **2004**—Jon Stewart appears on CNN’s “Crossfire” and begs Tucker Carlson to “stop hurting America.” Less than 90 days later CNN announces the show is over. **1987**—Socialist Thomas Sankara, President of Burkina Faso and an opponent of the World Bank, is assassinated in a French-backed coup. **1969**—In the U.S., two million march in the first Vietnam Moratorium. One demo in Boston draws 100,000. **1966**—In Oakland, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale form the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. **1965**—David Miller becomes the first American to publicly burn his draft card in Vietnam War protest. **1963**—The FBI issues a racist “report” claiming communes were influencing Martin Luther King, Jr. It’s all lies. **1942**—A B-17 slams into New Mexico’s North Baldy Peak, which is 200 feet higher than the charts said it was. **1923**—The Senate begins investigating Albert Fall, the Republican Interior Secretary who, after leasing the Navy’s Teapot Dome oilfield to a friend, suddenly became prosperous. **1910**—The first in-flight radio message is sent by Melvin Vaniman, aboard the airship *America*: “Roy, come and get this goddamn cat.” **1883**—The Supreme Court guts the Civil Rights Act of 1875, ushering in the era of the Jim Crow South.

**2002**—George W.[MD] Bush signs the law he demanded giving him permission to start an unprovoked war. **1973**—Fred and Donald Trump are sued by the Justice Dept. for discriminating against minority renters. Their lawyer, Roy Cohn, countersues, claiming the victims are the Trumps. **1973**—After Henry Kissinger gets the Nobel Peace Prize, Tom Lehrer declares political satire obsolete. **1968**—Tommie Smith and John Carlos raise the Black Power salute. **1962**—At breakfast, President John F. Kennedy finds he’s got a Cuban Missile Crisis on his plate. **1946**—Inept Army MSgt. John C. Woods hangs ten Nazis at Nuremberg. Heads bash the trap; two choke for 14 minutes, Ribbentrop for 24. **1920**—In N.Y.C., 30,000 Great War vets march, demanding a bonus. **1916**—Margaret Sanger opens the first U.S. birth control clinic, in Brooklyn. Nine days later she’s busted. **1906**—Conman Wilhelm Voigt, dressed as a Prussian Captain, tricks German soldiers into helping him arrest the Mayor and Treasurer of Köpenick, then absconds with \$34,000. **1859**—John Brown and 18 others, both Black and white, capture the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Va. **1814**—Ruptured vats in a London brewery release 323,346 gallons of beer. Many guzzle, seven drown. **1715**—Daniel Fowle is baptized at First Church in Boston.

**1999**—After confessing she had had a 19-year affair with her father-in-law, George Roche III, the president of Hillsdale College—“the most conservative college in America”—Lissa Roche commits suicide. **1973**—OPEC turns off the oil tap. **1967**—Lt. Col. Terry Allen Jr. leads two companies of the 28th Infantry, outnumbered 10 to 1, into a VC ambush at Ong Thanh. Casualties exceed 92 percent, 64 are KIA. The U.S. Army calls the catastrophe a victory. **1961**—On orders from their top cop—an ex-Nazi collaborator—Paris cops massacre hundreds of Algerians. **1960**—The sit-in movement pays off big: several chain stores with locations in 10 southern states desegregate 150 lunch counters in 112 cities. **1956**—“The only way to win the next World War,” says Ike, “is to prevent it.” **1927**—Oil mogul Harry F. Sinclair goes on trial over Teapot Dome. Two weeks later it’s revealed he’s hired detectives to shadow each juror. **1894**—On orders from Ohio National Guard Col. Alonzo B. Coit, Guardsmen fire out, through the closed doors of the Fayette County Court House, at a mob intent on lynching a Black man accused of rape. Five die, 20 are wounded. The bullet-riddled doors remain *in situ*. **1777**—Burgoyne, undone by Benedict Arnold at Bemis Heights, surrenders at Saratoga; the victory inspires the French to back the Americans.



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Portsmouth Democrats Coffee Meetup — Friday, October 23rd at 8:00 a.m.

Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable — Tuesday, October 27th at 6:00 p.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, *mderrhammernh@gmail.com*.

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- UNKNOWN

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