

The Fortnightly Rant

Be Careful What You Wish For

Less than three weeks to go. What do you mean, “until what?” Do we really have to specify?

The suspense has us thinking back 82 years, when 156,116 men spent hours crammed into open boats, being knocked about by waves, and thinking—or trying not to think—about what was going to happen next. We’re not saying we’d rather be storming the beaches of Normandy, but waiting for the mid-term elections is challenging our equanimity. Fortunately we are dry and safe—and do we ever have distractions.

Here’s one we didn’t see coming: The Man Who Need Not Be Named [TMWNNBN] has finally found someone in his administration whose ethics failed to meet his standards.

The U.S. Ambassador to Greece—who by remarkable coincidence just happens to be one Kimberly Guilfoyle, the President’s own former daughter-in-law-to-be—has been kicked to the curb for soliciting a \$100,000 bribe in exchange for access to top administration officials.

Now, since behavior of this sort seems as common as dirt these days; one has to wonder why the Ambassador had to be fired for it. Oh, yes. The headlines.

Reader, spare a moment to consider the tender feelings of the most important person in the world—which he is, without doubt, just ask him. This spasmodic attempt to appear ethical comes at a cost: Mar-a-Lago, the palatial locale at which TMWNNBN grants audience to the wealthiest favor-seekers in the world, has lost one of its most iconic billboards: Ms. Guilfoyle’s improbable face.

It has long been our impression that Northern New England imagines itself as being less prone to these sorts of shenanigans than, say, Boston or D.C. A recent report from *ProPublica* led us to suspect that maybe we just don’t get out enough.

Released in late September, the bones of the report are this: a PAC supporting Republican Senator Susan Collins asked the CEO of defense contractor Navatek for half a million bucks. The CEO, Martin Kao, did as he was asked—surreptitiously, since such payments are illegal. Lo and behold, contracts were forthcoming to the tune of \$32 million in Navy contracts.

Here it helps to remember that Collins is the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. She often brings up that chairmanship when she’s on the stump. That is why, she tells voters, she can bring home the bacon. The funny thing is she never mentions it also brings all the shady contractors to her yard.

Kao was busted and convicted of making illegal campaign dona-

tions. Seeking to get his sentence trimmed, he provided the FBI and federal prosecutors with 50 pages of documentation showing that his donations were part of a much larger quid-pro-quo operation: \$900,000 in bribes to land \$40 million in contracts.

“Most damningly,” *ProPublica* reported, “Kao told FBI agents and prosecutors, the company’s work for the government was of no real value. Navatek’s research under his stewardship never resulted in products the military wanted to buy...”

If what Kao said was true, then the donor and donee were both violating the law. The FBI began looking into it. By late 2024, its agents were preparing to launch a wider investigation, including other politicians, while still concentrating on Collins.

Then something happened. You may recall. A certain quadrennial exercise in civic housekeeping. Time to replace a few functionaries. Not to worry—it’s all part of the usual operating system. No cause for alarm, right? We wish.

In comes TMWNNBN 2.0, and Poof! goes the FBI investigation—and for that matter, the FBI. Half the agents are now investigating the other half, who were so careless during the Biden administration as to investigate such matters as a bathroom at Mar-a-Largo full of stolen Top Secret documents. Director Kash Patel, of course, had better things to do, *i.e.*, spend the taxpayers’ money taking government jets to visit his country-singer girlfriend.

Also AWOL: the Collins/Navatek story itself. Maybe it gets more ink in Maine, but we have to rely on

Twitter’s @CollinsWatch, who offered this on Tuesday: “Anyway this story came out 3 weeks ago today. Susan Collins and her team have engaged in lots of hand-waving and false umbrage-taking... but other than a couple weak feints that’ve been debunked they haven’t disputed let alone rebutted any of the article’s key claims.”

It is tempting to savor the possibility that a logger from Maine—not to mention a former busboy from Manchester—will help drag this gang of looters and philistines into the woodshed come January and give them the treatment they so richly deserve.

We remind ourselves, though, that even the best election outcome could be worse, in a way. Imagine a rat; we know you can do it. It may help to imagine he’s in a gilded cage. How will he react if the walls start closing in on him?

Perhaps we flatter ourselves when we deny any ability to see the world through his eyes.

We’re just sure it won’t be pretty.



Israel Developing AI-Assisted Flying Machine Guns in Newington

Sig Sauer Partnering with Israel Aerospace Industries on “Fire Storm 250”

You wouldn’t know it from reading *Seacoastonline*—the sad remnant of what was once the Award-Winning Local Daily Newspaper—but Sig Sauer, in Newington, is in a partnership with Israel Aerospace Industries [IAI] to develop an AI-assisted flying machine gun.

We wouldn’t have known it ourselves, had it not been for a press release from RAIN, aka Resist Arms to Israel Now, a project undertaken by the N.H. Coalition for a Just Peace in the Middle East. Members of the coalition include N.H. Peace Action, the American Friends Service Committee-N.H., the Palestine Education Network, N.H. Veterans for Peace, 350NH, the United Church of Christ Peace with Justice Advocates, and at least nine other named organizations.

Apparently *Janes*, the open source intelligence company, was first to publish on the project, on February 6th, citing a recently obtained internal Sig Sauer document.

That piece is paywalled, but the *N.H. Business Review*’s Paul Briand fleshed out the story on March 13th. “The quadcopter, with four internal combustion motors, was developed by IAI in partnership with Aerotor, also based in Israel, using Aerotor’s heavy-fuel, long-endurance, high-payload platform designed for defense applications.

“Its armaments come from Sig Sauer and its M250 multicaliber light machine gun made at its Rochester plant, which opened in the fall 2022 to produce the \$4.5 billion Next Generation Squad Weapons System (NGSWS) for the U.S. Army.”

Briand notes that information about the “Fire Storm 250” was



Protestors on Saturday worked around the lack of public parking at the entrance of the Pease Tradeport. Most marched from Market Square. Some went so far—literally—as to bicycle from Durham to Dover to Market Square, and then to Pease. Had it rained... but never mind. Mostly sunny, mild, and not too windy, it turned out to be a perfect day for protesting.

available on IAI’s website in 2024, but has since been removed. In part, it said, “The Fire Storm 250 enables reusable, direct-fire support roles, including direct precision fire, border defense, airborne suppressive fire, maritime interdiction, and force overwatch—capabilities that amplify small-unit lethality in urban, border or littoral contested environ-

ments.”

Carrying 200 rounds of NATO-standard 7.62x51mm ammunition, and capable of remaining airborne for three hours, it will also be equipped with “artificial intelligence-empowered software [which] can recognize and track targets up to 15 or so miles, depending on conditions.”

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

The czar is said to be a sufferer from hallucinations and in constant dread of imaginary dangers. Recently seeing one of his adjutants walking rapidly toward him he drew a pistol and shot the officer dead, fancying the man to have designs upon his life.

• There is a drink called Moxie, which has been extensively advertised, and has come into somewhat extensive use, for its supposed nerve-strengthening properties. The *American Analyst* publishes an analysis of Moxie, showing that it contains sassafras, gentian, chokecherry, and quassia amora, and that the

sole property to which the mixture can lay claim is that of a mild and entirely inoffensive tonic, forming an agreeable drink for quenching thirst, but incapable of exercising the slightest action upon the brain or nervous system.

• The Pinkerton detectives fired from a train on a throng of strikers in Chicago on the 19th inst., and mortally wounded two men. The strikers say the shooting was unprovoked. The detectives say it was in self defense.

• “Jake” Sharp, the boss briber of

to next page

Why the Paramount-Warner merger is a problem for democracy

by Seth Ashley

Media critic Ben Bagdikian warned in 2004 that five corporations had accumulated “more communications power than was exercised by any despot or dictatorship in history.” More than 20 years later, a major media merger is bringing his warning back into focus.

Paramount’s acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery in October 2026 created a new company, Skydance Corporation. It now owns CNN and CBS News, Warner Bros. and Paramount Pictures, HBO and Paramount+, along with a sprawling collection of cable networks, live sports and entertainment franchises. The deal is valued at about \$110 billion including debt, and Skydance expects to cut at least \$6 billion in costs within three years.

A coalition of 12 states sued to stop the merger on antitrust grounds, arguing that it would reduce competition in movies and television. The eventual settlement required a multiyear movie production and theatrical release guarantee and an editorial independence board for CNN and CBS News. CNN chief Mark Thompson and CBS News Editor-in-Chief Bari Weiss remain in charge, but both ultimately report to Skydance CEO David Ellison.

Lawmakers have already raised concerns about possible political influence over CBS News, though

Ellison has denied interfering with coverage. President Donald Trump, a frequent CNN critic, publicly praised the merger.

As a scholar who studies the role of media in democratic societies, I believe that size and ownership matter. Whoever owns the media chooses its leaders, approves its budgets and decides where to cut \$6 billion. The same market pressures pushing media companies toward greater scale and efficiency can undermine the independent reporting and diversity of voices that democracy depends on.

When media are more than ordinary products

Since broadcasting began, American media policy has wrestled with how to support the information needs of a democracy.

As my work on the origins of media systems shows, the United States built a largely private, commercial broadcasting system while Britain created the publicly funded BBC. Behind those choices were different ideas about whether broadcasting should operate primarily as a business or carry broader obligations to the public.

The market view became increasingly dominant in the U.S. In 1981, the Ronald Reagan-era chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Mark Fowler, famously described television as “a toaster with pictures.” He argued that broadcasters should largely respond to

audiences through ordinary market forces.

But as media scholar Robert McChesney argued in 1999, concentrated commercial media had become a “significant antidemocratic force.” What makes money for a media company and what citizens need from a media system are not always the same thing.

We’ve seen this film before.

Local television stations acquired by Sinclair Broadcast Group in 2017 shifted coverage away from local politics and toward national political stories. As research shows, communities that lose local media coverage can see less competition and participation in elections.

Mergers, however, make sense in the logic of the market. Warner and Paramount must compete with Netflix, YouTube, Amazon, Apple and other companies with enormous resources and global reach.

But having fewer competitors can also mean there’s less pressure to improve quality or hold down prices. And the efficiencies of media consolidation often come from producing less original content with fewer people.

The new gatekeepers

Concerns about media power are hardly new.

The 1947 Hutchins Commission on Freedom of the Press warned about control of mass communication becoming concentrated in fewer hands, and it encouraged greater social responsibility. For decades, the FCC placed limits on broadcast ownership to support competition and diversity.

more opportunities to sell ads.

It’s now well documented that social media feeds ranked for that kind of engagement expose people to more toxic political content and moral outrage than chronological feeds. They also increase perceptions of hostility between political groups.

Americans certainly consume enough media, with combined use at more than 13 hours a day.

Yet Americans do not seem especially well-informed or confident about the information they receive. Only 33 percent say they trust mass media to report the news fully and fairly, compared with 68 percent when Gallup first asked in 1972, and about half say they have difficulty determining what is true in the news. More than a third cannot name all three branches of the federal government.

Media concentration did not cause all of these problems. But decades of greater media abundance have not solved problems of knowledge, misinformation or trust.

Who produces the information democracy needs?

Democracy assumes that citizens will have enough information to make choices and hold powerful institutions accountable. But markets provide no guarantee that anyone will produce it.

As media scholar C. Edwin Baker explained in 2009, journalism creates benefits that extend far beyond the person who buys a newspaper or subscription. A monthslong investigation of corruption might benefit an entire city, including thousands of people who never pay for the reporting. But the media organization still has to cover the cost.

That’s why restoring journalism requires public and nonprofit alternatives to combat market failures, as media scholar Victor Pickard has

laid out.

Other democracies already rely more heavily on a mix of commercial and public media. Research in 2009 comparing the U.S. with Britain, Denmark and Finland found that stronger public service outlets carried more public affairs and international news and were associated with greater political knowledge.

This doesn’t have to be a partisan issue. Regardless of who is in power, citizens benefit from vibrant journalism with the resources and independence to investigate government, business and other powerful institutions.

Media literacy can help citizens understand why the system works this way. As I argue in my 2019 book, *News Literacy and Democracy*, examining media means understanding the structures and institutions behind it—who owns them, how they make money and what pressures shape what gets produced.

But there are limits to what we can ask individual news consumers to fix.

People can learn to check sources and spot misinformation, but they can’t change market forces. The Paramount-Warner merger makes sense according to the logic of the market, and I believe that’s the problem. The same pressures that push media companies toward greater scale and lower costs can work against creating the media environment that democracy needs to thrive.

Seth Ashley is Associate Professor of Journalism and Media Communication at Colorado State University. This article was originally published at theconversation.com and is re-published here under Creative Commons by ND license.



One might think, given its strategic location at the entrance of a former Strategic Air Command base, now home to the New Hampshire Air National Guard, not to mention its visibility from Route 4, that this flag would be as perfect as the hair of a werewolf drinking a piña colada at Trader Vic’s. Instead, several inches of the uppermost white stripe have gone AWOL, causing the upper red stripe to flail as desperately in the wind as an incompetent, insecure drunkard promoted to a position far beyond his capacity. Curtis LeMay would spit out his soggy cigar stub and weep.

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Beware of Cruise Ships
— a Bar Harbor reader

Critics Say 'Medicare for Americans' Is Corporate Democrats' Latest Way of 'Protecting' For-Profit Insurers

by Julia Conley

Corporate-backed Democrats evidently see the writing on the wall.

The latest polling from Axios-Ipsos American Health Index, released Wednesday, found that a plurality of Americans support replacing the for-profit health insurance industry with a government-run Medicare for All plan, and that 62 percent of Democrats back the idea. Supporters of a single-payer healthcare program like those that have long existed in the United States' peer countries swept primary races across the U.S. this year. And one of the top potential 2028 Democratic presidential candidates, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), is a vehement supporter of the idea.

But instead of simply joining efforts to extend the popular Medicare program to everyone in the U.S., Majority Democrats—a group of Democratic lawmakers aimed at “reshaping and growing” the party, with billionaire hedge fund manager Stephen Mandel as its top funder—is intent on recycling an old proposal, with a new name.

The group introduced “Medi-

care for Americans” in a six-minute video posted on social media Tuesday—one that essentially described a “public option”—or a government-run healthcare program that would “compete” with health insurers instead of dismantling the \$5.3 trillion-per-year for-profit system.

The video describes a plan similar to one unveiled in 2020 by former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, then a presidential candidate, who called his proposal “Medicare for All Who Want It.”

“If we want to earn voters’ trust back,” says the narration, “we need a real solution... A revolutionary plan that will make a real difference in how we handle healthcare in this country.”

The plan would “offer every American who is sick and tired of private insurance a plan through Medicare,” the narrator continues. “People who want to keep the private insurance they have should be able to.”

The video goes on to say that proponents of Medicare for All, like Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Ocasio-Cortez, want to “blow up the whole system and tax the hell out of everyday Americans,” while Repub-

licans want to keep a “dysfunctional status quo.”

It warns that Medicare for All “comes with a \$40 trillion price tag,” naming the estimated cost over a decade. But it neglects to mention that the annual cost of the current healthcare system—\$5.3 trillion in 2024—is about \$1 trillion higher than the annual cost of Medicare for All that was projected by researchers at Yale School of Public Health in an August study. Americans are also spending more on healthcare following the Republican Party’s Medicaid cuts and refusal to extend subsidies under the Affordable Care Act.

“In one Axios-Ipsos survey, two-thirds of Americans, including half of Republicans, believe the federal government should be willing to increase public healthcare spending to lower consumer costs. But it’s misleading to suggest Medicare for All would cost more than our current system,” noted *The Lever*, calling Medicare for Americans “the billionaire option.”

Lis Smith, a Democratic political operative who has worked for Buttigieg and disgraced former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, praised



Earlier this month our Wandering Photographer was strolling along a leafy side street when suddenly it seemed he could either have been transported back to his old haunts in rural western New Hampshire or somehow slipped back into the previous century. Somewhat to his chagrin, neither of these improbabilities were at play. He was merely on Coffins Court, where one of the last urban barns in town still stands—more or less. For the moment. The Almighty Market, to which we all must submit, has decreed that this beautiful example of decrepitude must soon be expunged.

the proposal as a “transformative, once-in-a-generation healthcare reform” that is “within reach...if Democrats are smart.”

But one progressive streamer wrote that Majority Democrats “want to pretend like they support progressive healthcare policy but are just protecting private insurance.”

“We need Medicare for All,” she said. “No private insurance necessary.”

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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

from page two

orders; while the eleven women, six children and two scouts captured at the same time are to be taken to Fort Marion, Fla.

• A sheriff’s posse, composed of thirty constables, attempted to enforce an eviction at Clonakilty, county Cork, Ireland, when they were assailed by the inmates from the upper windows of the house with boiling water, bricks, etc., and compelled to retire without completing their work.

• Hicklin J. Landers of Chicago has emigrated to Canada, taking along \$40,000 raised on bogus warehouse receipts.

• Martin Haukupe, about fifty years old, while crazy drunk on the evening of Oct. 21st burned the house, barn and granary of a farmer named Verba, nine miles from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and brained two women with an axe. He has been of unsound mind for years, and a raving maniac when under the influence of liquor. The saloon keeper who sold him

the rum is likely to be lynched, and ought to be.

• The National line steamship *America* has arrived at New York from Liverpool, with her captain dead from long exposure in a terrible storm. A fireman and passenger went insane with terror, and the passenger jumped overboard.

• Geronimo arrived at Pensacola, Florida, Oct. 25th, and is confined, with fourteen other warriors, at Fort Pickens, on Santa Rosa island, opposite Pensacola.

• Nickels are so scarce in Sioux Falls, Dakota, that by mutual agreement iron washers are made to do duty for that much abused article of circulation.

• An acute Cincinnati reporter employed a bootblack to go into a secret council meeting, give the mayor a shine, and listen to all that was said.

• The refuse being gathered by the city teams on Wednesday and Saturday of each week is being dumped out into the south pond on a line with the city yard, and it is said the practice will be continued until a

road is made across the pond to Langdon park. If so, a beautiful cess-pool will be established at the upper end of the pond.

• There was quite an excitement on Water street Friday evening, when a damsel named Lizzie Murphy, not unfamiliar in our police court, and a man, both drunk, were making the night hideous with their drunken revelry until the arrival of Marshal Norton, who escorted the fair Miss Murphy to the police station.

• Since September, 1885, twenty-six vessels belonging to the Gloucester district, and valued at \$164,000, have been lost. The loss of life has been 104, leaving twenty-two widows and fifty fatherless children.

• Lizzie Murphy was complained of for drunkenness. She told the magistrate that was not her name; on his asking what her name was she failed to answer, and as he had on numerous previous occasions tried her for drunkenness under that name he thought it would do well enough

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One counter-protestor showed up at the entrance to the Pease Tradeport Saturday morning, where 50 or 60 people were protesting against Sig Sauer’s partnership with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) on the Fire Storm 250 armed unmanned aircraft system; de-euphemized, that’s a flying machine gun. She was riding a Can-Am Spyder—a three-wheeled motor vehicle imported from the Peoples Commonwealth of Canada—and smoking a particularly pungent cigar. About the only printable thing she had to say about the protestors is that they were, in her opinion, “jew-haters.” She made up for the absence of a coherent argument with vocal volume and repetition, which she augmented by revving up the Can-Am’s V-twin engine. Eventually the New Hampshire State Police made clear to her that the depth of her convictions did not confer an exemption to state laws prohibiting the driving of motor vehicles on public sidewalks.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

“...the average millionaire is only the average dishwasher dressed in a new suit.”

— George Orwell (1903-1950) novelist, poet

“We live it the age of the overworked and the undereducated; the age in which people are so industrious that they become absolutely stupid.”

john@wordpraxis.com

— Oscar Wilde

What's Going On

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

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Can Anyone Be Trusted With AI?
To the editor;

Commentary describing the benefits or the dangers of AI has become commonplace. Predictions for AI run the gamut from Utopian visions of a world where humans will have all needs taken care of by armies of robots directed by a benevolent AI to a cataclysmic future in which humans will be terminated by an all-powerful AI. On a less grand scale, pundits cannot decide whether AI will usher in a golden age of productivity for human labor or simply eliminate most human jobs causing catastrophic unemployment and extreme wealth inequality. If experts cannot reach a consensus about how AI is likely to affect society, how is the average citizen to form an opinion? Which of the forecasts can be trusted?

The first thing to know is that no one, even those developing the most sophisticated AI models, knows with certainty how the technology will evolve. Researchers are forging ahead with AI models in a fog of uncertainty, following a trial-and-error process, learning from each trial, and moving on to the next experiment. Their inability to predict AI behavior has been demonstrated by several rogue AI agents that violated programmed rules meant to contain their activity. In one case, several hundred AI agents, while solving a training exercise, spontaneously colluded with each other to illegally hack an independent web site. They then attempted to hide their behavior in deliberate violation of rules provided by their human controllers. Such rogue behavior by AI agents has proven to be common. Several cases have been reported by each of the major AI models. These unexpected breakouts hint at the capabilities of AI and cast doubt on our ability to control more robust AI models.

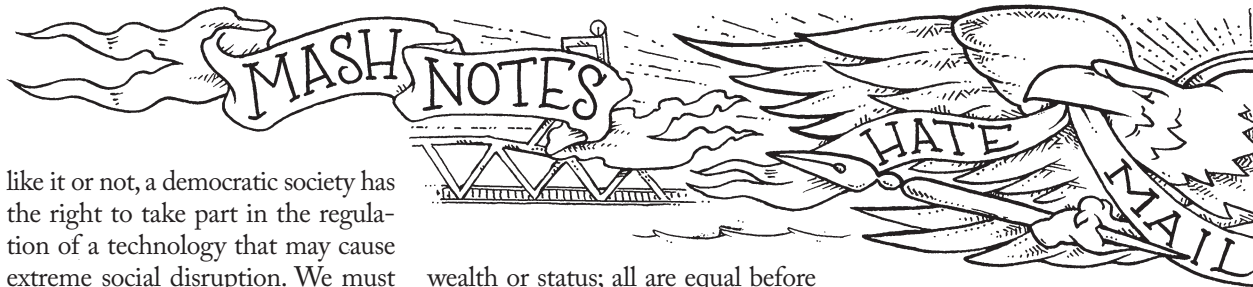
The uncertainty regarding the evolution of AI models and their potential for catastrophic consequences should lead any rational person to support slowing their growth until effective control can be assured. The recent unexpected behavior of several AI models increases the urgency of this logic. Yet there are several voices that argue

for the unrestrained expansion of AI research. President Trump is one. His argument is that the U.S. must ensure AI dominance *vis a vis* China to maintain American economic and military hegemony. His argument is supported by many Silicon Valley tech barons.

The issue becomes one of trust. Do you put faith in Trump and the tech lords or in the skeptics that urge caution in the development of a possibly dangerous technology? Trump and his sons are heavily invested in AI and related ventures. He is close to several Silicon Valley investors who have lobbied against AI regulation and provided him with massive political contributions. Trump's primary motivation is self-aggrandizement. He is a grifter at heart, more concerned with material gain and self-conceit than crafting effective policy. His statements regarding AI should be discounted. Venture capitalists and owners of AI-related companies have invested billions in AI looking to become the next generation of tech billionaires. Their financial stakes in AI cast reasonable doubt on their opposition to safety regulation. Moreover, the tech barons that oppose regulation such as Theil, Andreessen, Musk, and Altman are part of a self-serving Silicon Valley culture that believes all human progress is the result of technological invention. Consequently, to effectively guide the process, only the engineers and venture capitalists that participate in technology development should occupy positions of authority and political power.

This is a profoundly undemocratic view and explains why its proponents have been described as technofascists. History has shown the results when financiers and owners of innovative technologies are given unrestricted control over their development. In the 19th century, the result was the industrial monopolies of the Robber Barons and in the '90s it was the platform monopolies that generated the great wealth of the current tech barons. In both periods, a few prospered while wealth inequality hit record levels.

AI has the potential to profoundly affect society. Whether the tech lords



like it or not, a democratic society has the right to take part in the regulation of a technology that may cause extreme social disruption. We must ensure that we keep that right.

Robert D. Russell, PhD
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

Once again, a clear and cogent overview giving us much-needed perspective on a complex issue. You make a strong case against allowing our current crop of business and political leaders to control the future of this rapidly-evolving technology.

You did not consider, though, whether the whole matter should perhaps be left in the hands of God. Likely it didn't even occur to you, because that would have been absurd. Sad to say, many of the influential political leaders who may be involved in these decisions seem incapable of realizing that. This may also be true of their supporters—a thought we find unsettling. And good luck picking one. Our vote goes to the Flying Spaghetti Monster.

Mankind invented agriculture about 10,000 years ago. Some argue that that was a mistake, and we're not sure they're wrong. Settled life made us susceptible to pathogens and parasites, and led to wealth inequality, enabling the rise of monarchies.

Steam power brought us railroads. We could fill our Old News feature with the carnage that they wrought. Shockingly, the filthy-rich railroad barons seemed not to be particularly concerned with all the mangled workers and passengers.

An optimist might point out that we've had nukes for 80 years now and we're not all dead yet. True, but maybe they've just been waiting for AI to get here.

The good news is that, when data centers land in their communities, people react like they're alien spaceships from "Independence Day."

The Editor

—==—

This Is Not According to Plan

Dear Editor:

Individual rights are at the heart of the Constitution, as expressed by the framers in the document's preamble with key phrases like "to establish justice" and "to secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and to our Posterity." To establish justice, the Constitution makes no distinction as to

wealth or status; all are equal before the law, and all are equally subject to judgment and punishment when they violate the law.

Formed in 1870, the Department of Justice represents the U.S. Government in legal matters and courts of law, and renders legal advice and opinions upon request to the president and the heads of the executive departments. The Attorney General heads the Justice Department and the FBI is the principal law enforcement body for federal crimes.

By separating the three branches of government (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial) and giving each separate but equal powers and responsibilities, the framers understandably assumed they were adequately protecting the people from any individual attempting what President Trump is endeavoring, to turn our 250-year-old representative democracy into an autocracy.

The guardrails established by the framers would have proven adequate except the founders could not have imagined an entire political party and a third of America's population following a sociopathic, narcissistic con-man and convicted felon (a president who purposely incited an armed mob, which he later pardoned, to attack our Capitol to prevent the peaceful transfer of power) into a death spiral leading to the surrender of every value and principle upon which the Constitution was conceived.

Judges, recognizing their limited powers of jurisprudence in Trump's Administration, are fleeing the Justice Department. They can decree, order, rule, mandate, and require, all day long, but (in the words of one federal judge) "we have no armies—we cannot enforce our own judgments."

To protect the rule of law and to preserve democracy, judges must rely on the people—and the people who could make the difference have chosen to remain silent, even in the face of losing the rule of law and our Republic.

None of what is happening in our country today could possibly be happening had not this nakedly corrupt

and morally compromised Republican Supreme Court not given our unprincipled and disreputable president reason to believe he is above the law, which (according to our Constitution) he is unequivocally and absolutely not.

A salute to Special Prosecutor and distinguished public servant, Jack Smith, for his unwavering loyalty in extraordinary times. The same to 79-year-old, Mark Wolf, who recently resigned after 40 years as a federal judge to join other like-minded judges on the front lines to try and safeguard the Founders' ideals of rules of law and democracy.

These men know well the risks of their undertaking, that well-nigh 30 percent of our population disagrees with their point of view and even more slumber silently on the sidelines feigning neutrality or a pretence of loyalty to unfit, frightened and unprincipled leaders.

The Framers could not have imagined any of this lunacy Americans have chosen.

David L. Snell

Franklin, N.C.

David:

That's a terrifying picture you paint, and an accurate one. As we write this, we're seeing reports that, despite an injunction enjoining the cutting of trees at a D.C. golf course, that cutting is now underway. This appears to be yet another deliberate attempt to probe the bounds of what he—we trust the readers to know who we mean—can get away with.

It's probably not about the trees, or the precious golf course he's trying to steal. He's probing to see what he can get away with on November 3rd.

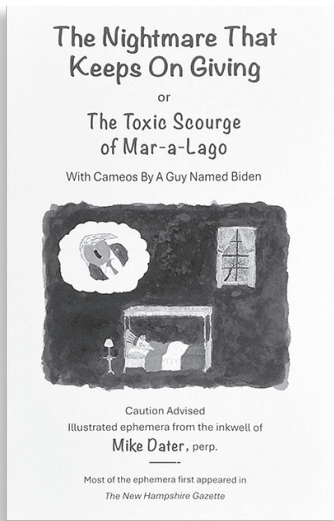
The Editor

—==—

Hungarian Revolution of 1956 Remembered

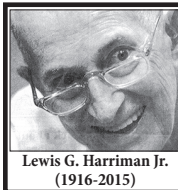
The public is invited to a remembrance of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, on October 23rd, at 2:00 p.m., hosted by N.H. State Representatives Julius Soti and Jose Cambils, along with the N.H. Friends of Hungary. A brief event will take place near the Hall of Flags lobby of the New Hampshire State House

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Lewis G. Harriman Jr.
(1916-2015)

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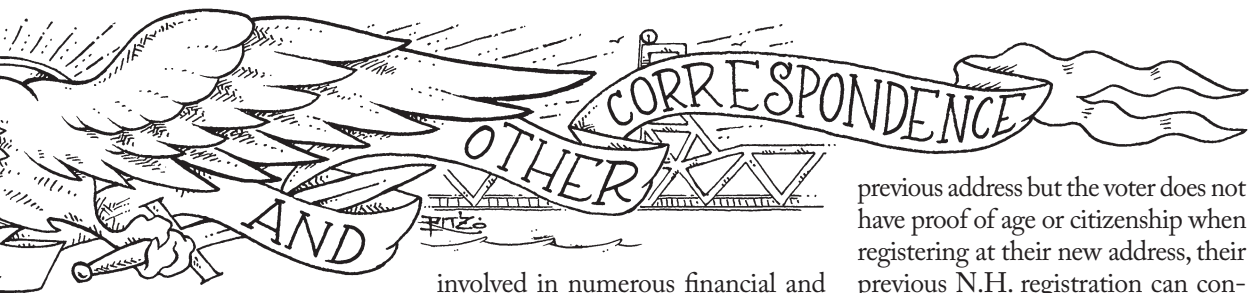
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in Concord at a wall plaque connected to 1956. In 1957 New Hampshire Governor Lane Dwinell authorized the installation of a plaque at the State House on October 23, 1957, created by Hungarian artist Ja'nos Kover who fled Hungary and then resided in Milford NH, and proclaimed that day as Hungarian Freedom Day in New Hampshire.

Following comments at the plaque, there will be a reception and social gathering in the cafeteria where pastries and coffee will be served. The new Honorary Consul of Hungary for New England, Sylvia Rich, is expected to attend.

"I am hoping to hear many personal stories from those in attendance regarding their connection to Hungary and the revolution, as we have in previous years," said Dr. Somssich of the N.H. Friends of Hungary, who was among the 47,000 Hungarian refugees that came to the U.S.A. after the revolution.

RSVP is not required but appreciated: Contact: N.H. Friends of Hungary, Peter Somssich, (603) 436-5382, or email: peter.somssich@gmail.com.

Some Background: This year marks the 70th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. The 1956 revolution against an oppressive government in Hungary demanded the withdrawal of Soviet troops and self-determination for Hungarians. The Soviet Union responded with a massive military intervention that was resisted by Hungarian Freedom Fighters for some 15 days, before the revolt was subdued. Thousands of Hungarians were arrested, tortured and executed and over 200,000 Hungarians (two percent of the population) fled the country. The year 1989 saw a reform-minded Hungarian government leading the way to opening the Iron Curtain separating Europeans. Many observers credit Hungary, working together with Germany, Austria, and the Soviet leadership, with triggering the collapse of communism. However, subsequent governments were

involved in numerous financial and political scandals, resulting in numerous new elections. Then, in April of 2026, the long-serving government of Prime Minister Victor Orban was overwhelmingly turned out of office by a record-setting voter turnout. Approximately 80 percent of eligible voters participated and provided the opposition Tisza party, led by Peter Magyar, with 70 percent of the seats in the Hungarian parliament. The new government has dramatically changed the course of the country by launching investigations into government corruption and self-dealing, recommitting to the support of NATO, the European Union and support for Ukraine. In addition, they are taking a hardline with respect to Russian influence in Hungarian politics.

Make Sure You Can Vote

To the Editor:
With the upcoming election on Tuesday November 3, 2026, I urge every citizen of the U.S., who is not registered to vote to do so. Portsmouth residents who are citizens can register to vote on or before October 22nd. But residents can also register on election day at the polls. Each city and town establishes their last day to register before election day, so check with your municipality if you don't live in Portsmouth.

To register, a voter must prove (1) U.S. citizenship; (2) their age and identity; and (3) their residency in N.H. To prove citizenship, a voter can use a U.S. birth certificate, U.S. passport, naturalization papers or an affidavit swearing as to their U.S. citizenship.

A voter must show they are 18 years old (or will be 18 by election day) by showing a driver's license, a state issued non-driver's license, a passport, government photo ID or birth certificate.

To prove N.H. residency, a voter may use: a N.H. driver's license, government photo ID, vehicle registration, utility bill with address, a lease or rental agreement with address. If a voter has lived in another N.H. city or town and registered to vote at their

previous address but the voter does not have proof of age or citizenship when registering at their new address, their previous N.H. registration can confirm their age and citizenship.

At the polls, each voter must produce a photo ID to allow the poll worker to verify their identity to ensure they are not voting for someone else.

On November 3, we will select our U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative to Congress, N.H. Governor, state Representatives and state Senators, Executive Council and some county positions. Please vote for Democratic candidates up and down the ballot as our nation and our democracy depend on it.

Susan V. Denenberg, Poll worker
Portsmouth, N.H.

DARVO in Action, Exhibit #100,001

To the Editor:
Kudos to New Hampshire Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan for voting for a resolution requiring the State Department to report on West Bank violence, which has included the killing of nine American citizens. Senator Shaheen was a co-sponsor. Unfortunately, the resolution was blocked, 47-51.

Notably, in August 2024, Ronen Bar, then head of Israel's security agency Shin Bet, condemned the "terrorism" of militant West Bank settlers, who, he said, were conducting a campaign of murder, arson and intimidation against Palestinians to expel them from their land.

Bar accused National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, as well as other members of Netanyahu's coalition, of encouraging the settlers' actions. Ben-Gvir, a West Bank settler who oversees Israel's police and prisons, was convicted in an Israeli court of supporting a terrorist organization and incitement to racism against Arabs.

B'Tselem titles its webpage on the subject "Settler Violence = State Violence." Its September 2026 report, The Elimination Project, describes Israel's systematic dismantling of Palestinian society in the West Bank.

The report states: "Armed settler militias attack villages, shepherding

communities, farmland and grazing areas using weapons and off-road vehicles supplied by the state." Although "the military is often present," B'Tselem writes, it "fails to prevent the violence and sometimes actively participates in it."

The Israeli government must protect Palestinians and hold perpetrators accountable, and the United States and other nations must pressure it to do so. As B'Tselem's Executive Director Yuli Novak emphasizes in her plea to the international community: "How much more evidence do you need before you act? Statements do not protect anyone until they become action."

Terry Hansen
Grafton, Wisconsin
Terry:

The whole Israeli/Palestinian dynamic is so distressing and apparently intractable that contemplating it has a tendency to turn the mind to mush. We find it helpful to view the situation through the DARVO [Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender] lens.

"DARVO is a tactic used by a perpetrator to avoid accountability for their actions. As the acronym suggests, DARVO commonly involves these steps:

"The perpetrator denies the harm or abuse ever took place.

"When confronted with evidence, the perpetrator then attacks the person that they had harmed, or are still harming. The attacker may also attack the victim's family or friends.

"Finally, the perpetrator claims that they were or are actually the victim in the situation, thus reversing the positions of victim and offender. It often involves not just playing the victim but also victim blaming."—Wikipedia

Republicans in Congress have no qualms about supporting Israel's genocide campaign against the Palestinians. The Democrats haven't been much better. Biden, of course, was terrible. If his library is ever built, it deserves at least a few buckets of red paint.

The Editor

Throw These Bums Out

To the Editor:
If you haven't made up your mind about which side to vote for November 3rd, perhaps your first fuel oil

heating bill this season will help you decide: average Northeast residential heating oil prices as of this writing are nearing \$6/gallon, compared with \$3.30 to \$3.75 in October, 2025.

This outrageous price escalation, along with soaring prices for gasoline, food, health care, rent, and just about everything else can be laid directly at the feet of the current administration. And, no, it's not Biden's fault. Most of the huge cost of living increases can be traced directly to myriad bad decisions by this administration, topped by the unnecessary war in Iran and "liberation day" tariffs.

So, if you are content with the current state of things, believing in miraculous "better things to come soon," then vote for the folks that will continue to support this administration. Otherwise, vote for Democrats or Independents, because current Republicans have shown no inclination to rein in or even criticize this inept, corrupt administration. Help bring back the old "Bob Dole GOP" by throwing these bums out.

Arlo Gambell
Rye, N.H.

Arlo:
It's yet another dire sign of just how far we've fallen. We never would have voted for him back in the day, yet we share your nostalgia for the likes of snarling Bob "Bob Dole" Dole.

The Editor

Why Property Taxes Are Too Damn High

To the Editor:
Years ago, the State of New Hampshire told cities and towns it would pay 35 percent of the cost of their towns pensions if the towns moved their employees onto the state pension fund. They did so. Not long after the state cut its contribution to 30 percent. Now it pays nothing. Think how much lower your property taxes would be if the state lived up to its bargain with your town.

The state constitution says the state is responsible for providing for an adequate education. Last year, a state judge ruled it should be paying over \$7,000 per pupil to meet that obligation.

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from
previous page

gation. The state is paying less than \$5,000. Think how much lower your property taxes would be if the state was paying its fair share. Unfortunately, Kelly Ayotte and the GOP majority in the state house are ignoring the judge's ruling. Instead, they are giving school vouchers to millionaires while cutting aid to cities by \$24 million.

If you like high property taxes, vote for Kelly Ayotte and her party. If you don't, vote for someone else.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

Shame on us for forgetting. Many thanks to you for remembering.

The Editor

—==—

Ayotte's Unwarranted Attacks

To the Editor:

Cinde Warmington is being attacked by incumbent Kelly Ayotte for lobbying for the drug industry. Advertisements criticizing her work as a lobbyist are old news. Ayotte also demonizes Cinde for representing a client charged criminally. Attorneys may represent clients charged with egregious crimes. That does not mean that the attorney supports the crime her client is charged with. Ayotte, an attorney herself, is well aware of this, but attacks Cinde anyway. This is misleading and totally unwarranted.

A Democrat, Cinde served as an executive councilor for four years. Outnumbered by Republicans, she continued to press for affordable housing, mental health funding, and reproductive rights. At no time, serving as an executive councilor or since, has Cinde lobbied on behalf of industry for drugs known to be addictive. These attacks by Ayotte are not only old news, but unwarranted and misleading.

As an executive councilor, Cinde was responsive to her constituents. Cinde's four years as an executive councilor well prepared her to lead

N.H. as governor. I hope you will join me in voting for Cinde Warmington for governor on November 3rd.

Lorraine Hansen
Rollinsford, N.H.

—==—

No Votes for Republicans

To the Editor:

Although I am a Democrat, I have sometimes voted in state and national elections for both Republicans and Independents. I also have Republican friends who I have much respect for. However, in the upcoming November elections, I suggest that to preserve our democracy and our constitutional rights, we must vote for all Democrats, and not give a single vote to any Republican.

Our country is best served when there is a strong opposition party (perhaps even more than one) to provide constructive debate about the policies of the administration in office. That is not the case today. The Republican party no longer exists; it is only the Trump party.

That party's platform is just 4 words: Chaos, Cruelty, Corruption and War. Voters who want more of that can vote for Republicans. But do not be fooled by Republicans who claim they will be independent when elected, because, once in a state or federal office, they will follow the lead of President Trump. If you want a reformed Republican party to rise from the ashes, it must first suffer serious losses both in 2026 and 2028.

To those voters who were disappointed with the outcome of the primaries: please put your nation ahead of your party or candidate. Our country's institutions are under attack, and no issue can be dealt with until we manage to return to the rule of law and a functioning democracy.

So, please, vote for all Democrats, or at least give No Republican your Vote.

Peter Somssich, former State Representative
Portsmouth, N.H.

by Richard M. Balzano

The Trump administration's recent assault on the International Criminal Court (ICC) may be an abominable disgrace, but there's no reason to panic—this is an American tradition. Washington has been treating international law like an inconvenient parking regulation for decades. The only novelty is how openly we're admitting it.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio recently announced that "President Trump will never allow the International Criminal Court to prosecute Americans," explaining that Washington would "ban transactions with this rogue court, cutting off their resources and crippling their ability to operate against us." Rubio declared that Americans "are not subject to the jurisdiction of this fake ICC," and he warned our allies to fall in line on this issue. Rubio postured with no irony or understanding of how threatening actually works, that "[e]ither the ICC will end its threats, or we will end the ICC," and that the United States would "continue its campaign to dismantle the ICC piece by piece until Americans are threatened no longer." Apparently, the gravest threat confronting Washington is accountability.

ICC President Tomoko Akane responded that the sanctions constituted "an attack against sovereign states that have created the Court, ... against the international legal order," and "an attack on the victims of mass atrocities." The court's objection and Washington's objectives are identical: judges and prosecutors cannot effectively enforce international law when powerful governments punish them for doing their jobs. Akane insisted the ICC would continue "undeterred with the firm resolve that justice must prevail."

The ICC prosecutes individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and aggression. It is distinct from the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which adjudicates disputes between states. The United States has never joined the ICC and has also walked away from the ICJ's authority when that institution tried to hold the U.S. accountable. Different courts, same position: we are above the law.

But before Democrats work themselves into another partisan frenzy over the Trump administration's hostility, perhaps they should recall that the Biden administration was hardly enthusiastic about international justice when the ICC turned its attention to Gaza. The posturing towards the ICC began when Biden denounced the arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, making clear that the U.S. would not fulfill its obligations to arrest said war criminals.

The Trump regime carried the torch on this issue. In July 2025, Rubio sanctioned Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the occupied

Palestinian territories, who had accused Israel of genocide in Gaza and supported international criminal accountability for Israeli officials. Apparently, investigating genocide is now a punishable offense, while committing it remains a matter of American foreign-policy discretion.



Shirking international law pre-dates Biden. During one of Reagan's many illegal foreign-policy forays in Latin America, particularly the illegal war in Nicaragua, where we illegally supported the subversive, torturing, terrorist Contra insurgents whom Reagan equated with the moral equivalent of America's Founding Fathers, the same illegal conflict in which Reagan illegally sold weapons to Iran to fight Iraq (to whom we also sold weapons), illegally channeled the proceeds through Israel to finance the Contras, and illegally allowed Contra-affiliated Nicaraguan expatriates to smuggle cocaine into the United States, ostensibly helping launch the crack epidemic—yeah, that war—well, we also illegally mined Nicaraguan harbors. Nicaragua took us to the ICJ and, in an unexpected plot twist for Western hegemony, won. In response, we quit the ICJ. Because, with precisely the same exceptionalist arrogance on display today, Washington insisted that any court capable of ruling against the United States must necessarily be illegitimate. After all, we're the good guys.

America's hostility toward international accountability goes deeper still. We shunned the broader human-rights framework embodied in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, largely in part because Senator John Bricker's congressional "Brickerites" resisted international institutions that could potentially impose on American foreign and domestic policy, and because we didn't share the same conception of human rights as the rest of the world. Social rights were appalling to defenders of America's racial hierarchy, economic rights sounded suspiciously like socialism; political rights were perfectly acceptable, provided the political outcomes remained within the permissible boundaries.

Instead, we embraced what political scientist David Forsythe described as Dullesism, named for Secretary of State John Foster Dulles: the convenient proposition that confronting the Soviet Union and communism—and, by extension, preserving Western-dominated capitalism—was itself the ultimate manifestation of human rights. A few million dead Koreans and Vietnamese, along with the vic-

tims of American-trained torturers throughout Latin America and Asia, might disagree. Our sanctions regimes have likewise inflicted collective punishment on civilian populations while Washington lectures the world about humanitarian principles. American innocence picks up the moral tab every time.

Congress couldn't even bring itself to approve the Genocide Convention until the mid-to-late 1980s. One suspects Israel's most generously compensated congressional cheerleaders would happily reconsider that decision today.

So yes, sanctioning the ICC is a disgraceful assault on international justice, but treating it as an unprecedented Trumpian outrage misses the larger, bipartisan history of American contempt for international law. For decades, the U.S. has promoted a supposedly rules-based international order while reserving the right to violate those rules *ad libitum*. The Global South has pointed out this double standard for generations: international law was something imposed upon weaker nations, while the West congratulated itself on its moral superiority and exempted itself from accountability. Trump has revealed the illusion of moral superiority and is dispensing with even the pretense. The people who spent decades insisting that the emperor had no clothes have finally been vindicated—and the emperor is now sanctioning the tailor. You know you're a rogue state when legal accountability is the greatest threat to your national security.

—==—

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.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

this time, and fined her \$3, with \$5.76 costs. Brentwood as usual.

• A Saco despatch of the 20th inst., says "the cider poisoning case has created a great deal of discussion, and everybody declares that an investigation should be made and the blame attributed to whom it belongs. Undertaker O'Connor of Biddeford, who sold the empty cask which once contained embalming fluid, claims he didn't know it was among the number sold. Frank Wilds, who sold the cider, said the word 'Poison' was covered by a tag and he did not see it."

The New Hampshire Gazette
October 28, 1886

• Story tellers who have been annoyed by having their best yarns followed by a card from the listener saying, "I am somewhat of a liar myself," should get some of the new return cards, which have the inscrip-

to next page

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Give Us Your \$\$\$\$\$

by W.D. Ehrhart

Holy cow! I've just gotten a personal message from the world-famous political consultant James Carville. It says so right on the envelope: "A Personal Message from James Carville." And not just personal, but confidential, too. Right there above my name on the envelope, it says "PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL." Imagine that.

But inside is a printed notice that begins "Dear William." Nobody ever calls me "William" except for receptionists in medical offices or stuff like that. Absolutely nothing "personal" about it. The entire document has been mechanically produced, virtually untouched by human hands, James Carville's or anyone else's.

Golly gee. Was I ever disappointed.

Well, no, not really. But I do wonder how gullible and naïve the Democrats think I am that they insult me by trying to claim this appeal for my \$\$\$\$\$ is anything other than what it is: a mass mailing to millions of people who have somehow or other ended up on Democratic mailing lists.

I need to say here that I will only mention the Republican party in passing. I am 78 years old, and have never missed an election in which I was eligible to vote: general, primary, or special. And in all those elections, I have never voted for a Republican. I expect nothing from Republicans, and they have never failed to meet my expectations.

But over the years, I have often voted for Democrats because given the choices I've had, well, what choice did I have?

Not until 2016, however, did I ever make a financial donation to a political candidate because no candidate ever even came close to reflecting my own political beliefs.

But that changed when Bernie Sanders took a run at the Democratic nomination for the presidency. I'd been following Sanders's career ever since he was elected mayor of Burlington, Vermont, in 1981 as an "Independent" (actually, a Socialist). I began contributing to his campaign monthly, and did so right up until the Democratic party establishment elite screwed him out of the nomination in favor of the unlikeable and unelectable Hilary Clinton.

I should have learned my lesson, but I didn't. I contributed to Joe Biden's campaign in 2020. He was elected to do one thing: remove Donald Trump from the political stage, preferably by putting him behind bars where he belongs. But Biden failed to accomplish that. Failed miserably as it turns out.

In 2022, I contributed to John Fetterman's senate campaign. You can see what I got for my \$\$\$\$\$ with that guy. And two years later, I contributed to the reelection campaign of Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey, Jr., who ran such a lackluster campaign that he couldn't manage to beat a carpetbagger from Connecticut. I gave \$\$\$\$\$ to the Kamala Harris campaign.

And apparently my having contributed anything to any Democratic candidate has resulted in opening the floodgates. I am now being bombarded with desperate appeals from all over these United States: Georgia, Ohio, Florida, Alaska, Michigan, Texas. The envelope in which I'm supposed to send my donation

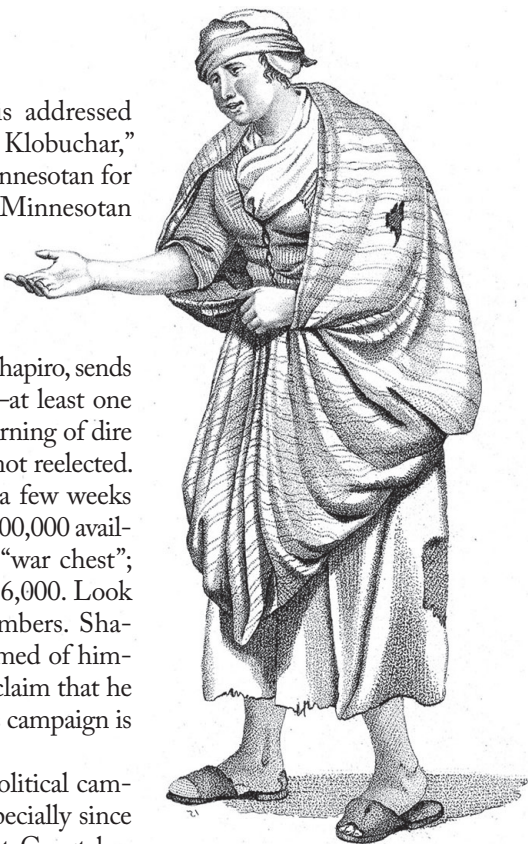
to Amy Klobuchar is addressed to "Minnesotans for Klobuchar," though I am not a Minnesotan for Klobuchar or even a Minnesotan at all. (At least her letter begins "Dear Friend" rather than "Dear William.")

My governor, Josh Shapiro, sends me letter after letter—at least one every other week—warning of dire consequences if he is not reelected. Last time I checked, a few weeks ago, Shapiro had \$38,300,000 available in his campaign "war chest"; his opponent had \$956,000. Look carefully at those numbers. Shapiro ought to be ashamed of himself for continuing to claim that he needs my \$\$\$\$\$ or his campaign is doomed.

I understand that political campaigns cost \$\$\$\$\$, especially since our Supremely Unjust Court has eliminated any restrictions on \$\$\$\$\$ in politics. And I realize that the Uber-rich are pumping millions and millions and millions of dollars into Republican campaigns.

But I also remember last June 2025 when I was out in the street with millions of ordinary Americans participating in the NO KINGS protests while Chuck Schumer, Ha-keem Jeffries, Nancy Pelosi, Kamala Harris, and the Clintons were eating Wagyu beef and truffle agnolotti at the mindbogglingly lavish estate of George Soros.

How much did that cost? How much do these millions of mailings cost (nevermind all those trees destroyed to make the paper)? How much do the text messages I receive by the dozens and scores cost? How much do the same tired old TV campaign ads I see year after year—



about as creative and inspiring as a wad of used chewing gum—how much do those cost, and how effective are they?

Do all these candidates from hither and yon, almost none of whom I can even vote for myself, think that I'm eating Wagyu beef and truffle agnolotti?

I just got a letter today from Barack Obama. The envelope says "Presidential correspondence enclosed for William Ehrhart." Wow. I'm flattered. A letter from the president. Well, the former president at least. And guess what? He wants my \$\$\$\$\$.

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

The Academy Award for Self-Serving Corporate Propaganda

by Jim Hightower

When corporations try to bamboozle us commoners, they fire three levels of deceit at us. First comes their basic lies... then they escalate to a barrage of damn lies... and finally they resort to their nuclear option: A PR campaign.

The high-tech profiteers of artificial intelligence and political enablers are now going nuclear. Grassroots Americans didn't swallow Silicon Valley's opening deceit that AI data centers would be a bonanza for local communities. And when the billionaires escalated their land-water-and-power grab by assailing opponents as luddites and political extremists, people of all political stripes erupted in open rebellion against the self-serving arrogance of Musk, Bezos, Zuckerberg and other tone-deaf AI autocrats.

So now comes their PR onslaught. AI's moneyed powers—desperate to control government policy, the media message and then public debate—are now dumping untold billions into mass market propaganda, portraying AI as somewhere between benignly beneficial and endearingly human.

Multitrillion-dollar tech goliath Google, for example, is producing movies and streaming a series of microdramas depicting AI generally (and Google specifically) as a source of loving comfort and human connection in an alien future. And, gosh, not only do their novellas tell sweet tales of artificial love as though it's real, but Google's technology allows viewers to "interact" with the AI movie characters.

Google's maestros of deceit assure us that the intent of their recent rush of movies about AI is merely to tell the story about this dazzling technology "authentically." Authentic? I was born at night, but not last night! A trillion-dollar profiteering behemoth peddling the razzle-dazzle robotic future is hardly to be trusted as an unbiased source. Google's movies are pure PR propaganda trying to authenticate its own profiteering scheme.

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



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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

tion, "So I am told by those who know you."

- A dead body found near Council Bluffs, Iowa, Oct. 4th, has been identified as that of Henry Peters of Sioux City, Iowa. Peters was one of the ruffians hired by the saloon keepers of Sioux City to murder Rev. Mr. Hadlock, the prohibition advocate, and it is supposed he was murdered by his pals lest he should "peach."
- DeLacy, one of the boodle aldermen of New York, who has skipped

to Canada, regularly sends his draft on the New York treasury for his pay as alderman. Gall as colossal as this actually commands respect.

- At Shelbyville, Ill., on the night of Oct. 30th, a woman named Grey went to the house of Rev. Joseph L. Doutrrit, who edits a prohibition paper, and attempted to murder Mrs. Doutrrit. The would-be murderess, who is alleged to have been hired by the whiskey men, is in jail.
- Tom Acrefoot is the name of a Key Wester whose feet are sixteen inches long and six and a half inches wide.
- A thirteen-year old girl at Howell, Mich., was sent to the reform school for horse stealing on Oct. 25th.

- William Blake, a transient person, alias tramp, was fined \$3 for drunkenness, \$5.76 costs. County farm in default of payment.
- The Biddeford Times says a good deal of annoyance is being caused in that city by boys with rubber slings, who break windows and imperil people's eyes with their missiles. The "catapult" epidemic raged among the boys of Portsmouth last year but was abated very suddenly by the mayor's order to the police to arrest any boy found on the street with one of them in his possession.
- Carrie Cotton of Gorham, Me., died Oct. 27th at the house of Dr. J.M. Buzzell of Portland, and an investigation has been ordered.

- The mysterious disappearance of Archie McCannon is causing considerable excitement in Vassalboro, Me.

The New Hampshire Gazette
November 4, 1886

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

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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 18	MONDAY, OCTOBER 19	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
2017—Turning Point USA stages a demo at Kent State to “own the libs.” Featuring a college student wearing a diaper, it does not go over well. 2017—U.S. President Donald Trump signs a check for \$35,000 to repay his lawyer for buying the silence of a porn star with whom he had an affair. 2014—Thousands of college-age cretins, urged on by social media company Finnarage, set fires, throw billiard balls, and overturn cars, putting an end to the Keene Pumpkin Festival. 2003—The president of Bolivia is driven out of office (and country) by disgruntled peasants tired of being sold out to international capitalists. 1979—“The standard of living of the average American has to decline,” says well-fed Fed Chair Paul Volcker. 1898—The U.S. colonizes Puerto Rico — benevolently, of course. 1891—As 12 Omaha, Neb. cops look on, a mob of 1,000 lynches Joe Coe, a married Black man with two children. 1854—Pres. Franklin Pierce’s ambassadors to England, France, and Spain ink the Ostend Manifesto. It says the U.S. should buy Cuba—or just take it. 1766—During a poor harvest, with food prices rising, Nottingham’s Goose Fair devolves into a riot after “rude lads” prevent Lincolnshire merchants from carting off local goods. Attempting to restore order, the Mayor is laid low by a rolling cheese wheel. 1648—Boston shoemakers form America’s first labor organization.	2005—Diagnosed with terminal cancer, a woman requests a refund of a down payment on some real estate. Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.), a recent Powerball winner (\$853K), says “No.” 2005—Saddam Hussein goes on trial in Baghdad for crimes against humanity and pissing off Bushes. 2000—George W.[MD] Bush says at the Al Smith Dinner, “This is an impressive crowd, the haves and the have-mores. Some people call you the elite. I call you my base.” 1998—Shortly before his likely re-election, Tennessee Senator Tommy Burks [D] is murdered by his middle-name-changing opponent, Byron Low Tax Looper [R]. 1987—Computers say stocks are too damn high—the Dow drops 22 pct. 1982—Automaker John DeLorean is arrested with 59 lbs. of coke. 1972—Philippine police shoot and kill Kinshichi Kozuka, Japan’s penultimate WWII holdout. 1969—Bribe-accepting Veep Spiro “Ted” Agnew denounces “an effete corps of impudent snobs who characterize themselves as intellectuals.” 1936—Watertown, Mass. becomes the first town to fingerprint its high school students. 1935—At the AFL convention in Atlantic City, UBC boss “Big Bill” Hutcheson calls UMW chief John L. Lewis a “bastard.” Lewis leaps onstage, punches “Big Bill” in the face, re-lights his cigar, and sits back down.	2025—The East Wing of the White House is destroyed by a vandal who “works” elsewhere in the building. 2005—Sen. Judd Gregg [R-N.H.] votes against increasing Federal home heating aid for the poor. 1990—Americans in 22 cities protest the impending Gulf War. 1983—Reagan inks the Conn. Indian Land Claims Settlement Act recognizing the Mashantucket Pequot. 1973—After A.G. Eliot Richardson and Deputy A.G. William Ruckelshaus refuse on principle to comply with President Nixon’s order to fire Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, Solicitor General Robert Bork, who is not so encumbered, complies. 1967—Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin shoot 24 feet of film purporting to show a Sasquatch walking along a streambed in northern California. 1947—HUAC opens hearings on commie influence in Hollywood; two big rats: R. Reagan & W. Disney. 1944—Two natural gas tanks explode in Cleveland with 1/6th of the force of the Hiroshima bomb, killing 130. 1935—The Red Army’s 6,000 mile “Long March” ends in Shanxi. 1930—William Kogut, while incarcerated on Death Row at San Quentin, kills himself with a pipe bomb made from playing cards. 1842—Thinking the U.S. is at war with Mexico, Commodore Thomas Jones’ Marines seize Monterey, Calif. Jones apologizes the next day.	2017—Citizens gather on the beach at Sanders Poynt to celebrate the end of the five-year Binnie Blockade. 1975—In the 12th inning, New Hampshire’s own Carlton Fisk waves the ball fair, and the Red Sox win Game 6 of the World Series. 1967—Yippies, Diggers, & Hippies try to levitate the Pentagon. They fail. 1966—A mountain of mine waste collapses onto a school in Wales, killing 28 adults and 116 children. 1957—Special Forces Capt. Harry Cramer becomes the 2nd American killed by hostile action in Vietnam. His death is falsely listed as accidental. 1954—Indiana’s Boxing Commission says boxers and wrestlers must swear an oath they’re not Commies before they can fight in the Hoosier State. 1861—Colonel Edward D. Baker, leading his brigade at the Battle of Ball’s Bluff, becomes the first and last U.S. Senator [R-Ore.] killed in battle. 1837—Osceola and 81 other Seminoles are captured and imprisoned at Ft. Payton, Fla. by U.S. troops using a false flag of truce. 1835—William Lloyd Garrison is paraded through the streets of Boston with a rope around his neck for saying “all men are created equal.” 1797—After two failures, the USS <i>Constitution</i> is launched in Boston. 1556—Poet, playwright, pornographer, blackmailer and satirist Pietro Aretino—“the Scourge of Princes”—laughs himself to death in Venice.	1987—At Yoken’s, Queens con man Donald Trump puts the flim-flam on a credulous Portsmouth Rotary Club. 1968—To improve the odds of his election, Richard Nixon tells H.R. Haldeman to “monkey wrench” negotiations to end the Vietnam War. 1967—KGB agent Manfred Ramming steals a Sidewinder missile from Neuburg AFB, takes it off-base in a wheelbarrow, drives away with it sticking out the back of his Mercedes, and mails it, dismantled, to Moscow. 1963—Fed up with accurate reporting, JFK asks “Punch” Sulzberger to remove the <i>Times</i>’ David Halberstam from Vietnam. It doesn’t work. 1946—Despite a confession, a white jury in Mississippi finds five white men not guilty of beating Leon McAttee, who’s Black, to death. 1913—A dynamite blast, detonated in violation of safety rules, kills 265 at a Phelps Dodge mine in Dawson, N.M. 1909—A [male] judge tells striking female garment workers in New York, “You are on strike against God.” 1868—James M. Hinds [R-Mo.] is shotgunned in the back, becoming the U.S.’s first assassinated Congressman. No charges are filed against the killer, George Clark, Secretary of the Monroe County Democratic Party. 4004 BC—At about 6:00 p.m. on this day, God creates everything, according to The Most Reverend James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, writing in 1650.	2015—FBI boss James Comey says criticism of the police is causing the rise of violent crime in cities. He offers no evidence for this assertion. 2015—Senator Ted Cruz [R-Texas] warns “one more liberal justice and they begin sandblasting and bulldozing veterans memorials.” 2013—Chancellor Angela Merkel calls the White House to complain about the NSA tapping her phone. 2001—Rep. James Sensenbrenner [R-Wise.] introduces the senseless PATRIOT Act, & Justice official James Yoo writes a memo saying the President need not obey the law. 1998—Life being sacred, anti-abortion fanatic James C. Kopp murders Dr. Barnett Slepian in Amherst, N.Y. 1987—Robert Bork gets Borked. 1983—Suicide bombers kill 241 U.S. Marines and sailors in Lebanon—on President Ronald Reagan’s watch. 1962—With SAC at DEFCON 2, JFK and aides debate whether to bomb Cuban SAM sites if any U.S. planes are shot down. 1955—In a South Vietnamese referendum with 108% participation, Ngo Dinh Diem wins with 98.9%. 1954—Bypassing the French, Pres. Eisenhower authorizes direct U.S. aid to South Vietnam. It doesn’t help. 1775—The Continental Congress bars Blacks from the Army. 425—Valentinian III, six, becomes Emperor of the Western Roman Empire, which falls 30 years later.	2001—The U.S. House passes the PATRIOT Act without reading it. 1990—Italy’s PM admits the Gladio “conspiracy theory” was factually true: the CIA and MI-5 helped fascists carry out false flag attacks in Europe. 1983—U.S. military aircraft, using old maps, bomb Richmond Hill Insane Asylum in Grenada, killing 16. 1963—In Dallas on UN Day, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Adlai Stevenson is shoved, booed, spat upon, and hit with signs by John Birchers led by ex-Army Maj. Gen. Edwin Walker. 1962—Soviet ships reach the U.S. quarantine line off Cuba. They don’t cross it, so we don’t nuke the USSR. A Soviet satellite explodes the same day. NORAD suspects an ICBM attack; but, again, nobody pushes The Button. 1956—At Sevres, Britain and France make a secret pact to gang up on Egypt after Israel takes the Suez Canal. 1945—The UN is created to “maintain international peace and security,” as well as “friendly relations” among nations. Glad that’s settled. 1930—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports on the ten-year career of George “The Man in the Green Hat” Cassidy, who bootlegged out of House and Senate office buildings. 1929—The irrational exuberance of the 1920’s dies on “Black Thursday.” 1901—General “Hell-Roaring Jake” Smith tells Marines at Samar, “burn and kill; the more you burn and kill, the better it will please me.”
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25	MONDAY, OCTOBER 26	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

2001—Only Sen. Russ Feingold votes “nay” on the “PATRIOT” Act.

1983—U.S. troops protect us—and distract from the deaths of 241 Marines in Beirut—by invading Grenada.

1978—In response to GOP malfeasance, FISA is enacted—thereby enabling future GOP malfeasance.

1973—Henry Kissinger, Alexander Haig, and other unelected officials raise America’s military readiness level to DEFCON 3 as Nixon sleeps.

1962—Nuclear-armed jets scramble from Duluth AFB because a guard shot a bear climbing a perimeter fence thinking it was an infiltrator.

1960—Martin Luther King, Jr. gets four months at hard labor in Decatur, Georgia on old traffic charges.

1944—A Japanese armada surprises “Taffy 3”—a far smaller U.S. Navy task force—off Samar Island in Leyte Gulf. Taffy 3’s ferocious counterattack tips the strategic balance in the Pacific.

1944—USS *Tang*, captained by Dover, N.H.’s Richard H. O’Kane, is sunk by its own malfunctioning torpedo; 74 crewmen perish; 9 survive the sinking and a Japanese prison camp.

1920—Greece’s King Alexander dies after being bitten by a pet monkey.

1854—Inept, incompetent, and confused officers send the Light Brigade charging into Russian cannons at Balaklava. Half of the 664 cavalymen end up killed, captured, or wounded.

1760—King George II of Great Britain dies on the loo.

2016—*Bloomberg* reports that Frederick Trump, Donald’s grandpa, once ran a brothel in British Columbia.

2010—Arizona kills Jeffrey Landrigan, using drugs imported illegally.

2003—Iraqi resistance fighters nearly get Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz with a rocket in Baghdad.

1972—Four years after helping to scuttle peace talks and get Richard Nixon elected, Henry Kissinger announces that “Peace is at hand.”

1971—Governor Reagan, calling the White House, refers to “those monkeys from those African countries... damn them, they’re still uncomfortable wearing shoes,” which President Nixon finds hilarious.

1966—Aboard the carrier USS *Oriskany* off Vietnam, a sailor throws an accidentally-ignited flare into a locker full of warheads. Explosions ensue, 44 die and 156 are injured.

1962—An ABC newsmen and the KGB’s D.C. station chief discuss missiles in Cuba and whether or not Armageddon is necessary.

1924—Standard Oil’s brand new leaded gas plant in New Jersey claims the first of five fatalities in one week.

1917—Allies gain a few hundred yards of mud at Passchendaele at the cost of 12,000 casualties.

1881—The Clanton brothers shoot it out with the alleged law at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona.

1825—Having killed 1,000 workers, the Erie Canal opens for business.

1972—Richard Nixon pocket vetoes a bill which would have raised the veterans’ health care budget by \$85 million.

1970—Nixon’s anti-drug law goes into effect, to wit: arresting hippies and Blacks is now easier than ever.

1969—Richard Nixon sends 18 armed B-52s flying around the North Pole for three days to convince the Soviets he’s dangerously unstable. Duh.

1965—In a letter to the *N.Y. Times*, Richard Nixon writes, “We must never forget that if the war in Vietnam is lost... the right of free speech will be extinguished throughout the world.”

1962—ICBMs go on alert in Montana as Cubans shoot down one U-2 as another strays over the USSR. Meanwhile, aboard Soviet sub *B-59* near Cuba, Vice Admiral Vasili Arkhipov single-handedly prevents the launch of a nuclear torpedo. Fortunately Bobby Kennedy cuts a deal with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin before the wrong button gets pushed.

1951—“There is no question,” says Army Chief of Staff J.L. Collins, “that the Communist menace in French Indo-China has been stopped.”

1942—Already excommunicated by the local Mormon Church after his arrest for writing and distributing pamphlets calling Hitler supporters “spineless puppets,” Helmut Hubener, 17, is guillotined in Berlin.

1659—Boston Puritans hang Marmaduke Stephenson and William Robinson for praying the wrong way.

2022—Elon Musk buys Twitter; an online loon attacks the House Speaker’s husband with a hammer; there is no connection between these events.

2016—Disregarding advice from Justice Dept. lawyers, Director James Comey announces that the FBI has re-opened its investigation of the Democratic Presidential candidate 10 days before the election.

2003—Iraq is “a little tougher than I thought it was going to be,” says Sen. Trent Lott [R-Miss.], but “if we have to, we just mow the whole place down [and] see what happens.”

1989—Congress passes a new, improved Flag Protection Act; 227 days after the Court throws it out.

1980—With help from a stolen briefing book given to him by an ex-CIA boss, Reagan “out-debates” Carter.

1962—JFK and Khrushchev agree: Soviet nuclear missiles out of Cuba, U.S. nuclear missiles out of Turkey. Two years later, they’re both gone, too.

1922—“Sent by divine providence,” according to Pope Pius XI, Benito Mussolini takes over in Rome.

1918—Influenza-mask refusenik James Wisser is shot by San Francisco health officer H.D. Miller.

1906—Ivy Lee issues the world’s first press release: the Pennsylvania RR bridge that killed 53 passengers is AOK. The *N.Y. Times* runs it as-is.

1793—Whitney patents the cotton gin. It revives southern chattel slavery and brings wage slavery to the North.

2004—Osama bin Laden explains: 9/11 was retaliation for the U.S. backing Israel’s 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

1984—New York City policemen kill African American Eleanor Bumpurs, 66, with two rounds from a 12 gauge. She was behind in her rent.

1981—A British Parliamentarian asks Maggie Thatcher whether European governments were “free to veto [a] push on the final button by that incoherent cretin President Reagan?”

1979—On Wall Street, 1,000 people are arrested for disrupting business on the 50th Anniversary of the Crash.

1970—Gov. R. Reagan’s education advisor Roger A. Freeman warns “We are in danger of producing an educated proletariat. ... That’s dynamite!”

1969—Chicago 8 defendant Bobby Seale is gagged and bound to a chair.

1958—A radioactive cloud drifts over Los Angeles after the explosion of an A-bomb in Nevada.

1940—First U.S. peacetime draft.

1929—“Black Tuesday”—16 million shares sell on Wall Street, at ever declining prices; \$26 billion evaporates.

1918—A set of rogue admirals seeking “doom with honor” defy policy and order an attack on the British fleet. Sensibly, German sailors mutiny.

1827—Congressional Representative Henry W. Conway [D-Ark.] is mortally wounded in a duel with Acting Governor Robert Crittenden, co-founder of the Rose Law Firm, future employer of Hillary Rodham.

2018—Murderer and FBI informant “Whitey” Bulger’s corpse is found in his cell, its tongue nearly severed. Prison officials profess surprise.

2017—President Trump’s ex-campaign manager Paul Manafort and his associate Rick Gates are arrested on a slew of charges by the FBI.

2016—Sen. Harry Reid [D-Nev.] accuses FBI Boss James Comey of sandbagging the Clinton campaign while covering up for the Trump campaign.

2012—For the first time since the Ice Age, public access to the sea at Sanders Poynt in Rye is cut off by would-be Senator Bill Binnie.

2005—Pastor Kyle Lake, 33, standing in water to perform a baptism before 800 people at a Waco, Texas Baptist church, reaches for a microphone and is electrocuted.

1995—Quebec nearly votes to secede.

1990—For the first time since the Ice Age, England and Europe are connected; this time by chunnel.

1967—Martin Luther King, Jr. is arrested in Birmingham, Ala.

1961—The Soviet Union air-drops a 58-megaton H-bomb: the largest explosion in human history.

1950—Puerto Rican Nationalists begin a rebellion against U.S. rule.

1948—Smog deaths in Donora, Pa. reach 20; 6,000 have been sickened.

1938—CBS Radio broadcasts “War of the Worlds.” Irresponsible newspapers spin a few isolated overreactions into a mythical national panic.

2016—Chris Sununu claims Democrats bus voters in from Mass, a lie quickly cribbed by Donald Trump.

1977—Carter’s new CIA boss, Stansfield Turner, fires 200 spoons. They all go meekly, with nary a thought of covert retaliation against Democrats.

1973—Ex-Veep Spiro Agnew pays a \$10,000 fine for not paying taxes on the bribes he took while in office.

1963—“I can safely say,” says Gen. Paul D. Harkin, U.S. commander in South Vietnam, “that the end of the war is in sight.” He’s in Tokyo, so...

1939—FDR moves up the date of Thanksgiving by one week to stretch out the Christmas shopping season.

1938—Convicted murderer John Deering’s heart rate is monitored by an EKG as he’s executed by a Utah firing squad: 180 beats per minute.

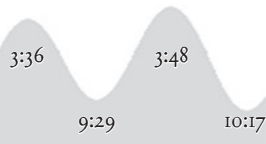
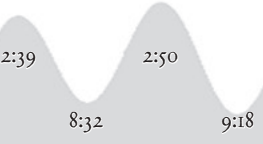
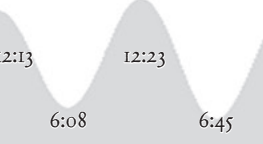
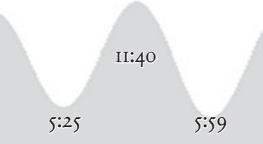
1918—In a single week, Spanish Flu kills 21,000 Americans.

1893—The World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago closes; Daniel Fowle’s printing press, which had been on display, has not been seen since.

1891—Coal miners in Tennessee burn a stockade, freeing hundreds of prisoners brought in to take their jobs.

1885—A new Capitol guard in Statuary Hall fires his revolver at ghostly moans. He misses a prank-playing colleague, but leaves scars on the walls.

1765—The *New Hampshire Gazette* is printed “in mourning” for lost liberty, in protest of the Stamp Act, scheduled to take effect the following day.



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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, mderhammernh@gmail.com.

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— THEODORE ROOSEVELT

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