

The Fortnightly Rant

It's the Psychosis, Stupid

When this paper hits the street, less than 100 hours will remain of the most psychotic political campaign in U.S. history.

This would be good news, if only we had some assurance—hell, we'd settle for a hope—that the election on November 3rd might have a curative effect.

Nothing will be cured, though, on November 4th, or even on January 3rd, when the winners of the House and Senate races will, one likes to think, take their oaths of office. Naturally, things being as they have been lately, we must take into consideration the possibility that some of the actual winners of the elections will be denied their seats.

That such an outcome springs to mind might have been taken as possible evidence of editorial derangement a couple of decades ago. These days, ignoring that potentiality would be *prima facie* evidence of editorial negligence.

Our hope for Election Day is that it will result in the leadership of the House and Senate being taken from the hands of the current enablers and be assumed by individuals willing and able to do the necessary thing: diagnose these Wildly Disparate States of Part of North America [W.D.S.P.N.A.]*

Crazy, we know: put the diagnosis before the cure. What a concept. That's us—always the weirdo contrarians.

We learned long ago that when things seem terrible everywhere you look, it can help to think of something—anything, no matter how small or ridiculous—that gives you even the tiniest bit of delight.

Well, we're delighted that the concept of “the elephant in the room” pre-dates our current mishegas. Without that precedent it would be nonsensical for us to say that it's past time for this country to talk about the decaying elephant corpse that's stinking up the room, to wit: our prevailing national state of psychosis.

This is not some trifling matter. Anyone aspiring to fulfill the duties of a citizen is obliged to pay at least some attention to the actions of public figures associated with the government. This can be hazardous to the well-being of ordinary mortals who, through no fault of their own, find themselves living in a land where the highest court has effectively made white collar crime perfectly legal.

Consequently—wealth being such a reliable indicator of intelligence—criminal masterminds get to pick who's in the government.

Extraordinary claims demand extraordinary evidence. What, exactly, do we mean by psychotic?

In March of 2025, Jeremy Lewin, 28, showed up at USAID and started firing people. On April 1st—an appropriate day, provided one has a sufficiently dark sense of humor—*Rolling Stone* reported that Lewin had “a history of violence and racist remarks.” The charges in the paywalled article were paraphrased by *The Guardian*: “a girl had complained to police that Lewin had threatened her with a knife, that he physically assaulted a fellow student in the cafeteria at the elite private school he attended, and that [he] had a history of racist remarks.”

What once would have been disqualifying traits have now become qualifications. The proof is in the bloody pudding. Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health published a study last November which estimated that 600,000 people, two-thirds of them children, had died already as a result of the shutdown of USAID.

On Tuesday, *Wired* reported that Lewin's appointment “was so mysterious that USAID security was unable to issue him an ID card because they had no records of his employment,” and therefore, “it isn't clear that he had the legal authority to do so.”

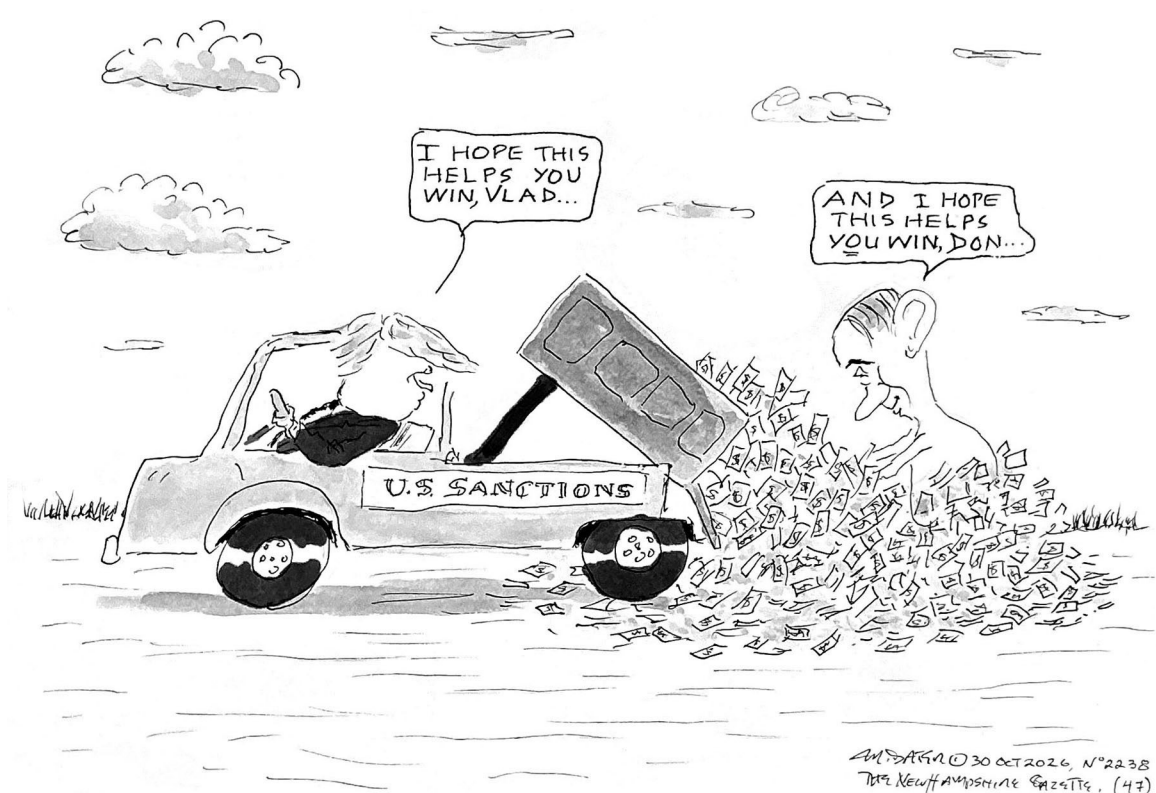
Meanwhile, in Greece, Kimberly Guilfoyle, freshly fired as Ambassador after being caught soliciting a \$100,000 bribe, is “all alone in [the Ambassador's residence], screaming at her old staff that they are leakers, and waiting to get kicked out. It's an insane situation.” The President barely admits to knowing her name; she was engaged to his first-born son for six years, and he made her the Ambassador.

Now that he's safely dead, three male prostitutes are alleging in a video that the late Senator Lindsey Graham [R-S.C.] paid them for sex—one of them being 17 at the time. Those who are surprised by this could assemble in a phone booth.

Vanity Fair hit the psycho jackpot, reporting that *El Presidente's* son-in-law, Jared Kushner, had access to a huge slush fund set up by Middle Eastern potentates, and handed off some of the loot to a Cuban former hit man. For what it's worth, the internet has concluded that the target was Charlie Kirk.

Top travesty of the fortnight: Secretary of Cosplay Pete Hegseth trashing Ike's WW II globe.

Is it too much to ask that our AI-enhanced overlords grant to us mere mortals the dignity of acknowledging the true circumstances of our existence?



Election-Denying Trump Judges Preside Over Nearly Every Battleground Midterm Race

“We must vote in numbers so overwhelming that no Trump judge could deny the truth.”

by Jake Johnson

If the Trump administration decides to challenge the outcome of any of the dozens of battleground contests in next week's midterms, there's a significant chance that one of the president's handpicked, election-denying judges will oversee the case.

That's according to a report published Tuesday by the advocacy group Demand Justice, which found that 53 of 60 battleground races for U.S. House and Senate that will be held on November 3rd “are in districts or states presided over by at least one Trump-appointed federal judge who, under oath, refused to admit that Donald Trump lost the 2020 election.”

“If these judges couldn't tell the truth about 2020, we can't count on them to do so in 2026,” said Josh Orton, president of Demand Justice. “We must vote in numbers so overwhelming that no Trump judge could deny the truth.”

The report defines battleground races as Senate and House contests that analysts currently rate as either a toss up, lean Republican, or lean Democratic.

Demand Justice emphasizes that federal courts “look very different” today than they did in 2020, when the judiciary “halted Trump's attempt to challenge the 2020 election results.”

“Since then, Trump appointed Emil Bove and Jennifer Mascott to the Third Circuit, Rebecca Taibleson to the Seventh, Michael Martin to the Eastern District of Michigan, and Eric Tung to the Ninth Circuit, which hears appeals from Arizona,” the report notes, pointing to courts that previously weighed 2020-related cases.

During their confirmation hearings, each of those Trump-picked judges—along with dozens of others—refused to explicitly say that Trump lost the 2020 election. As Demand Justice observed in an earlier report, Trump's judicial picks used virtually identical phrasing to evade senators' questions about the 2020 election results, saying that former President Joe Biden “was certified as the winner.”

The report comes amid mounting concerns that the Trump administration could try to intervene in the midterms if the outcome is unfavorable to Trump and his Republican Party, which is seeking to maintain

control of both chambers of Congress.

Demand Justice cited as an alarming example the Justice Department's lawsuit aiming at blocking certification of Alaska's U.S. Senate election if Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan loses. Trump told reporters late last week that he ordered the DOJ to file the lawsuit, which Democratic nominee Mary Peltola is seeking to dismiss before Election Day.

“Trump's attempt to interfere in Alaska's Senate race is a wake-up call,” said Orton. “His administration will not accept election results unless the Republicans win.”

Jake Johnson is a senior editor and staff writer for Common Dreams. This work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). Feel free to republish and share widely.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

There was a singular incident connected with the recent death of Civil Engineer B.F. Chandler, U.S.N. He was supposed to be dead, and the undertaker who had been sent for had commenced preparing the body for burial, when he suddenly sat up in bed and asked for an oyster stew. This was given him, and eaten with apparent relish; but he immediately afterward apparently commenced to sink away, and in about an hour ceased to breathe. [Note: Chandler was one of the five founding officers of the U.S. Navy's Civil Engineering Corps. — The Ed.]

- Within two years the price of cocaine [sic] has decreased from \$500 an ounce to \$8.
- Biographies of Bial, the New York inspector of customs who shot Surveyor Beattie, represent him as thoroughly bad, a political peeler, a prize-fighter, a gambler and bribe-taker.
- Louis Bial, the old man who shot Surveyor Beattie, of New York, was formerly known as Louis Clark of

Boston, and was one of the men employed by the government to escort Anthony Burns, the fugitive slave, down State street to a revenue cutter in Boston harbor in 1854.

- Scientists calculate that the earth will cease revolving in about six thousand years from now. Let it stop; who cares?
- Thirty-seven Apache children have been sent to Carlisle, Penn., to be educated.
- Sam Small, the evangelist, has been sued by a Cincinnati jeweler for a bill of \$300.
- Mrs. Chanfrau, the actress, the wife of Frank W. Chanfrau, is missing; so is Clifton A. Tayleure, the manager of the Chanfrau company.
- A resolution passed both houses of the legislature in Vermont, on Friday, Nov. 5th, to prevent persons from wearing Grand Army badges unless entitled to them, and imposing a fine and imprisonment for doing so.

* What the hell? Things are being re-named willy-nilly these days; we might as well get in on the action. Nobody can say our version isn't more accurate.

Major Corporations Paid Lowest Federal Tax Rate in Decades Following Trump Tax Cuts

706 profitable corporations paid just 10.4 percent in current federal income taxes in 2025, while 114 paid nothing at all

The nation's largest and most profitable corporations paid an average federal income tax rate of just 10.4 percent in 2025, the lowest rate documented in more than four decades of research by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP), according to a new study released last week.

The study examines the current federal income taxes of 706 major U.S. corporations that collectively reported \$1.88 trillion in domestic profits last year. Despite these enormous earnings, the companies collectively paid less than half the statutory federal corporate income tax rate of 21 percent, and 114 paid no current federal income tax at all.

The findings illustrate the combined effects of two rounds of corporate tax cuts enacted under President Trump: the 2017 tax law, which slashed the statutory corporate income tax rate from 35 to 21 percent, and the 2025 tax law, which expanded and made permanent lucrative corporate tax breaks.

- Among the study's key findings:
- 114 corporations paid no current

federal income tax in 2025, including well-known companies such as Tesla, Walt Disney, CVS, Citigroup, United Airlines, and DoorDash.

- 258 corporations paid effective tax rates below 7 percent, or less than one-third of the statutory rate. Together, these companies reported \$683 billion in U.S. profits but paid an effective federal income tax rate of just 1.7 percent.

- The 706 corporations studied received \$198 billion in federal tax subsidies by paying less than the statutory 21 percent rate. They also benefited from an additional \$263 billion in tax savings attributable to the 2017 reduction of the statutory rate from 35 percent to 21 percent.

- Just 25 corporations accounted for more than half of the 2025 tax subsidies. Alphabet (\$18.9 billion), Microsoft (\$18.7 billion), Amazon (\$17.4 billion), and Meta (\$13.9 billion) were among the largest beneficiaries.

"These findings show just how dramatically the corporate tax system has been tilted in favor of the nation's wealthiest and most power-

ful companies," said Matt Gardner, ITEP Senior Fellow and co-author of the report. "At a time when lawmakers claim the country cannot afford investments in families and communities, some of the most profitable corporations in American history are paying little or nothing in federal income taxes. This is not an accident. It is the predictable outcome of deliberate policy choices that have steadily eroded the corporate tax base."

The study finds that corporate tax avoidance is particularly pronounced in several industries. Technology companies collectively paid an effective federal income tax rate of just 10 percent, receiving \$68.5 billion in federal tax subsidies. Motor vehicle companies paid just 2.7 percent, while telecommunications companies paid 6.7 percent and aerospace companies paid 7.6 percent.

The research also documents how corporate tax breaks enacted or expanded in Trump's 2025 tax law have helped some of the nation's largest tech companies dramatically reduce their tax bills. Provisions allowing companies to immediately deduct investments in equipment and research have provided substantial benefits to corporations making massive investments in artificial intelligence and other technologies.

While these subsidies are frequently promoted as necessary to encourage investment, the report raises questions about why highly profitable corporations should receive billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies for spending they may



have undertaken regardless.

"Congress has repeatedly chosen to expand tax breaks for corporations that are already extraordinarily profitable," said Steve Wamhoff, ITEP Federal Policy Director and co-author of the report. "Rather than continuing to subsidize corporate investments and reward aggressive tax avoidance, lawmakers should close these loopholes and ensure that large corporations pay a meaningful share of their profits in taxes."

ITEP's analysis draws on annual financial reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by corporations in the Fortune 1000 or S&P 500. The study calculates effective federal income tax rates based on companies' reported current federal income tax expense relative to

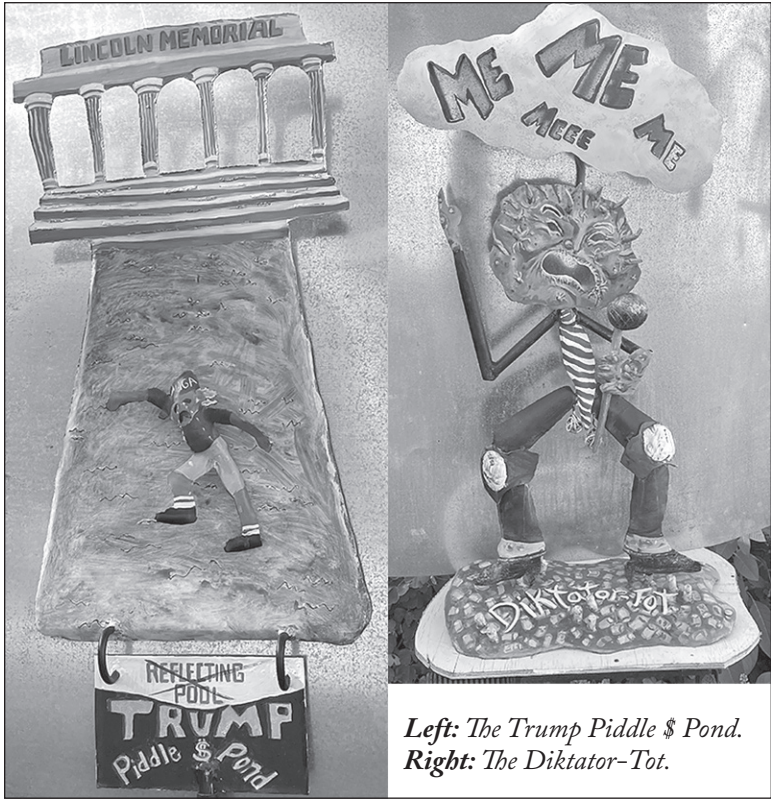
their U.S. pretax profits.

The findings continue a series of corporate tax studies conducted by ITEP and Citizens for Tax Justice over more than four decades. The 10.4 percent effective rate in 2025 is even lower than the 11.2 percent rate documented in 1982 following President Reagan's first round of corporate tax cuts, and the 11.3 percent rate reported in 2018 following Trump's first tax law.

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The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization, based in Washington, D.C. that focuses on federal and state tax policy. Its' full body of research is available at www.itepnet.org.

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Left: The Trump Piddle \$ Pond. Right: The Diktator-Tot.

Hand-lettered cardboard signs have long been America's #1 medium for protest. When renowned Portsmouth blacksmith Peter Happny decides to express himself, it's time for hammer and tong, metal and fire.

BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page two

people of that section are seriously displeased.

- Capt. Wm. Glen, of the British barque *Ivy*, at Halifax from Java, is charged with the murder of one of the crew on the passage by long-continued cruelty.
- Mrs. Josephine McClymond of Cincinnati has had her husband arrested for bigamy. They were married eight years ago, she then having a daughter nine years old, by a previous husband. Recently McClymond offered her proof that his first wife was living at the time of his second marriage, which was consequently illegal; and he then married the daughter, who has since treated her mother with such scorn and harshness that she at length made the charge of bigamy in self defence.

- A gold nugget, worth \$575, was picked up on the main street of Auburn, Cal., after a heavy rain storm. Fine specimens of ore known as native silver have been taken from a mine recently discovered in Alexandria. There is said to be an abundant supply of the mineral.
- John Masuly and Charles Page of Lyme were recently committed to jail for carrying a teacher out of the school house.
- The foot-ball eleven of the Harvard freshmen were defeated on the 10th inst. at Exeter by the Phillips Academy team, in a very spirited game. The score was thirty to five.
- Frank Dawson, a saloon keeper of Milford, Conn., has been held on charges of hiring ruffians to burn the buildings of prominent temperance men.
- There was a mutiny Tuesday morn-

ing on board the schooner *Nellie W. Craig*, at anchor in the lower harbor, outward bound, light, after discharging a cargo of coal here. A Greek sailor demanded to be paid off, which the captain refused, and at length the dispute resulted in the sailor drawing a knife, and the captain producing a pistol. A signal being set called a file of marines from the USS *Kearsarge*, at anchor near by, and the belligerent seaman was taken on board the man-of-war to be turned over to civil authorities.

- The fire engine company in the old volunteer department of New York voted "That the painting committee can paint der masheen any color they like, so long as it's bright red."
- Otis G. Pike, the purchaser of the Quaker John Gove farm at Seabrook, on Monday of this week cleaned out a well and made quite a

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"Power does not corrupt men; fools, however, if they get into a position of power, corrupt power."

— George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

"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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Were the Saudis Shielded from Blame?
Dear Editor,

The planners of the September 2001 terrorist attack using hijacked airplanes were likely those who carried out the attack. This group of men, mostly from Saudi Arabia, were capable and had plenty of reasons to harbor hostility against the United States Government. The idea for the attack was conceived by four friends who met in Hamburg, Germany and had lived previously in Egypt, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. These men were comfortable living in a country similar to the United States of America, they were familiar with air travel, and they had experienced the oppression and violence that the U.S. backed monarchies and dictatorships impose on their people. They also would have been upset about the 1991 U.S. invasion of Iraq and the violent U.S. economic warfare against Iraq that lasted many years and the U.S. support for the Israeli Government's murderous campaign against the Palestinians that resulted in a nearly twenty-year occupation of southern Lebanon.

The Bush Administration attributed the terrorist attack to al-Qaeda in order to further justify the ensuing war on terror. They claimed that a member of al-Qaeda had planned the attack and the four Munich friends had materialized from nowhere to carry out the plan. (The 9/11 Commission Report stated that the four Munich friends were originally planning to travel to Chechnya but they met some bearded men on a commuter train and began discussing jihad. The strangers convinced them that they should travel to Afghanistan instead and that is where they met the al-Qaeda official. The 9/11 Commission members can be forgiven for this nonsense because they were unable to interview or even pose questions to the witnesses.) The Bush administration proceeded to torture the gentleman they selected as the 'mastermind' until he 'confessed' to his torturers. Now he languishes, along with fourteen other innocent men, in the Guantanamo Bay military facility while the U.S. government attempts to deny him the right to face his accus-

ers in a court of law. Another of the Guantanamo Bay guests is one of the four friends from Munich. He was unable to secure a U.S. visa and did not participate actively in the attack. The Bush Administration arranged for this man to face a similarly endless ordeal of 'enhanced interrogation' at multiple sites and he faces lasting psychological trauma from the ordeal.

Your Loyal Reader,
Gregory Kalkanis
Berkeley, Calif.

PS: My partner, Karen, and I enjoyed a short visit to Portsmouth this past summer. We patronized the businesses that advertise in the *New Hampshire Gazette* and everyone made us feel welcome. The Boston bus left us at the station on the hill near town, and the C&J station agent gave us the card of a cabbie who then ferried us to the hotel. The cabbie proceeded to provide wonderful service during our stay.

Gregory:
Many thanks for your loyal readership, and this rather eye-opening letter. Hard to believe that after all these years it's still possible to see that incident in a new light. We truly live in a hall of mirrors, set in a wilderness of lies.

The Editor

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Joyful Cruelty and 'Dark Fun'

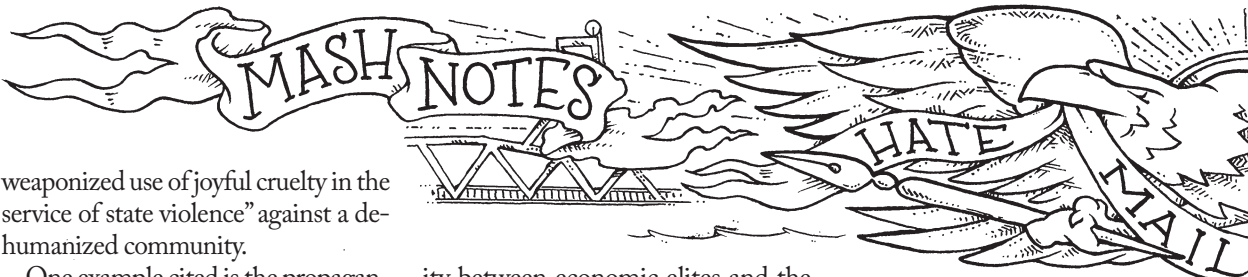
To the Editor:

At comedian Jerry Seinfeld's recent show in Chicago, an audience member shouted about Gaza, "Twenty-two thousand Palestinians who are children now are killed with our taxpayer money, and you're making jokes?!"

The comedian then began dancing on stage and mockingly declared, "I am a racist. It's a genocide. I'm into it," before saying, "I'm gonna find out how much your ticket was, and I'm sending it to Israel."

Seinfeld, an outspoken supporter of Israel, previously stated, "I don't care about Palestine," and that "It doesn't exist."

In their journal article, "Genocidal Enjoyment: On the Weaponization of Joyful Cruelty and 'Dark Fun' during Israel's Genocide in Gaza," sociologists Raúl Pérez and Charles Thorpe define genocidal enjoyment as "the



weaponized use of joyful cruelty in the service of state violence" against a dehumanized community.

One example cited is the propaganda channel, "72 Virgins-Uncensored," which was aired on the social media platform Telegram by members of the Israeli Defense Forces' Influencing Department. Its target audience was Israeli citizens, and the channel showed videos and posted photos celebrating and mocking the death and abuse of Palestinians.

According to the authors, genocidal enjoyment bonds soldiers and supporters through shared pleasure, reinforcing moral hierarchies and portraying the targets of state violence as moral outsiders.

Seinfeld's actions demonstrated genocidal enjoyment. Cruelty was made to feel like camaraderie, and Palestinian suffering was made to seem like a fitting subject for laughter.

Terry Hansen
Grafton, Wisconsin

Terry:
During the late Great Patriotic War to Defend San Diego from the Scourge of Godless Communism, U.S. Army drill instructors were careful to admonish recruits against using insensitive language when referring to our worthy opponents....

The Editor

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It's Time for a New New Deal

To the Editor;

Donald Trump's unpopularity is well earned. He is a toxic narcissist, a grifter, and totally inept as President. Hopefully, Democratic gains in the midterm elections will limit the harm that he could do in his last two years, and he will soon be ushered off the world stage. As heartening as that will be, however, Trump is only a symptom of an underlying malaise that has promoted the rise of right-wing populism and fascism worldwide. The causes of this malady will not disappear with Trump. Its root causes must be understood and eliminated before hostility between political factions can be repaired, and the survival of liberal democracy ensured.

To start, we must understand the reasons for the huge wealth inequal-

ity between economic elites and the middle and working classes that exists in many industrialized economies. Inequality has been increasing since the 80's and has reached levels not seen since the Gilded Age. It has created an economic class divide in the U.S. such that a wealthy elite enjoys untold privilege and power while some members of the working-class struggle to pay for basic living expenses. The divide began to build with the ascendancy of neoliberal economics which privileged capital over labor and established the principle of maximizing shareholder value as the sole responsibility of corporate managers. New transportation and manufacturing technologies enabled capitalists to outsource production to the lowest wage countries and replace workers with robots with the consequent loss of millions of well-paying blue-collar jobs in the industrialized West. Next, the Great Recession of 2008 saw the financial and business classes escape losses as the government bailed them out while the middle and working classes saw jobs lost, homes devalued, and retirement nest eggs decimated. Following 2008, populist political parties began to attract resentful members of the working class who felt abandoned by traditional political parties that seemed feckless to provide solutions for working class problems while catering to economic elites.

In the U.S., neither Republicans nor Democrats offered effective policies to alleviate the economic difficulties of the working class. Both have been unable to provide well-paying jobs to replace the blue-collar jobs lost in the past 40 years while the cost of housing, medical care, and basic groceries has steadily increased, leaving a large cadre to struggle with basic living costs. While Trump was able to exploit working class resentment to gain control of the Republican Party, he is most concerned with his own self-aggrandizement; he never was going to provide solutions for working class problems as many of his base are discovering. The Democrats began

to abandon the working class under Clinton who sought favor amongst Wall Street financiers and educated professionals. A subsequent focus on identity politics and Woke policies served only to deepen the animosity of the dispossessed white working class and drive more of them into the Trump cult. Although many Democratic candidates have focused on the affordability issue in the midterm elections, few are suggesting policies that will address the fundamental structural issues that cause unaffordable prices.

The affordability issue may win many Democrats a seat in Congress this election, but their gains will be short-lived unless they can convert election victories into institutional change. They must use their newly acquired power to prevent corporations from using their bargaining power to inflate prices. They must transform the institutions that drive the cost of housing, medical care, and education so that they are responsive to the needs of the middle and working classes. Owners of capital have been privileged for too long while the majority have suffered. Removing their privilege will be no easy task. The billionaires that patrol the economic heights will use their influence to oppose any initiative that limits their power. They will attack any threat to their power as a form of Communism or Socialism and bring to bear great financial resources, but oligarchs have been brought to heel before as FDR proved with the New Deal. It's time for a new New Deal.

Robert D. Russell, PhD
Harrisburg, Pa.
Robert:
The rich don't seem to understand: if they refuse to let us tax them, we'll just have to eat them.

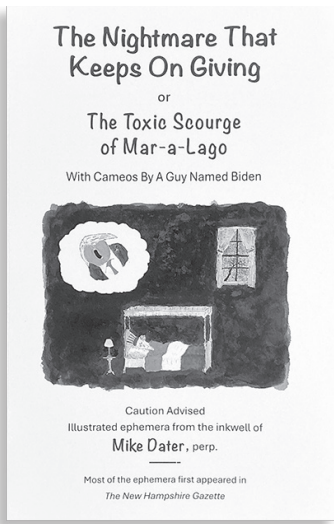
The Editor

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Welcome to the Party

Dear Editor:

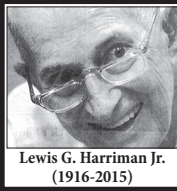
In a surprising display of courage and patriotism, 58 Republicans and Independents in New Hampshire recently declared their support for Dem-

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The Editor

Vote No on Question #2

To the Editor:

I have worked in public education for over 20 years, first as a school librarian and more recently as a substitute teacher. I discovered early on that many teachers spent hundreds of dollars of their own money to buy books, craft supplies, posters, tissues and other materials for their classrooms. Teachers bought snacks to keep on hand for their students who came to school without them. When a student came to school without a winter coat or boots, their teacher always found a way to get these things for their kids. The teachers and staff that I encountered didn't view teaching as a job but as a calling.

After school, staff meetings, curriculum meetings, and student clubs kept most teachers at school for hours after the school day was over. One colleague and I ran a robotics club that met after school and had meets on weekends. One teacher organized a car wash on the weekend, to help defray the cost of a school trip that she knew some families couldn't afford.

Lately, I keep hearing politicians in New Hampshire demonizing teachers and public schools. In fact, those who would like to defund education have gotten Question #2 on every ballot in towns and cities this November. Voting yes would cap public school funding at a time when public schools, like all of us, are dealing with steeply rising costs for fuel, health insurance, food and supplies. There is a better way to lower property taxes. The state must pay its fair share of public education costs for every student, instead of continuing to pass these costs down to local taxpayers. Please vote No on Question #2 to save our schools and force the state to pay its fair share.

Ginna Schonwald
Barrington, N.H.



have earned our automatic trust. It's that the Republicans seem bent on killing us all, along with the planet under us.

The Editor

Criminal Disregard for the Troops

To the Editor:

Only now are we discovering how poorly Trump's "excursion" in Iran was planned. While many knew an attack on Iran would probably result in the closing of the Strait of Hormuz, it appears that the administration did not. The Strait will not be reopened so long as the world's oil supplies can be held hostage.

The incompetent Pete Hegseth, secretary of "war," is culling knowledgeable personnel from the military by firing and retiring high-ranking Blacks and women due to "failed DEI policies" or by keeping them from advancing in rank. Others are being treated similarly for being insufficiently loyal to the president.

The result is a debacle in the Middle East. Our bases there were destroyed as Trump coozied up to Putin, who is providing targeting information to Iran. This left no base in the area able to resupply our aircraft carriers deployed there. Military families and other civilian personnel were not evacuated as the war began, leaving them as sitting ducks when Iran predictably retaliated. Only after the bases had been destroyed were the surviving spouses and children of our military personnel evacuated. Where both parents were on the base as military personnel, they struggled to find adults to care for their children.

This failure to care for our military personnel and their families should be considered criminal neglect. Elected Republicans are complicit, even as they try to avoid responsibility. As citizens, we can exercise our rights by voting to curb this administration's irresponsibility.

Lorraine Hansen
Rollinsford, N.H.

Lorraine:

The administration is doing its best to hide the damage done on Hegseth's watch.

ocratic Representative Chris Pappas over Republican candidate John Sununu for Senate. Those supporters include Retired General Don Bolduc, who was Trump's pick for the Senate in 2022 but who lost to Maggie Hassan after he embraced Trump's claim to have won the 2020 election. One of the Republicans supporting Pappas told Kevin Landrigan of the *Union Leader*: "Donald Trump has turned the Republican Party into something I no longer recognize."

While some Republicans may no longer recognize what Trump has turned their party into, I recognize it for what it has become. The former Republican Party under Trump has become a party intent on destroying democracy and establishing a white nationalist Christian authoritarian state. They have destroyed our democratic Republic and have disdain for the rule of law. They've turned our government into a Banana Republic led by a corrupt gang of thieves.

While I am pleased to see some Republicans finally recognizing the destruction of their party, there are still many more in positions of power in New Hampshire who still accept and support what Trump has turned their party into. People like John Sununu, Anthony DiLorenzo, Kelly Ayotte, and others remain silent or openly support the Trump agenda for America and New Hampshire. As such, they are complicit in aiding and abetting the destruction of our nation, and are not worthy of our support and trust. Their lack of judgement, courage and integrity should disqualify them from any position of influence in our state.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

In an ideal, abstract world, one could argue that voters should pick the person, not the party. We live in no such Panglossian paradise, however. That's fine with us—how boring would that be?

Current circumstances are such, though, that voting by party alone seems acceptable. It's not that the Democrats

Hold Your Nose and Save Your Party

To the Editor:

The United States has seen political parties rise and fall in popularity. We have seen political parties die. We have seen political parties swap philosophies.

Maga was welcomed into the Republican Party. The power and influence Maga brought to the party was appealing at first, but, ten years later, hate and corruption run the Republican Party. The Republican Party is made up of two sides, Maga and Conservatives. Both sides have a lot at stake in the midterms; the Maga side of the Republican Party is for Trump, not the American People. The Conservative side of the Republican Party needs to decide if they are willing to hand over the Republican Party to Maga or take it back from them.

The shift in philosophy is at a turning point. The American people have a choice—the Maga party with Trump's vanity projects, disregard for the Constitution, trade wars, tariffs, higher prices, isolationism, hate, corruption and war; or the Conservative party getting back to their standard philosophy of free markets, fiscal restraint, assertive global role, strong alliances, limited federal government and traditional values.

If you align with Conservatives, hold your nose, vote Democrat. Voting Democrat removes the support from Maga. Democrats want to get back to bipartisan conversations and policies with the Conservative Republicans. Please take back your party and let the Maga create its own party. Maga is not the majority. Make this midterm the first step in getting Maga out of the Republican Party.

Jennifer Tichy
Rye, N.H.

Republican Dark Money Floods N.H.

To the Editor:

New Hampshire has a new and serious waste problem: every day or so I get another thick glossy, expensive, double-sided, 4-color, 8 1/2 x 11 campaign flyer.

Each flyer features pictures (different pictures on each side!) of Chris Pappas, with "headlines" such as

"Chris Pappas Really Fits In in Washington." Every flyer is different, but they all feature a less-than-flattering picture of Pappas and claim he's a corrupt creature of Washington.

But, they are not from the Sununu campaign. No they are all paid for by Republican dark money with a... WASHINGTON RETURN ADDRESS! I guess they don't see the irony.

If you don't like untraceable Super Pac money from out of state deciding our elections, remember it is purely Republican legislation and Republican Supreme Court decisions that gave us dark money. Republicans, with their billionaire supporters, enjoy a 5 or 7 to 1 or more advantage over Democrats.

But, back to basics. There are 664,000 residences in N.H. If each residence receives 30 of these things (I think that's the pace I'm on), that would be 19,920,000 flyers being sent up from Washington. This will require its own toxic landfill!

Republican dark money from Washington is mailing us an entire toxic landfill!

Let's not let them mail us yet another Republican senator who will go along with whatever crazy war, grift, power grab, attack on law-and-order, or attack on democracy, Trump makes.

Vote for Chris Pappas!

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

We are, of course, wholly in thrall to the mighty web press that allows us to bring you this newspaper—on uncoated, recyclable newsprint. Those execrable flyers, on the other hand... blech!

The Editor

"Your Land is Our Land..."

To the Editor:

During a public conversation in Belfast, former President Barack Obama said that Jews seeking refuge "took land off people," adding, "And those people understandably said, 'This is injustice and I want my land back.'"

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded, "Our land is

to next page

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from previous page

not stolen land.” But that assertion should not obscure the documented history of Palestinian dispossession.

Israeli historian Adam Raz’s 2024 book, *Loot: How Israel Stole Palestinian Property*, provides a carefully researched account of how ordinary Israelis and soldiers systematically looted Palestinian homes, shops, and farms during and after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War to prevent Palestinians from returning.

Looting encompassed everything from furniture, household items, and valuables to factory and farming equipment. The book also documents how these actions were acknowledged and lamented by contemporary Israelis, with Israel’s first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, privately condemning the theft as widespread even as it continued.

Raz bases his work on extensive archival research, including newly opened records, eyewitness accounts, diaries, and newspapers, making the evidence particularly credible.

Palestinians lost more than possessions. They lost livelihoods, communities, and access to homes and land. An honest response to Obama must confront that history.

Terry Hansen
Grafton, Wisconsin

Ayotte: Pie in the Sky Bye and Bye
To the Editor:

Governor Ayotte advocates natural gas and small modular nuclear plants to lower electricity bills. Same platform she ran on in 2024.

Where are these small nuclear plants? In R&D. Not a single SMR [small modular reactor] is in commercial use in the U.S. None will produce energy before 2035.

Natural gas? Delivery of gas turbine generators is backed up to 2032, thanks to data center demand (which Ayotte also supports).

Expect 15 percent electricity cost increases, and \$1000’s more for heating oil this winter. What’s Kelly doing about this? She’s watching

energy costs for N.H. residents climb, while going along with Trump’s veto of offshore wind-farms. Starting this year, each farm was scheduled to pump a nuclear power plant’s worth of the cheapest available energy into the New England grid.

What about home- and community-scale solar panels that can deliver electricity at 10 cents or less a kWh? Ayotte allowed extremists in the Legislature to throw every regulatory obstacle in the way. 5MW community solar plants could be set up and running in 6-12 months, if Ayotte hadn’t encouraged Republican obstacles.

Kelly Ayotte has no viable energy policy—besides accepting funds from the fossil fuel lobby flooding our Legislature with campaign money, trying to run our state from Texas.

In contrast, the Warmington energy policy will be based on New England common sense and self-reliance. No dependency on Koch brothers or Mideast oil. Regulatory and legislative support is needed for rapid deployment of the cheapest energy sources. Full support for solar energy. Let’s get this done.

Paul Fiondella
Stoddard, N.H.

Paul:

Thank you for this excellent summary of a vitally-important issue.

Completely off-topic: Do pickerel still lurk beneath the lily pads in Pickerel Cove? Forty years or so ago we had the privilege of writing about an epic battle over that tiny body of water. Well-heeled, out-of-state developers wanted to surround it with a ridiculous number of expensive condos. In the end, sanity—i.e., the locals—prevailed. The local weekly suffered a tragic change of ownership not long after, and so will go un-named. Bracing memories remain, though, along with, we presume, the substantial bronze plaque placed on a big old boulder to commemorate the victory of tough people over dumb money.

The Editor

Blackstonian Revival:

Censorship as Foreign Policy

by Richard M. Balzano

State Department policy planners, White House speechwriters, and much of Congress enjoy an unusual workplace protection: federal buildings are equipped with an Irony Suppression System, referred to internally as the Irony Dome. OSHA has never acknowledged the hazard, but whatever they’re pumping through federal ventilation systems has rendered government officials clinically incapable of detecting irony. Thus, the U.S. lectures the world on democracy and press freedom, condemning censorship abroad while normalizing it at home, sanitized by national security-speak, albeit of an increasingly low-IQ nature. The targets are hardly random: journalists challenging American and Israeli foreign policy repeatedly encounter this machinery. Irony be damned.

Independent media has a target on its back right now, and recently *BreakThrough News* is in the crosshairs. The Republican-controlled House Ways and Means Committee subpoenaed the outlet in July, demanding internal communications and financial records as part of an investigation into alleged foreign influence. *BreakThrough* has not been charged with a crime. The outlet says its only “crime” has been to tell the truth—by covering the activities of the Palestine solidarity movement, unmasking the truth of ICE’s terror in our streets, and exposing Washington’s crimes around the world, from Cuba to the Congo.” Naturally, the Committee describes *BreakThrough* as part of a “CCP-linked” network, framing the subpoena as part of its investigation into foreign-linked funding of tax-exempt organizations. Congressional oversight of foreign influence has apparently reached the “let us read your diary” stage. *BreakThrough* calls it what it is: intimidation. The legal fees, however, could bury them.

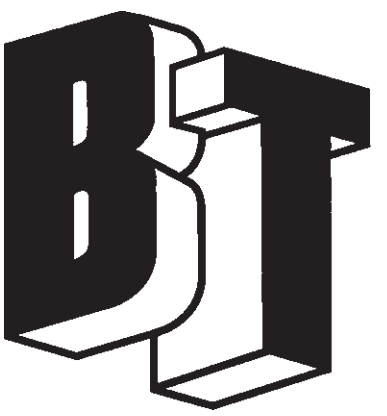
BreakThrough is one of many left-leaning outlets receiving pressure and harassment. After covering the Ayatollah’s funeral in Iran, *Grayzone* editor Max Blumenthal was detained and interrogated at Dulles, where agents seized his phones. This has become habit: in February 2025, Blumenthal was detained there and questioned about his political associations and journalism. The pattern extends to Blumenthal’s colleagues. In 2022, Ukrainian intelligence enlisted the FBI to pressure Twitter to remove unfriendly journalists’ accounts for allegedly spreading propaganda, including journalist Aaron Maté. Twitter balked at the inclusion of American and Canadian journalists, but the effort was made. Anti-imperialist *MintPress News*, whose Senior Staff Writer Alan MacLeod writes extensively on Western media bias against the global left, revealed PayPal and GoFundMe banned the outlet, while Indiegogo canceled a fundraiser and withheld \$51,000 raised by readers. *MintPress* alleges coordination involving pro-Israel interests and intelligence agencies—the shoe fits.

Congressman Randy Fine is leading a crusade against progressive journalists Christopher Helali, Jackson Hinkle, and Calla Walsh after they attended the Ayatollah’s funeral in Iran. Fine and other lawmakers have pushed federal authorities to prosecute them, transforming political speech and journalism into questions of criminality, national security, and “treason.”

Challenges to American foreign policy have long been converted into questions of national security, but the sophistication of the sales pitch has declined under the current regime. The old witch-hunters limited themselves to espionage allegations and prosecuting the leaking of classified materials which, when published, is called journalism. Their successors increasingly skip the evidentiary formalities and reach straight for treason and foreign allegiance. The latter, it should be noted, is not a crime and does not constitute the former, for if it did every dual Israeli citizen on the Hill would meet a firing squad. Whether they believe their accusations, or merely believe their audience will, is a distinction without much comfort.

The current administration has dispensed with much of the pretense that any coherent national-security rationale is required. Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin imposed new limits on foreign-journalist visas in the name of the government’s ability to “screen, vet, and monitor” them. It should be noted that Mullin posted a video in April 2025 suggesting that reporters might write fewer unfavorable stories if disputes with them could still be settled with lethal violence; recounting the 1890 shooting of former congressman William Taulbee by reporter Charles Kincaid, “Now, there’s a lot we could say about reporters and the stories they write, but I bet they would write a lot less false stories—as President Trump says, ‘fake news’—if we could still handle our differences that way.” According to U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, in 2026 alone there have been more than 160 documented assaults on journalists, 43 arrests or criminal charges, 20 subpoenas or legal orders, seven equipment searches or seizures, two leak cases, and 17 “chilling statements” from public officials. When reporting revealed classified details about Iran downing a U.S. fighter jet, Trump was more direct: “National security—give it up or go to jail.” With more poise, Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche endorsed subpoenaing reporters to expose their sources, while the Pentagon and DOJ created a joint task force to accelerate media-leak investigations. The legal teams of major outlets like the *New York Times* may be equipped to hold the line; independent journalists with considerably leaner pockets could fold under similar pressures.

The vulgarity may be distinctly Trumpian, but the machinery that censors leftist journalists is a bipartisan endeavor. In 2020, imperialist critic Abby Martin lost a speaking engagement at Georgia Southern



University after refusing to sign a state-mandated pledge not to boycott Israel, a requirement of all state contractors written into law. In 2018, U.S. sanctions blocked TeleSUR from funding Martin’s anti-imperialist show, “The Empire Files,” forcing it off the air. In 2022, Lee Camp was deplatformed across multiple fronts: his anti-war Redacted Tonight was canceled after eight years amid U.S. sanctions on “RT,” *YouTube* blocked its archive, and *Spotify* removed his “Moment of Clarity” podcast. Camp calls it “mass censorship on a grand scale.” Liberals—not to be mistaken for leftists—are more susceptible to Democratic administrations’ *auto-da-fés*, and will enthusiastically embrace, intellectually launder, or quietly tolerate censorship and imperialism when their team dresses it in the colonial camouflage of sober language and uplifting rhetoric, tapping the deeply ingrained belief in paternalistic Western cultural superiority they refuse to decolonize.

These journalists sit directly in those crosshairs for exposing the crimes of the American empire and those of its allies and proxies. *BreakThrough* now finds itself caught inside precisely that machinery: a newsroom’s private communications demanded under the language of foreign influence and national security. “I’m an agent of reality and an agent of the truth,” *BreakThrough*’s Rania Khalek responded. “I’m not an agent of some foreign power.” Palestine, Iran, Ukraine and Cuba recur throughout these cases for a reason: the journalists under scrutiny keep exposing the consequences of American foreign policy and the conduct of its allies and proxies. Censorship, then, must be viewed as an instrument of foreign policy, the targets of which are not foreign combatants, but Western journalists challenging their own governments’ conduct abroad.

Whether the subpoena succeeds misses the point. The investigation itself forces independent journalists to answer to the state and expose the anatomy of their operations. That is the warning: censorship as foreign policy does not have to silence the journalist outright. It can simply bleed the newsroom dry and make the truth impossible to sustain. Perhaps the current administration is adopting the Blackstonian conception of press freedom: you are free to publish what you please; the state now reserves the right to make you regret it.

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

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It's Election Time Again

by W.D. Ehrhart

So here we are just days before the midterm election, and the anticipation is almost palpable. Last weekend, my wife and I went to a No Thrones No Crowns No Kings rally in our neighborhood, and the prevailing sentiment was clearly that a Big Blue Wave is about to sweep the Democrats into control of both the House and the Senate as well as making huge gains at the state level.

I can't help remembering that the prevailing sentiment in 2016 among Democratic voters and the political pundits was that Hillary Clinton was a shoo-in. How could she lose to a clownish buffoon who bragged about grabbing women by their genitals and claimed he could shoot someone on 5th Avenue in broad daylight without consequences?

But Democratic voters and the political pundits didn't reckon on the ignorance, irrationality, venality, and bigotry of huge numbers of American voters. I've been told by at least one newspaper editor that I can't say that; I'm not supposed to disparage my fellow citizens because I might insult them. All I can say to that is: so what? What are they gonna do? Vote for Trumpsters just to spite me?

A significant portion of Americans don't need me to encourage them to vote against their own self-interests, however backhanded my "encouragement" may be. Multiple elections since 2016 have demonstrated time and again that the MAGAMobster's supporters don't care about broken treaties or counterproductive tariffs, cuddling up to dictators or murdering civilians on the high seas, kidnapping foreign heads of state or waging unprovoked wars of choice, wrecking the White House while install-

ing a gladiatorial arena on the lawn, ruining the Reflecting Pool while destroying the Kennedy Center, trashing our national parks and re-writing American history itself, gutting the environment or packing the Supremely Unjust Court with right-wing activist ideologues, surrounding himself with incompetent lackeys while engaging in blatant criminal corruption to the benefit of himself, his family, and his über-rich friends.

Whatever disillusionment may be developing among the MAGA ranks, as nearly as I can tell, seems to be based on the cost of gasoline and the price of eggs, not on the outrageously lunatic behavior of the grotesque parody of a president currently occupying what has become the Whitewash House.

And that disillusionment is not likely to result in large numbers of MAGAMinions going out and voting for candidates like James Talarico, Sherrod Brown, Amy Klobuchar, or Abdul El-Sayed. After all, Trumpasaurus is not even on the ballot. And given MAGAVoters' inability to understand that they've been getting screwed left and right not just by the current administration, but by the cowards in Congress who refuse to do their sworn duty to uphold and defend the Constitution, I have serious doubts about the outcome of the election that is about to take place.

I have spent a lot of time in the past ten years trying to understand how so many people could be so thoroughly hoodwinked by this grifter and con artist, incapable of seeing what he really is or grasping the damage he is doing to their lives and the country we live in. And I think I have finally figured it out.

The core of his support comes



from white men. Yes, there are women who support Trump. *The Daily Show's* Jordan Klepper repeatedly braved Trump rallies to interview, among the myriad white men, white women and even a few people of color. But it is white men who constitute the backbone of his support.

And these men are convinced that, ever since the 1960s, women, people of color, homosexuals, and immigrants have stolen white men's patrimony, white men's right to privilege and domination, which they do not see as privilege and domination, but simply as what should be theirs by right.

And these men are angry, furious, outraged. They believe all their problems and frustrations and disappointments and failures can be laid at the feet of these non-male, non-hetero, non-white upstarts.

For the most part, they cannot say out loud what they think and feel and believe because it might have serious repercussions on their jobs and families and social relationships.

But their president expresses the intolerance and bigotry and racism and hatred they feel, and he gets away with it. He glories in it. He basks in it. He speaks for them. He says what they cannot say. It doesn't matter what he actually does. It doesn't matter what his policies are or how they impact his supporters or

what kind of damage they are doing to the nation and the world.

Thoughtful people assume that voters are thoughtful people, but election after election in my lifetime, and long before my lifetime, has demonstrated that huge numbers of voters are not thoughtful or rational or capable of grasping the consequences of their vote. To say all this out loud is a kind of heresy, but history has proven me right time and time again.

So I just don't have a whole lot of confidence that the voting public is going to behave any differently than it always has, and a lot of that voting public is going to act against its own self-interest and vote for candidates who either agree with their Felon-in-Chief or lack the courage to stand up to him.

I hope I'm wrong. I hope all those folks who think a Big Blue Wave is coming turn out to be right. How could any sane person not hope for that result? But after a lifetime of disappointments—I am 78 years old—I find it all-but-impossible to place any faith in the majority of the American voting public doing the right thing on election day.

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

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BETTER OLD NEWS THAN NEW LIES

from page three

"find" in so doing. The well is twenty-nine feet deep, and had not been cleaned out before for forty years. In the bottom was found a tightly corked jug, which, being carried into the house and opened, was found to be filled with old fashioned birch beer, in a perfect state of preservation.

- Of the poles for electric lights erected in our streets, is one for a public light in front of the residence of our esteemed contemporary, the

senior editor of the *Times*. Let us hope that with this additional candle power, he may be able to see the point—but no no; we will not anticipate the improbable.

- The amount of mutton sold in this city must be enormous, as the Globe Grocery Co. alone uses up nearly three tons a week.
- There were five three-masted schooners and a steam collier at the Concord railroad wharf on the afternoon of the 10th inst., and one three-master at Walker's wharf,

next below it; a big three-master at the Eastern railroad wharf, and a good-sized one at the draw-pier of Portsmouth bridge, waiting to haul through and go up-river. Just below the draw-pier was anchored a brick-er, loaded for Boston and awaiting favorable weather.

- The largest bicycle ever made in America, diameter sixty-four inches, has been on exhibition in Hartford, Conn. It was made to order for a rider standing six feet seven and a half inches high.
- Brooklyn, N.Y., young ladies are entering into combination to wear

no plumage on their hats, in hopes of sparing the innocent birds.

The New Hampshire Gazette
November 18, 1886

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

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Buying Farm Votes with Your Tax Dollars

by Jim Hightower

E-I-E-I-O! If Republican agriculture policy was a crop, farmers would plow it under. Why? Because it's worthless.

Worse than worthless, GOP policy: 1) **bilks** taxpayers to pay billions of dollars a year to bail out the biggest corporate farms; 2) it **forces** productive family farmers out of business by intentionally eliminating their markets; and 3) it **rips-off** consumers by letting food conglomerates gouge us with monopolistic price hikes.

Consider Trump's ideological tariff nonsense. It has needlessly shut off multibillion-dollar markets that America's farmers count on, while simultaneously jacking up the price they must pay for essentials like fertilizer and diesel fuel. The Republican tariff war has crushed farm income, leading the GOP's once proud "free market" lawmakers racing to rebrand themselves as Big Business Socialists. So far this year, they have handed out \$55 billion in crop welfare payments, with trainloads of that going to the biggest agribusiness operators.

Of course, Trumpsters don't really care about saving farmers, but saving their own political hides. Notice that while they're doling out government welfare checks to Big Ag, they're coldly dismissing the real pain of workaday families who're being knocked flat by skyrocketing food prices.

Meanwhile, Trump himself admits his agbiz giveaways are just partisan politics. Campaigning in Kansas for Roger Marshall, one of his sycophantish congress critters, he promised to enact another subsidy for the region's corn farmers. BUT ONLY if Kansans re-elect Marshall next week. If the people choose the Democratic contender, Potentate Trump says: "I'm not doing it."

There you have it: Farm vote bribery, another example of the current GOP Kakistocracy—government by the very worst people in society.

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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.

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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, NOVEMBER 1	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
<p>2003—N.H. Gov. Craig Benson [R.] welcomes the Free State Project.</p> <p>2001—George W.[MD] Bush signs an Executive Order conveniently hiding his father’s misdeeds as Veep.</p> <p>1981—TV is just “a toaster with pictures,” says FCC boss Mark Fowler.</p> <p>1976—Mob fixer Roy Cohn lands Donald Trump a flattering profile in the <i>N.Y. Times</i>, written by the same rube who started 1970’s bogus “poison Halloween candy” panic.</p> <p>1972—The Piscataqua Bridge opens.</p> <p>1968—At My Tho, two limpet mines kill 26 aboard the USS <i>Westchester County</i>—the deadliest single incident for the Navy during the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1966—Lyndon Johnson tells U.S. troops in Korea that his great-great granddaddy died at the Alamo. He lies.</p> <p>1963—Generals in Saigon lay siege to the Presidential Palace—with U.S. government approval, of course.</p> <p>1951—Six thousand soldiers are exposed to an A-bomb explosion in Nevada “for training purposes.”</p> <p>1950—Two Puerto Rican Nationalists attack Blair House, trying to assassinate Harry S Truman; two Secret Service agents die, two are wounded.</p> <p>1949—Sen. Edwin Johnson [D-Colo.] blurts out a top secret on live TV: U.S. scientists are debating whether to build a “superbomb.” Johnson’s revelation forces Truman to say “do it.”</p> <p>1918—A scab motorman causes the Malbone Tunnel disaster in New York City; 97 die, 255 are injured.</p>	<p>2005—The <i>Washington Post</i> reveals that the CIA is “protecting democracy” by running a secret gulag.</p> <p>2004—Warren Co., Ohio officials say a “terrorist threat” is why they’re counting votes behind locked doors.</p> <p>2002—“We know he [Saddam Hussein] has chemical weapons,” says George W.[MD] Bush. [He doesn’t.]</p> <p>2001—“Give war a chance,” writes the <i>N.Y. Times</i>’s Thomas L. Friedman.</p> <p>2000—TV in Maine reveals George W.[MD] Bush’s 1976 DUI bust.</p> <p>1972—The Seafarers International Union [SIU] gives \$100K to Nixon’s campaign. The Justice Dept. drops an indictment of the SIU for making illegal campaign contributions.</p> <p>1967—Pres. Johnson and his “Wise Men” decide what the Vietnam War needs is more upbeat coverage.</p> <p>1965—Norman Morrison, a Quaker, 31, immolates himself below Robert McNamara’s Pentagon window.</p> <p>1963—The U.S.-ordered coup in Vietnam goes awry: a major and a captain assassinate President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Din Nhu.</p> <p>1929—The crash “doesn’t mean that there will be any general or serious... depression,” says <i>Business Week</i>.</p> <p>1920—Socialist Eugene V. Debs gets 913,693 votes for President, despite being in prison for sedition.</p> <p>1852—General Winfield Scott, “Old Fuss and Feathers,” concedes the Presidency to Franklin Pierce, “the hero of many a hard-fought bottle.”</p>	<p>2020—The U.S. votes to evict a dead-beat from the White House.</p> <p>1986—A Lebanese newspaper reveals that the U.S. has been selling arms to the Ayatollah’s regime in Iran.</p> <p>1979—Communists are fired on by Klansmen and Nazis in Greensboro, N.C. Five die and 11 are wounded, but three trials yield no convictions.</p> <p>1969—In a speech which proves to be fatally effective, Richard Nixon conjures up his “Silent Majority.”</p> <p>1956—Hundreds of unarmed Palestinian men, their backs to a wall, are machine-gunned at Khan Yunis in Gaza. “A skirmish,” says the IDF.</p> <p>1948—“Dewey Defeats Truman,” according to the <i>Chicago Tribune</i>.</p> <p>1918—Ordered on a suicide mission to uphold the honor of the Imperial German Navy, sailors mutiny in Kiel, igniting a successful revolution.</p> <p>1903—Backed by Pres. Roosevelt [R], Panama secedes from Colombia. Coincidentally, the New Panama Canal Company gives \$60K to the GOP.</p> <p>1874—Election Day in Eufala, Ala.: The White League murders seven Black Republicans, wounds 70 more, and says the Democrats won.</p> <p>1848—In Revere, Mass, a train full of Whiggs collides with a train full of Democrats; six die and 40 are injured.</p> <p>1783—The U.S.’s Army disbands.</p> <p>1755—Mass. sets bounties for Indian scalps, ranging from £50 for male Pe-nobscots over 12 years old, to £20 for female Indians under 12.</p>	<p>2016—“Calm down,” reads the headline over a <i>Washington Post</i> column, “We’ll be fine no matter who wins.”</p> <p>2008—Barack Obama wins, sparing the nation from Sarah Palin.</p> <p>1988—Movie director John Carpenter releases his best film, and his only documentary: “They Live.”</p> <p>1979—Militant Shi’ite Muslims take 66 Americans hostage in Teheran, dooming the Carter administration.</p> <p>1975—A neocon cabal reshuffles the Ford cabinet for him. Rumsfeld, Cheney, and Bush take over.</p> <p>1960—In Dallas, a vicious “Mink Coat Mob” angrily confronts Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson. Revulsion at its tactics cost Nixon Texas.</p> <p>1958—A U.S. B-47 bomber carrying nukes crashes near Abilene, Texas. High explosives detonate. The radio-active stuff is recovered later.</p> <p>1955—CIA HQ responds to Caracas Station re: report that Adolf Hitler has been seen in Argentina—“we suggest that this matter be dropped.”</p> <p>1952—Univac I gives CBS a nearly dead-on prediction: Eisenhower 438, Stevenson 93. The network doesn’t air it because it contradicts the polls.</p> <p>1924—Wyoming elects Nellie Tayloe Ross, the U.S.’s 1st female Governor.</p> <p>1798—Vermont elects Matthew Lyon to Congress. He’s in jail for sedition.</p> <p>1791—In the Battle of the Wabash, Native Americans kill, wound, or capture 896 of 1,000 U.S. soldiers—one quarter of the U.S.’s standing Army.</p>	<p>2024—Despite it all, Democrats still manage to lose the White House.</p> <p>2006—Texas Asst. DA Bill Conrardt commits suicide after a SWAT Team busts down his door. Chris Hansen’s “Perverted Justice” films it all.</p> <p>1986—In a hijacked helicopter, ‘Nam vet Ron McIntosh springs his girl from the prison he recently escaped.</p> <p>1974—In New Hampshire, Louis C. Wyman gets 355 more votes than John Durkin. It ain’t over yet, though; 317 days later, Durkin’s a U.S. Senator.</p> <p>1949—A devoted daily churchgoer and deranged WW II vet, Howard Unruh (1921—2009) shoots 16 people, killing 13, in Camden, N.J.</p> <p>1943—A fascist pilot bombs the Holy See, trying to silence Vatican Radio.</p> <p>1935—After buying the anti-capitalist game cheap, Parker Brothers markets a pro-capitalist Monopoly.</p> <p>1930—Thinking the phone call is a hoax, Nobel winner Sinclair Lewis imitates his Swedish caller’s accent.</p> <p>1916—Vigilantes fire on IWW members in Everett, Wash. They kill two of their own and five Wobblies.</p> <p>1872—Susan B. Anthony and 14 less-notorious women vote in Rochester, N.Y. Nine days later, only Anthony is arrested.</p> <p>1796—Sen. John Rutherford [Fed.-N.J.], 36, bashes British Consul General John Temple with a club during Guy Fawkes night in New York City. Temple, 65, knocks Rutherford into the dirt after a good horsewhipping.</p>	<p>2024—Trump cultists gloat that Project 2025—of which he’s been claiming ignorance—“is the agenda. Lol.”</p> <p>2016—FBI Director James Comey says never mind about those emails.</p> <p>2012—Trump tweets, “The electoral college is a disaster for a democracy.”</p> <p>2000—Saddam Hussein stops accepting dollars for oil, thus undermining U.S. hegemony and possibly shortening his own life.</p> <p>1998—Newt Gingrich says he’s resigning as Speaker of the House because he’s “not willing to preside over people who are cannibals.”</p> <p>1984—Reagan defeats Mondale—it’s mourning in America.</p> <p>1971—The AEC detonates a 5-megaton nuke—the largest ever exploded in the U.S.—one mile below Amchitka Island, 87 miles from a Soviet naval base in Siberia.</p> <p>1965—In Times Square, five men burn their draft cards, the first such protest of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>1944—In Cairo, Zionists assassinate Lord Moyné, Britain’s minister to the middle east. In 1982, Israel honors the assassins with a stamp.</p> <p>1922—After new owners of a Pennsylvania coal mine get its rating changed from gaseus to non-gaseus, a gas explosion kills 79 miners.</p> <p>1917—After three months of fighting in mud, Canadians take Passchendaele, ending the Third Battle of Ypres; Allies gain five miles at a cost of 250,000 casualties.</p>	<p>2020—<i>The Wall Street Journal</i> runs an op-ed by Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney under the headline, “If he loses, Trump will concede gracefully.”</p> <p>2007—Private Jessica Lynch accuses the Pentagon of exploiting her capture for propaganda purposes.</p> <p>2000—Sen. John Ashcroft [R-Mo.] is unseated by a dead opponent.</p> <p>1974—Whistleblower Karen Silkwood’s apartment is found to be heavily contaminated with a plutonium isotope not present at her worksite.</p> <p>1961—Under Sec. of State George Ball warns JFK, “Within five years, we’ll have 300,000 men in the paddies and jungles and you’ll never find them again.” JFK tells Ball he’s “crazier than hell. That just isn’t going to happen.”</p> <p>1957—If nuclear war comes, Pres. Eisenhower tells close aides, “you might as well go out and shoot everyone you see and then shoot yourself.”</p> <p>1919—J. Edgar Hoover leads Palmer Raids: thousands are arrested in 36 cities, mostly without warrants; some are citizens, many are badly beaten.</p> <p>1917—The Bolsheviks take Petrograd.</p> <p>1874—A Thomas Nast cartoon establishes forever that Republicans are cl-ephants and Democrats are donkeys.</p> <p>1837—An Alton, Ill. mob murders abolitionist editor Elijah P. Lovejoy.</p> <p>1775—Turning on his former land-grabbing cronies, <i>e.g.</i>, George Washington, Lord Dunmore tells enslaved Blacks in Virginia he’ll free them if they join the Redcoats.</p>
<p>3:38 3:53</p> <p>9:31 10:21</p>	<p>4:45 5:02</p> <p>10:40 11:26</p>	<p>5:52 6:12</p> <p>11:51</p>	<p>6:55 7:17</p> <p>12:30 12:59</p>	<p>7:51 8:17</p> <p>1:28 2:00</p>	<p>8:42 9:11</p> <p>2:21 2:54</p>	<p>9:28 9:59</p> <p>3:08 3:43</p>
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

2016—Donald J. Trump wins the Presidency. Everybody else is a loser.

2013—The Navy lifts Ted “Twig” Branch’s clearance, so he can’t read secrets anymore, but leaves him in his job as head of Naval Intelligence.

2010—On TV, George W.[MD] Bush says his mom once asked him for a ride to the hospital, showing him a miscarried sibling in a jar.

2000—At 2:16 a.m., Fox News “reporter” John Ellis calls Fla. in favor of his cousin, George W.[MD] Bush.

1994—The GOP, led by serial philanthroper Newt Gingrich, take Congress.

1965—Dorothy Kilgallen’s investigation into JFK’s assassination ends due to an allegedly accidental overdose.

1954—Ike writes his brother Ed that, “a tiny splinter group [e.g. Texas oil men] believes you can do” things like “abolish social security [and] unemployment insurance,” but their “number is negligible and they are stupid.”

1932—Socialist Norman Thomas gets 884,885 votes for President.

1923—Disgruntled WW I veterans, led by ex-corporal Adolf Hitler and ex-general Erich Ludendorff, stage a “Beer Hall Putsch” in Munich.

1897—Birth of Dorothy Day, anarchist founder of *Catholic Worker*.

1876—The editor of *The New York Times* and the chairman of the Republican National Committee conspire to bribe election officials in Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana to “elect” “Rutherford” B. Hayes.

2020—“What is the downside for humoring him...”? a “senior Republican official” asks the *Washington Post*. “It’s not like he’s plotting how to prevent Joe Biden from taking power.”

1998—Brokers who rigged the game at NASDAQ are compelled to pay their bilked customers \$1 billion.

1989—The Berlin Wall suddenly becomes unexpectedly porous.

1979—Zbigniew Brzezinski gets a call: “250 nuclear missiles incoming!” Then another: “Make that 2,000!” A third says, [*Gilda voice*.] “Never mind.”

1977—William C. Sullivan, former Hoover hatchet man who once predicted he’d be murdered in a faked accident, is accidentally shot by a fellow hunter in Sugar Hill, N.H.

1969—Indians land on Alcatraz. Some are removed by the Coast Guard, others stay overnight.

1965—One power plant in Ontario fails; the whole Northeast goes dark.

1953—Dylan Thomas dies in New York at 39, mostly from bad doctoring.

1938—German Nazis demonstrate their Aryan superiority by murdering 91 Jews during Kristallnacht.

1932—The Swiss Army, to restore order, fires on a crowd of protestors in Geneva, killing 13 anti-fascists.

1919—Columbia U. head Nicholas M. Butler tells veterans to “crush these [radical leftist] enemies of our nation.”

1863—Abraham Lincoln watches John Wilkes Booth perform in Selby’s “The Marble Heart” at Ford’s Theatre.

2004—George W.[MD] Bush nominates a new AG. Alberto Gonzales ends up making John Ashcroft look just a tad less terrible by comparison.

1989—GOP lobbyist, coke-head, blackmailer, and big spender on male prostitutes Craig J. Spence is found dead in a locked Boston hotel room.

1982—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a gift to the nation from those it had shunned, opens in Washington, D.C.

1975—The ore carrier *Edmund Fitzgerald* sinks on Lake Superior, taking with her a crew of 29.

1973—In Drake, N.D. the school board fires a teacher and burns the book he assigned, *Slaughterhouse Five*.

1972—Facing bogus charges in Detroit, anti-police-brutality activist Louis Moore skyjacks a DC-9. Days later he’s in a Cuban prison and airline passengers are getting searched.

1964—Australia re-introduces the draft to protect the Empire from Ho.

1950—Flying over Canada, a U.S. Air Force crew in a B-50 experiences engine trouble. They chuck the bomb (minus its plutonium core) which then explodes in Riviere du Loup, Quebec.

1934—Declaring martial law, Gov. Benjamin Moeur sends 100 Arizona Guardsmen to stop Californians building a dam across the Colorado.

1898—In Wilmington, N.C., 400 Democrats overthrow the city government and murder hundreds of Blacks. Newspaperman & future Sec. of the Navy Josephus Daniels is a ringleader.

2000—Republicans begin a campaign of election lawfare in Florida.

1975—Australian Prime Minister Geogh Whitlam, who opposes CIA leases at Pine Gap, is, quite by coincidence, fired by Gov.-Gen. John Kerr, longtime beneficiary of CIA largesse.

1956—Hungary falls to the Soviets.

1940—British biplanes sink half the Italian Navy, at anchor in Taranto.

1933—“The Great Black Blizzard,” a first great dust storm, hits the Plains.

1919—American Legionaires attack an I.W.W. union hall in Centra-lia, Wash.; four are killed by armed Wobblies. The surviving Legionaires the probable driver: Sen.-elect Styles Bridges, who was quite likely drunk.

1926—The first documented aerial bombing conducted in the U.S. leaves Shady Rest, bootlegger Charlie Birger’s Benton, Ill. roadhouse, undamaged. The dynamite the Shelton Gang drops from a Curtis “Jenny” kills only Birger’s bulldog and pet bird.

1816—T. Jefferson writes, “I hope we shall...crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial of strength, and to bid defiance to the laws of their country.”

1779—New Hampshire Governor John Wentworth marries his first cousin, Frances Atkinson, 13 days after the death of her first husband.

1620—Influential Pilgrims draft the Mayflower Compact to assure adequate control over unruly colonists.

1999—Congress deregulates Wall Street, to allow for “innovation.”

1984—Four peace activists chip the concrete of a Minuteman II silo in Missouri, for which they’re sentenced to a total of 54 years in prison.

1970—A half-ton of dynamite set off by Oregon highway workers sends parts of an eight-ton sperm whale 100 feet in the air. The tail crushes Walter Umanhofer’s new Olds, bought from a lot advertising “a whale of a deal.”

1956—More than 100 unarmed Palestinians are shot dead as the IDF “suppresses a riot” at Rafah, in Gaza.

1936—Della Call, 33, is killed in a hit-and-run on Rt. 4 in Chichester; 64 years later, the *Union Leader* fingers the probable driver: Sen.-elect Styles Bridges, who was quite likely drunk.

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1779—Twenty enslaved Granite Staters—Daniel Fowle’s enslaved pressman Primus X being notably absent—petition the legislature for the abolition of slavery. They are ignored.

2003—Because he would not remove his Ten Commandments monument from the courthouse, Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore is himself removed.

1982—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C. Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, and Robert McNamara are no-shows.

1974—Karen Silkwood, a disgruntled Kerr-McGee worker and whistleblower, turns up conveniently dead.

1970—Up to half a million die as a cyclone hits Bangladesh.

1965—The dysfunctional tinderbox *Yarmouth Castle* burns en route to Nassau; 90 passengers burn or drown, deserted by captain and crew.

1942—The torpedoed cruiser USS *Juneau* sinks in 20 minutes, 100 of 673 surviving the explosion. Two other cruisers depart, assuming no survivors. Eight days later, ten are rescued. Among the dead are the five Sullivan brothers, of Waterloo, Iowa.

1933—Hormel workers in Austin, Minn. invent the sit-down strike.

1909—In a Cherry, Ill. coal mine, lit by torch due to an electrical outage, a cartload of hay for mules catches fire. The resultant inferno kills 259 miners.

1887—On the original Bloody Sunday, British cops, soldiers, and cavalry charge the unemployed in Trafalgar Square, killing 3 and arresting 300.

1877—A locomotive and three freight cars plunge from an open drawbridge into the Piscataqua, just missing three ships; there are no injuries.

2002—Donald Rumsfeld predicts the Iraq War will last “five days or five weeks or five months...[no] longer...”

1968—In Quang Tri, Marine PFC Frank Baldino, 19, is killed by a tiger.

1965—The First Cav, choppering into the Ia Drang Valley, is surprised to discover six battalions of NVA.

1943—USS *W.D. Porter* accidentally launches a torpedo—in the direction of USS *Iowa*. FDR, aboard *Iowa* en route to Cairo, is amused.

1942—Seaman Calvin L. Graham is wounded at Guadalcanal. He’s 12.

1932—Nison Miller is denied U.S. citizenship due to his “ignorance.” His grandson Stephen is later named immigration policy czar by Dolt 45.

1927—Workmen in Pittsburgh, using an open flame blowlamp to fix a leak in the world’s largest gasometer, ignite 5 million cubic feet of natural gas, clearing one square mile and killing 28.

1925—D.C. Stephenson, ex-Grand Dragon of the Indiana KKK, is convicted of rape, torture, and murder.

1917—Forty workhouse guards follow orders to brutally beat 33 women jailed for advocating women’s suffrage in front of the White House.

1909—“A great American [whose] stature will grow with the passage of time,” according to N.H. Sen. Styles Bridges; Joe McCarthy is born.

1908—Chief of the Imperial Military Cabinet Dietrich Graf von Hülsen-Haeseler dies as he dances before Kaiser Wilhem II in a pink tutu.

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Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable — Tuesday, November 24th at 6:00 p.m.

Portsmouth Democrats Coffee Meetup — Friday, October 27th at 8:00 a.m.

The monthly *Portsmouth Democrats Coffee Meetup* is held at a local Portsmouth restaurant, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. It’s morning get together where people can drop in to enjoy camaraderie with fellow Dems. New location! There’s plenty of parking.

The *Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable* is a monthly opportunity to socialize with Democrats and other friends from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. without any agenda or rigid structure (always the 4th Tuesday of the month). New residents of Portsmouth are welcome to meet local Democrats and learn of opportunities to get involved, suggest new ideas, or support planned initiatives. Visit *seacoastfriends.org*.

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

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