Vol. CCLXXI, No. 5
Friday, November 13, 2026

The New Hampshire Gazette

The Nation's Oldest Newspaper™ • Editor: Steven Fowle • Founded 1756 by Daniel Fowle
PO Box 756, Portsmouth, NH 03802 • editors@nhgazette.com • www.nhgazette.com

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The Fortnightly Rant

Necessary But Not Sufficient

On Election Day, our finely-honed political instincts led us to expect that the Democrats would win the House of Representatives by a respectable margin. A slim win on the Senate side seemed possible, but a prolonged period of uncertainty seemed equally likely. So, *caveat lector*, *i.e.*, reader beware.

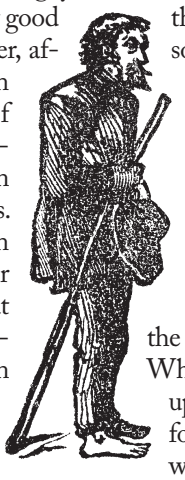
On Wednesday, obviously, we had to re-assess our forecasting skills. That sobering moment aside, the day seemed to have been scored by Louis Armstrong: "What a Wonderful World." After waking up four thousand times in a row in a nation dumber than it was the day before, suddenly things were different.

Obviously, nirvana is not yet here. But, after a decade in which the world's greediest and most powerful lunatics have waged a largely unobstructed campaign to make Margaret Thatcher's dictum come true—"There is no such thing as society"—America's voters had finally said, "Nah, let's try something else."

The New York Times published a map showing the results in the House. Red and blue arrows of different lengths indicated which way districts swung, and by how much. It looked like the Battle of Agincourt, if Henry V's archers had used blue arrows. Scores of them, all over the map: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, *South* Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and, for God's sake, Texas. And, to be fair, up in southwestern Minnesota, one teeny-weeny little red dot.

The final tally on the Senate side had not come in by our deadline. Surprisingly, though, at least to us, the balance of power was clear that night. It was another lopsided victory, both in the aggregate, and individually.

Here in New Hampshire, it looks like the Sununu dynasty may have finally run out of runway. Pardon us, please, while we regain our composure. For such a mild-mannered guy, Chris Pappas packs a pretty good punch. Over across the river, after winning the nomination through the unlikeliest of processes, Troy Jackson finally—*finally*—relieved Susan Collins of her many concerns.



Around the country, in North Carolina, former Governor Roy Cooper beat Michael Whatley, the former chair of the Republican National Committee, by a margin of nearly 20 percent. Pretty clear message, there. Jon Ossoff did nearly as well in Georgia. Michigan had looked pretty dicey, but in the end, Abdulrahman Mohamed El-Sayed overcame a whole raft of challenges and won a solid victory over a former FBI agent with a white-bread name.

Then there's Texas. It has always been a case unto itself, but dang! James Talarico whupped Ken Paxton by an impressive 12 points. It may be wise, though, not to read that as an entirely political result. Nominating a seminary student to run against someone with a record as sordid as Paxton's… that almost seems unfair; even in a state with more than its share of sinners, half that result may just be personal revulsion. Then we have Gina Hinojosa—a female Hispanic Democrat—defeating Greg Abbott, who's been in office since Trump took his famous escalator ride.

Alaska and Mississippi were still undecided at press time. Mississippi goddamn. All in all, compared to these results, more people probably expected the Spanish Inquisition.

We're not sure exactly how many there were, but according to news reports the GOP's unprecedented mid-decade redistricting push ended up creating what are now called dummymanders. Our cup of *schadenfreude* runneth over.

After so many relentlessly depressing years, that one good day allowed us, for one brief, shining moment, to feel irrationally exuberant. Then, inevitably, our rapidly deteriorating Grifter-in-Chief burst that bubble. Reportedly, as faint whiffs of reality wafted into the Oval Office, "Big Mac" Donald screamed at Susie Wiles, his long-serving, long-suffering Chief of Staff, until she fled the room.

Taking her place as the one person who controls who does or doesn't get to enter that gussied-up playpen will be Stephen Miller—a humorless homunculus forced to shave his head lest he be mistaken for the zombified corpse of Joseph Goebbels.

To be fair, Miller is several inches taller than Hitler's propagandist, and there's little he can do about his head's unfortunate resemblance to a lightbulb. The only effective way to avoid such comparisons, though, would be for him to eschew, rather than embrace, his predecessor's world view, philosophy, and prejudices. A simple way to start would be to quit paraphrasing his speeches. Maybe try watching some PeeWee Herman videos.

As for right now, we live in blessed ignorance of whatever cruel shenanigans the pack of cornered rats in the White House are going to get up to. The only thing we know for sure is that it's likely to be worse than anything the likes of us might imagine. Well, that's not entirely true; we just don't want to give these bozos any ideas.

Whatever is to come, at least we rest assured of one thing: it's bound to be a little easier to live with now, because we know that, by and large, we're in better company than we had suspected.



Faculty and Students Petition to Stop Book Purge at UNH Library

Justin Kostopulos has initiated the following petition at *Change.org*. His text is self-explanatory:

"Over the summer, the University of New Hampshire quietly announced that they were removing, or better put, destroying 300,000 books from the Dimond Library. My heart sank when I learned about this. This decision greatly neglects the profound impact that physical books have had and continue to have on countless students and members of the community.

"The university asserts that it is adapting to an evolving "information landscape" by repurposing library spaces to "better suit the campus and our students." However, this rationale is difficult to justify when faculty and students have been given little to no opportunity to engage in an open dialogue about a decision directly affecting them.

"Libraries are more than just places that house book collections; they are sanctuaries of knowledge, history, and culture. This is especially evident in today's digital age where fleeting online content can never replace the lasting touch of a printed book.

"Discarding these invaluable resources—many of which exist only in print or represent the scholarship of UNH's own faculty and alumni—threatens to erase decades of accumulated knowledge, and research contributions. Furthermore, it's a disservice to future generations of students who will be deprived of the experience of holding a physical book, which often sparks curiosity and critical thinking in ways that digital media cannot replicate.

"Protecting these books is not about preserving "nostalgia," as one member of the university administration put it when asked about this subject. It is about safeguarding an essential part of student's education.

"Traditional books expose students to unique materials that are often absent from digital platforms. They are not just an outdated resource or "low-use items," as the university administration so harshly states.

"Rather than purging these books, the university should consider alternative solutions that both preserve resources and meet modern needs.

"Join me in urging UNH's administration to halt this ill-considered book purge. I ask both my fellow peers and book lovers to sign this petition today to implore decision-makers at UNH to protect the 300,000 books that enrich our university and community."

Needless to say, we have signed.

change.org/p/stop-the-library-purge-and-safeguard-unh-s-300-000-books

… with some additional thoughts from an art historian

Excerpts from a letter dated October 20th, 2026, sent to UNH Provost Jeannette E. Riley, Dean of the Dimond Library Kimberly Sweetman, and Elizabeth Slomba of the Faculty Resources and Development Committee, published with permission of the author:

"…Surely our task is to teach the students about scholarship and how it changes, in many aspects, over time. Seeing a cherished library collection makes that dedication palpable to students who may never have done much reading before arriving at university.

"To dispose of 300,000 books is carnage, not a gentle weeding. As Marshall McLuhan pointed out (indirectly), an electronic volume and a physical book are different. Especially for art history, large, beautifully illustrated books for browsing are a different quality of experience than some more or less legible scan on a site that may not exist in ten years, or five. Some of the books on that list are classics of the field; others were purchased less than ten years ago, many are not available either on *archive.org* or Hathi Trust. Neither Hathi Trust nor *archive.org* is guaranteed for the future in any way.

"…If the library were maliciously set on fire and 300,000 books were destroyed, we would think this a despicable crime. Indeed, the public library of Los Angeles lost 40,000 books to arson not all that long ago, and they responded, gradually, by rebuilding the library into a vibrant cultural asset. …

"…The Renaissance wouldn't have happened in the way that it did if monks hadn't kept some books they never expected anyone would read, such as texts of Quintilian and Vitruvius."

"Does the library not belong to the people of New Hampshire, bought with their money to be a resource for many generations?"

– Patricia Emison
Professor, Art History

Better Old News Than New Lies

A number of bailiffs, protected by a strong police force, attempted to carry out an eviction process on the 18th inst. at Bally Cunnion, county Kerry, Ireland. They were attacked by a mob of 500 persons, and after a severe battle the mob rescued the cattle seized by the officers. In the encounter a number of men were severely wounded.

• A New York paper states that Mrs. Kate Terry, whose husband Juan Petro Terry, recently died in Spain, leaving $6,000,000 to her and her unborn child, was formerly married to Charles Ballard [sic], alias Charles Wells, the notorious bank burglar. *["Piano Charley" Bullard and his partner, Adam Worth, robbed Boston's Boylston Bank of $200,000 in 1869—equal to $5 million, today. Worth, called "the Napoleon of Crime"*

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600,000-Member Machinists Union Calls on Schumer To Allow 'A New Generation To Lead' Democrats

"Our country is at a critical crossroads and a moment of extraordinary opportunity. This week's elections sent a clear message: Working people are demanding change," said the IAM Union international president.

by Julia Conley

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer's bid to continue leading the Democratic Party when it takes control of the U.S. Senate in January continued to falter Monday night as a key machinists' union asked the New York senator to step aside and allow "a new generation to lead Senate Democrats."

In a letter, Brian Bryant, international president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM Union) thanked Schumer for "many years of leadership, friendship, and unwavering commitment to working people" before telling him that "after thoughtful discussions," the IAM Union Executive Council had opted not to support Schumer's push to remain as the Senate leader.

"With the utmost respect and appreciation for your service, we respectfully urge you not to seek another term as Senate Democratic leader," Bryant wrote. "We also encourage all returning and newly elected Democratic senators to join together through a fair and open process to select a consensus leader who can unite the party, build on your legacy and carry forward a bold vision for working people."

The letter came hours after Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) told reporters that he was considering a challenge to Schumer, after initially saying he was not interested in running for the Senate majority leader post following the party's electoral sweep last week.

Candidates who won Senate seats include several outspoken proponents of Medicare for All, such as Sens.-elect Abdul El-Sayed (D-Mich.), Troy Jackson (D-Maine), and Peggy Flanagan (D-Minn.), and others who centered in their campaigns the need to decisively take on billionaires and worsening economic inequality.

A decision by Schumer to step aside in favor of "new leadership," said Bryant, would allow the party to "turn this moment into lasting progress."

He wrote that the party must push to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, restore collective bargaining rights to all federal workers, reinstate Affordable Care Act and give "every American the healthcare they need, and pass "meaningful rail safety legislation."

"Our country is at a critical crossroads and a moment of extraordinary opportunity. This week's elections sent a clear message: Working people are demanding change," said Bryant. "The IAM Union's *Workers vs. Billionaires* movement reflects a growing desire for an economy and political system that puts working families ahead of wealthy special interests. We have a tremendous opportunity to build on this momentum, but doing so will require fresh ideas, new energy, and a new generation of leadership."

Bryant's message made clear that "it's time" for Schumer to step aside, said author and commentator Don Winslow.

"The Democratic Party will make a catastrophic mistake if they lock out all of these voters for a man who has been in political office for 51 years," said Winslow.

The letter came after Schumer's support among senior Democrats appeared to crack on Monday, with Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) telling reporters, "We need a conversation about leadership going forward because we need new energy and ideas."

But later that evening, the senator said that he expected Schumer to become Senate majority leader and plans to back him.

Van Hollen, who has reportedly received a steady stream of phone calls since last week from voters calling on him to take the helm of the party in the Senate, reiterated Monday evening that he believes there should be "a full caucus discussion" about the path forward.

"I am in listening mode," he said of the possibility that he could challenge Schumer. "There are clearly lots of people around the country and a number of our members, quite a few of our members, who want to have this discussion... I haven't closed the door."

He also told *Semafor*: "I am listening to the thousands of people who have been calling for change, but especially listening to our members, but in particular to new members who have just come off the campaign trail. So what I've said from the very beginning is, we shouldn't have a coronation."

Van Hollen also met Monday with Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.), who has not endorsed Schumer.

On Monday afternoon, Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), who is also facing calls from newly elected progressive lawmakers to step aside in his push to become House speaker, released a statement saying that "Democrats are united and ready to lead."

But several representatives-elect, including Melat Kiros (D-Colo.) and Adam Hamawy (D-N.J.) suggested that even if Jeffries secures the top post in the House, he will have to contend with many new members of Congress who will be pushing for far-reaching action.

"It's about the agenda, an agenda that actually reflects the priorities of the American people," said Kiros. "We might have different ideas about how to accomplish certain things but we all agree that we have to reduce costs for working families, we all agree that we have to root out corruption in government, we all agree that our foreign policy has to reflect our values. And in order for us to be able to do that we need an agenda that's bold enough to meet that vision. And so what we're demanding is an agenda, it's not about the individual."

"We, as progressives, want to build," she added. "We want to accomplish things, we want to work together with this caucus to actually get work done, and we haven't had that conversation yet."

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Veterans Day observances around the country almost always share a similar tone: dignity and respect are the order of the day. Depending upon the locale and circumstances, however, certain variations may be permissable—even necessary. With a notorious draft-dodger in the White House, and an incompetent buffoon in the Pentagon, an appropriate commemoration at the National Mall presented a difficult challenge this November 11th. It was met with great élan by an anonymous art collective calling itself The Secret Handshake. Titled, "The Foot Soldier," this temporary monument depicts the 47th President of the United States, seated, with one shoe off, grimacing as he applies pressure to his foot—clearly a reference to the five draft deferments he used to dodge the Vietnam War. For added verisimilitude, the statue has been sprayed with cheap fake-gold paint. Its creators, an art collective calling itself The Secret Handshake, said in a statement quoted by the Washington Post, *"As the President continues to wage a war and threaten new ones, it's time to harken back to a time when Donald Trump would do whatever it takes to stay out of combat."*

Better Old News Than New Lies

from page one

by Scotland Yard, is said to have been the model for Arthur Conan Doyle's Professor Moriarty.]

• There was a great fall in pork at Chicago, Nov. 16th, when a drove of hogs broke through a bridge and landed on top of a moving passenger train, smashing in the tops of several cars, but injuring no person.

• Miss Jennie Sexton, an accomplished beauty of Richmond, Vt., aged twenty years, is under arrest, charged with forging the name of John L. Mason to orders for $1300 on the Burlington savings bank. Miss Sexton claims that he authorized her to sign his name, and says he effected her ruin when she was but thirteen years old, and has maintained illicit relations with her ever since. Mason is a director of the Vermont Central railroad, and a prominent citizen.

• At Grange City, Ky., Nov. 18th, Rev. Franklin Kessick, who preached a sermon on the previous Sunday denouncing drunkards and liquor sellers, was shot dead on the street by an intoxicated laborer named John Cundiff.

• The Pinkerton detectives held for examination on account of the shooting of strikers a few weeks ago, at Chicago, Ill., have been discharged.

End of the World

Rev. C.R. Crockett, formerly pastor of the Advent church in this city, now pastor of the Arlington street church in Manchester, last Sunday in the pulpit referred to Gov. Currier's Thanksgiving proclamation, but said he would not read it because God was not recognized in it. His sermon, which occupied nearly two hours in the delivery, was on "Tarrying Time," and was an attempt to demonstrate that the second advent of Christ is an event near at hand, and that the mistakes of 1843 and '44 were in the light of prophecy. The central thought of the sermon was that the present is the tarrying time, which will end, according to Mr. Crossett's calculations, in two or three years, probably 1889.

• Over fifty vessels were sunk or driven ashore by the gale on the great lakes last week, and many lives were lost.

• Capt. Solomon Jacobs, one of the best-known fishing skippers out of

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Press Freedom Group Urges New Democratic Majority to Impeach Trump's FCC Chair

"Few individuals have been more instrumental to the White House's campaign to weaken the First Amendment than Brendan Carr," said Reporters Without Borders.

by Jake Johnson

A leading press freedom organization on Monday urged Democratic lawmakers to impeach U.S. President Donald Trump's Federal Communications Commission chairman when they take control of Congress in January, pointing to the official's efforts to "intimidate and punish" media outlets that publish criticism of the White House.

The demand marked the first time that Reporters Without Borders, known internationally as Reporters sans frontières (RSF), has called for the removal of a U.S. official in the group's 40-year history, the organization said in a statement. Clayton Weimers, executive director of RSF North America, said the "severity and persistence" of FCC Chair Brendan Carr's alleged wrongdoing "demand an extraordinary response."

RSF points to Carr's erosion of the FCC's independence from the executive branch and eager willingness to act as the president's attack dog, pursuing investigations into networks that Trump has publicly targeted.

"When Trump took office, Carr reinstated complaints against and announced inquiries into broadcasters that questioned the Trump administration's policies, from public service media NPR and PBS to major private channels ABC, CBS, and NBC," the group noted. "Carr's relentless investigations have also targeted local stations, such as California radio station KCBS, which has faced politically motivated scrutiny for its reporting."

RSF also pointed to Carr's threat earlier this year to pull the broadcast licenses of networks accused by the administration of "news distortions"—a threat that came in direct response to Trump's complaint about media coverage of his illegal war on Iran.

"Few individuals have been more instrumental to the White House's campaign to weaken the First Amendment than Brendan Carr," Weimers said on Monday. "The incoming Congress now faces a defining test of its commitment to the Constitution and the freedoms it guarantees. Press freedom cannot be defended through words alone."

In addition to his attacks on journalism and legally dubious effort to roll back limits on media consolidation, RSF argued that Carr "likely violated the Hatch Act" by hailing his government work at a political rally for Republican U.S. Senate candidate Dan Sullivan in Alaska. RSF and the Democracy Defenders Fund filed a formal complaint last month demanding an investigation into Carr's appearance at the rally.

RSF's call for Carr's impeachment came days after Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) demanded that the FCC chair hand over records as part of an investigation into "how the president and the Federal Communications Commission's actions erode and undermine freedom of speech and freedom of the press and bear on the laws governing media consolidation."

Jessica González, co-CEO of the advocacy group Free Press Action, welcomed Blumenthal's investigation and argued that Carr's actions "should lead to his removal from office, by impeachment if necessary."

"Carr's capricious abuse of the law has no place in a legitimate democracy," said González. "Over the past two years, Carr has regularly violated his oath to support and defend the Constitution. He's been more than happy to browbeat and jawbone broadcasters into silence, though his claims have zero legal merit."

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Hegseth's Department of War Praises Eagle Scout for Restoring Memorial to Nazi War Criminals

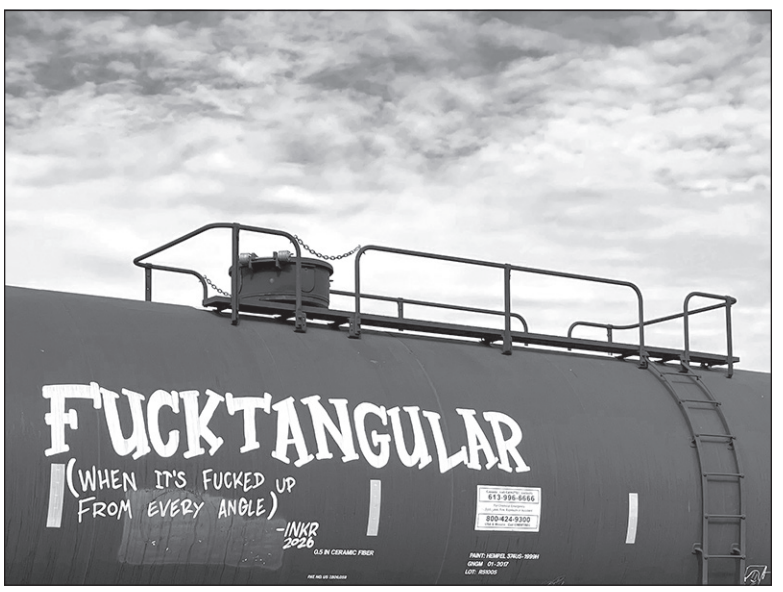
In a move few would probably have seen coming, even with Secretary Hegseth's pronounced fascist tendencies, the U.S. Department of War's public relations unit published a story on Sunday praising an Eagle Scout candidate for her work refreshing—"to its original glory"—a monument to Nazi war criminals, specifically, the 8th Panzer Regiment.

In February, 1943, that tank unit fought with the Wehrmacht at the Battle of Kasserine Pass in North Africa; 3,300 Americans were killed or wounded and another 3,300 were taken prisoner. Three years earlier, during the Battle of France, the 8th participated in the Chasselay Massacre, in which 50 Black French soldiers were murdered.

Lest there be any confusion over mistaken identity, the restored memorial, in Böblingen, Germany, carries the dates 1938 - 1945, and the Nazi slogan, "Gott Mit Uns."

According to the official press release from the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service, the Nazi war memorial got this special treatment because it serves "as a focal point for an annual joint reef [sic] laying ceremony… honoring German and American partnership."

Fifteen-year-old Alana Kaley, above, a Troop 44 Eagle Scout Candidate, led a team of nearly 20 youth volunteers and five adults investing over 200 volunteer hours into the project. And if all that fails to meet your daily minimum requirement of WTF, there's this: "I asked for a grant of $800 from the Veterans Foreign Wars, and they were very generous and gave me the grant," Kaley said.



The word we've all been waiting for. The next time anyone asks you how things are going, you'll have a ready answer. Our Wandering Photographer came across this at one of his usual haunts. Perhaps he was thinking of riding the rails south for the winter. You never know with that guy. We encourage our readers to forward this along to the folks at the Oxford English Dictionary. *This may be our best chance ever at getting cited there.*

Better Old News Than New Lies

from page two

Gloucester, Mass., has cleared out, it being charged that there is plain evidence against him for stuffing the ballot box at a democratic mayoralty caucus in that city last week.

• A notorious highwayman who escaped from a sheriff in Montana territory some months ago, while handcuffed, starved to death in the Big Horn mountains, his skeleton having just been found.

• The Chicago anarchists are reported to be laying plans to blow up or burn Chicago.

• Jimenez, the Cuban outlaw, has been captured and killed by the police. Rough, by jimminy.

• Capt. Sol. Jacobs, the noted fishing skipper of Gloucester, Mass., indignantly denies the charge of ballot-box stuffing brought against him.

• The Salvation Army officers recently stationed in this city are reported to have been ordered away by their superior officers, and it is considered doubtful if that special line of attack on the evil one's kingdom in this city is renewed. The army has not met with great success here.

Another Big Thief

William Reed, treasurer of the South Boston horse railroad, is under arrest for stealing $100,00 of the road's funds, and over-issuing stock to the amount of another $10,000.

• A New York despatch of Nov. 19th is as follows: "Lawrence M. Donovan, the hero of the Brooklyn and Niagara bridges, has declined an offer of $500 a week in the New York Dime Museum. He is making arrangements to go through the Niagara whirlpool rapids on next Sunday in the barrel used by Potts and Hazlett on their famous trip last summer. He expects to have a young lady accompany him, and they will be married at Queenstown if they both survive the trip."

The New Hampshire Gazette
November 25, 1886

• A number of riotous and ruffianly acts were committed in Salem, Mass., Nov. 25th, by striking workers, against non-union workers.

• Dr George Buar, assistant professor at the Peabody museum at Yale, was recently knocked senseless by an explosion of an ostrich egg, which had become fermented.

• Senator Wade Hampton [D-S.C.] will have to give up field sports. He lost a leg a few years ago in consequence of injuries received by a fall while hunting, and now he has been severely hurt by an extraordinary

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"We as Christians are called to do more than charity. We are called to challenge the systems that make charity necessary."

– U.S. Senator-Elect James Talarico (1989-)

"Today we are faced with the preeminent fact that, if civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships—the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together and to work together, in the same world, at peace."

—from the draft of a speech to be delivered by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on April 13, 1945

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What's Going On

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



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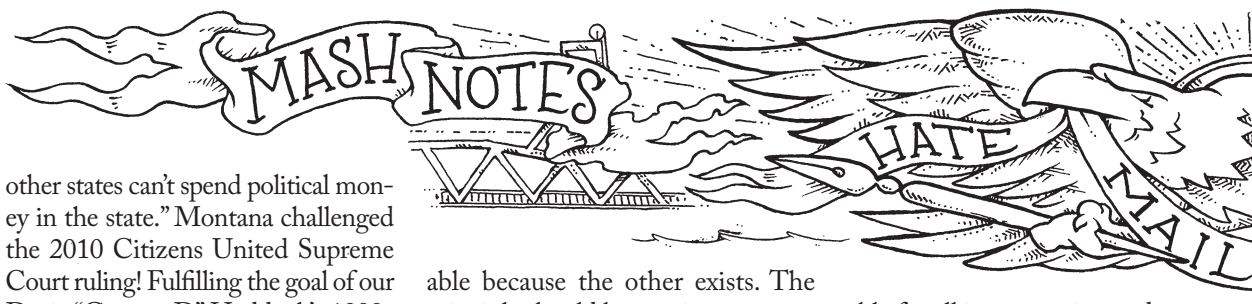
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Ewing's Last Stand

To the Editor:

For the safety, prosperity, and healthcare of your loved ones, Republicans must be elected to control our governments.

Democrat leniency with criminals, defunding of police, sanctuary policies, etc. lead to avoidable rapes, murders, and other harm to millions of people.

Republican enforcement of our criminal and immigration laws saves lives (e.g., a 75+ year low murder rate), many billions of dollars, and reduces the suffering that Democrat policies cause.

Democrats don't care about affordability when they control government. *e.g.*, Biden's 21 percent overall inflation drove prices sky-high; Obama's and Biden's (higher than today's) gas prices; or that Obamacare increased, not lowered, healthcare costs. Like Obamacare, "Medicare for All" is another false promise that would raise costs and degrade healthcare.

Democrats fought Republican legislation that ended taxes on tips, overtime, and Social Security, helping middle and lower income Americans. Republicans slashed drug prices and are eliminating billions in waste and fraud in Medicare and other programs to reduce costs and ensure our access to healthcare.

Democrat goals like national popular vote; elimination of the Electoral College, the Senate, and the Presidency; and packing the Supreme Court would destroy our "Democracy" and eliminate the checks and balances that protect our rights.

Democrat politicians impose policies most people oppose: *e.g.*, men in women's sports and private spaces, genital mutilation of children, and open borders. They oppose requiring Voter IDs which most Americans want to ensure election integrity.

With Iran nearing completion of the ICBMs and nuclear weapons created to fulfill their "Death to America" pledge, we had to act; today's temporary high prices are a small price to pay to end Iran's nuclear threat.

To protect your loved ones, your prosperity, and our country, vote for Ayotte, Sununu, DiLorenzo or Williams, and all Republicans on the ballot.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

Thank you for sending us this relentlessly misleading—indeed, fact-free—dispatch from Fort Ewing, which arrived exactly one week prior to the recent mid-term election. Publishing it here effectively enters it into the archive. It may be of interest in the future, to specialists studying the phenomenon of mass delusion. Note, please, our relentless optimism, suggesting that humanity may survive the assault on our planet now being conducted by the knuckleheads you have supported so blindly.

Apparently we are all doomed now, given the results of the election. Only Kelly Ayotte, the last Republican left standing in the State House, remains to protect us. We presume you are busily battening down the hatches of your bunker. We wish you the best of luck during the looming assault by the teeming hordes of the International LGBTQ+++ Antifa Brigade.

The Editor

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Question #2 was Questionable

Dear Editor:

My Winnisquam School District's three towns fell for the trickery of Question #2. Sanbornton, Tilton, and Northfield voted, 60 percent or more, "Yes."

Question #2's wording includes a false promise: "These caps apply only to administrative operations of the SAU central office and do not affect classroom instruction, school-based services, or other municipal expenditures." School boards decide expenditures, hands off nothing. Republicans and Free Staters in our State House were not honest with our voters, in their wording. A court sees this as a legit problem? Tuesday's voting shows overwhelming statewide dissatisfaction with those writing the question.

Ironically, so-red state Montana passed a law "to stop the corporate flow of money into political campaigns." Montana voted in "the state can deny the power of corporations, trade associations, nonprofits, and other 'artificial persons' to donate to political causes. Businesses chartered in other states can't spend political money in the state." Montana challenged the 2010 Citizens United Supreme Court ruling! Fulfilling the goal of our Doris "Granny D" Haddock's 1999-2000 walk across the U.S.!

Montana's state ballot question is honest, smart. Other states predictably will follow suit. New Hampshire's hurting property owners read only that Question #2 would cut their taxes. The effect on our schools is overlooked.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:

Shocking, isn't it? A bunch of government-hating monomaniacs conspire to grab power, then starve the public schools of funds. Make it harder for public schools to do their jobs, while subsidizing home-based crackpotism. It's a brilliant plan, really—assuming you're a nihilist.

We could learn a lot from Montana.

The Editor

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The Two-Sullivan Gambit

To the Editor:

If the allegations are true, the effort by people associated with Democrat Mary Peltola's campaign to recruit another Dan Sullivan to run against Alaska's Republican Senator Dan Sullivan deserves condemnation as an attempt to confuse voters. But those who condemn that tactic should apply the same democratic standard to partisan gerrymandering.

Widespread partisan gerrymandering is the more serious threat to self-government. Its goal is to render as many of the opposition party's votes as possible meaningless by packing its voters into a few districts or splitting them among districts where they are outnumbered. Voter deception seeks to distort an individual choice. Gerrymandering seeks to distort the system and preserve that distortion across elections.

Its deepest offense is not simply giving one party an unfair advantage. It is making it harder for voters to remove the politicians responsible. Voters may recognize the manipulation, oppose it, and still struggle to overcome boundaries designed to weaken their influence.

Neither practice becomes acceptable because the other exists. The principle should be consistent: voters should choose their representatives, not have their choices manipulated by those seeking to gain or retain power.

Terry Hansen
Grafton, Wisconsin

Terry:

Pardon us if we fail to condemn what appear to be hardball tactics, lifted by the Peltola campaign from the Karl Rove handbook. This country's current state of wretchedness is due in part to the Democratic Party's longstanding policy of pre-emptive unilateral disarmament.

The Editor

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What Democrats Need to Do

Dear Editor:

Now that the Democrats have secured majorities in the House of Representatives and Senate, they need to prove to the American people, especially disaffected Republicans and skeptical Independents, that they can effectively govern. To demonstrate their ability to govern they need to follow two paths simultaneously.

First, Democrats must pass legislation that will directly benefit the average American. They need to raise the minimum wage, which is still at $7.25/hour and has not been raised since 2009. They need to pass legislation to lower the cost of essentials such as health care, prescription drugs, food, heating oil, gasoline, diesel, education and child care. They need to pass a resolution to end the war with Iran and withhold any future appropriations in support of that war. They need to pass strong ethics legislation that covers every branch of the government. They also need to pass legislation to insure that the very wealthy and corporations pay their fair share of taxes.

While most of their efforts will be vetoed by Trump, simply passing such legislation will show the American people that Democrats care, can govern and help the average American. It would also provide valuable ammunition for the 2028 election.

Second, the Democrats must hold the Trump administration accountable for all its corruption and unconstitutional actions. This can be done by holding hearings where Trump administration officials are brought before committees to testify under oath. Separate investigations can also be undertaken while these hearings are being conducted. The purpose of the investigations and hearings is to show the American people how the Trump administration abused its power and to uncover any illegal activity that should be referred to the Department of Justice after the 2028 election.

The one thing the Democrats should avoid is pursuing a fruitless attempt to impeach Trump. Such an action would only distract from the real issues. The hearings and investigations discussed above would provide all the necessary results. An impeachment has no possibility of resulting in a conviction in the Senate, and would accomplish nothing of value.

The Democrats have a great opportunity to demonstrate real leadership, while working to repair the damage caused by Trump over the past few years. They can pass good legislation while conducting their Constitutional oversight responsibilities. In other words, they can walk and chew gum at the same time. It is imperative that they repay the faith and trust the American people have placed in them by providing meaningful results. We cannot return to politics as usual, but, instead, Democrats must initiate a new era of justice, fairness and decency. The people are counting on them to make their lives better and to end the chaos.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

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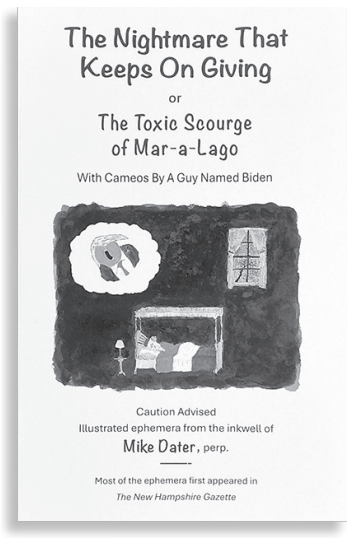
Vote Your Decency

To the Editor:

My Republican neighbors may not support many Democratic policies, but we share the same values.

The Republicans I know believe in fair trade, not trade tariffs. They see Canada as a good partner and Russia as a duplicitous enemy, not the other way around. They believe in forgive-

Trouble Sleeping These Days?
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most of which first appeared in
The New Hampshire Gazette

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ness, not vengeance.

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But the Republican Party doesn't reflect the values I cherish in my Republican neighbors. Instead, it has become the Party of Trump, a man who believes he is above the law and will literally do or say anything for money and power.

Vivek Ramaswamy aired an ad that falsely denied the sexual abuse his opponent suffered as a child, and when Mr. Trump encouraged him to "double down," he did.

Of the prominent Republicans who denounced that ad, none of them were from New Hampshire. Nor did they denounce the grift, killing of Americans, vulgarity, or taste for vengeance of our president.

As hard as it is to stand up to your opponents, it's even harder to stand up to your friends. If your party's candidates don't show the same values and sense of decency that you believe in, it's time to stand up to them on election day and take your party and your values back.

James Fieseher
Dover, N.H.

James:

Your letter came in before the election. Some might say that makes it no longer relevant. Obviously, we don't see it that way.

The more we learn about the early childhood of the person who has dominated our politics this past decade, the clearer things become. His mother was remote and absent due to illness. His father was a tyrant. His home was a crucible for the creation of a uniquely distorted psyche. Empower that with a few hundred million bucks in ill-gotten gains, throw in an evil mentor like Roy Cohn, and voilà: just the sick bastard to take over a party that had spent half a century throwing scruples overboard.

And so we have had a decade long experiment in which voters have been exhorted to invert an admonition of their first and best President, and cultivate the worst demons of their nature. Since the Republican project, under this morally-deformed person, has never had anything to do with the good of the country as a whole, or its citizens as individuals, it should come as no surprise that we've got a KKK-shaped economy in which the majority are suffering.

It is, literally, one hell of a way to get people to show a little decency. But, in the end, it seems to have had that effect.

The Editor

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Bring Back Car Inspections

To the Editor:

If you drive at night or walk beside the road you will often see vehicles with only one working headlight. Until this year you could take comfort knowing the headlight would be replaced during the mandatory state inspection. Now, there is no mandatory inspection, so the driver might not notice until both headlights are out. The same can be said for bad brakes, balding tires, low oil, extreme rust and other problems. This isn't just a problem for the car owner. It makes the road more dangerous for the rest of us, especially in the rain and snow.

In 2024 the State House was taken hostage by Free Staters masquerading as Republicans. In many ways Kelly Ayote enabled them. Now, most of them have been shown the door and I hope the new State House will reinstate the mandatory inspections and reverse much of the damage they did to this State.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

We're with you. In addition to increasing the odds of accidents, discontinuing inspections is sure to result in increased pollution. We're planning to visit our own local garage—where customers always get a "a liberal dose of service"—and ask them to check out the Gazettemobile.

The Editor

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Hegseth's Staggering Incompetence 10_25

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 cozied 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 time for voting has come and gone. Fortunately, in a couple of months, the administration's enablers will no longer be running Congress. The Pentagon is similarly in need of a Herculean cleaning. That task has already begun, led, oddly enough, by a Republican congressman from Kentucky, Thomas Massie.

It's a Parthian shot from Massie. He had the effrontery to question the war in Iran, and the motive for it. Consequently, Commander-in-Chief Donald J. Bonespur called for a primary challenge. The result was the most expensive primary election in history, or, as Massie called it, a "referendum on whether Israel gets to buy seats in Congress." The answer to that question was a resounding "Yes." Pro-Israeli backers coughed up nine of the 32 million dollars spent to buy Kentucky's 4th District for Ed Gallrein.

Gallrein left the GOP in 2016 after Trump sewed up the nomination, to become an Independent. He rejoined in June of 2021, six months after Trump's January 6th attempted autogolpe, when it would have been reasonable to assume that Dolt #45 was more likely to spend his dotage at Leavenworth than in the White House. But we digress.

Bush and Cheney were bad enough, but Trump and Hegseth are the Laurel and Hardy of national security. On their watch, Iran has destroyed installations that cost us billions, and taken control of a vital strategic asset, giving them economic power they never had before.

Perhaps they can't be said to have won the war, but they certainly have not lost it. And it might be said they won our midterm election.

The Editor

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Yet Another Stupid, Cruel Policy

Dear Editor,

Before trump *[sic, passim]* was president, our country held respect throughout the world for our ideals of freedom and justice. When Bush started the Afghanistan war on October 7, 2001, freedom-yearning Afghans, hoping to liberate themselves from Taliban oppression, began helping our forces as translators and guides.

The ill-conceived war didn't work out so well. Twenty years later, on August 30, 2021, President Biden honored the Doha defeat agreement signed by trump in February 2020 and pulled out the last Americans and some of our Afghan allies from the country.

Those Afghans risked their lives in hostile Taliban territory to help us, and we gave them shelter here. But now, trump is deporting them back to Afghanistan where they will face deadly danger. This betrayal is a crime against those who risked their lives on our behalf. It crushes the possibility of other freedom fighters ever trusting us in the future.

For shame.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

Shame, indeed. It's as stupid and self-defeating as mistreating prisoners of war, perhaps more so.

One might ask, "What are they thinking?" but that would presume that they are thinking at all. Hegseth, like his boss, looks to be playing out some internal fantasy, trying to overcompensate for what we suspect are well-grounded feelings of inadequacy.

And what of the U.S. vets they served with? Many already carry the burden of surviving when others did not. Now, some of the men who helped them survive are to be thrown to the Taliban? How are they supposed to deal with that?

The Editor

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A Vote Is Not A License to Despise

Dear Editor Fowle,

Please consider this original signed outside-reader letter for your Mash Notes and other correspondence pages. I write from Fort Collins, Colorado, rather than Portsmouth or the New Hampshire Seacoast. Your newspaper's lively political correspondence prompted a nonpartisan, Christian-rooted reflection on what our disagreements permit us to say about other people.

A Vote Is Not A License To Despise Your Neighbor

Election season has a way of convincing ordinary people that a neighbor's vote tells us everything worth knowing about them. We see a sign in a yard, hear a remark at the store, and suddenly imagine we understand the whole human being.

We do not.

A vote can have serious consequences. People should be free to criticize policies, question candidates

to next page

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MASH NOTES HATE MAIL AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

from previous page

and demand accountability for public decisions. None of that requires pretending that the person who disagrees has lost their humanity.

I am a Christian, and Jesus' teaching about loving one's enemies is among the most uncomfortable instructions I know. It does not mean ignoring injustice or calling a harmful act harmless. It means refusing to use our convictions as permission to become cruel.

There is no shortage of outrage in the country. It has become easy to mistake the sharpest insult for the strongest argument. But contempt rarely makes a claim more accurate. It merely makes the audience feel briefly superior.

I would rather see more questions asked carefully and more claims checked against evidence. I would rather admit when a person on my own side is wrong than spend the next week defending a falsehood because it came from familiar lips.

After the votes are counted, the neighbor with the other sign will still be living down the road. We may still need to share a sidewalk, a classroom or an effort to help someone whose house has burned.

We need not agree. We do need a country where disagreement does not automatically become dehumanization.

Douglas B. Vandergraph
Fort Collins, Colorado

Douglas:

That's all very nice, and for the most part we agree. We do however, reserve the right to use the First Amendment to the fullest extent of the law.

The Editor

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Shady, Underhanded, and Wrong

To the Editor:

President Donald Trump recently suggested that Ukraine's borders could change as part of a peace deal with Russia, saying, "they're going to end up with a little bit different shape." In February 2025, he berated Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during an Oval Office meeting, telling him, "You have to be thankful. You don't have the cards."

This transactional approach brings to mind the warnings of the late Pakistani scholar and anti-colonial activist Eqbal Ahmad, who described the Oslo Accords as a "peace of the weak." He argued that the Palestine Liberation Organization, rushing to secure some measure of power, accepted ambiguous promises and sacrificed the prospect of genuine sovereignty. The resulting Palestinian Authority, in his view, was reduced to the role of "policeman and municipal official."

Ukraine and Palestine have different histories, but Ahmad's warning offers a useful lens for understanding these negotiations. An agreement reached under duress is no guarantee of a just or lasting peace.

Rather than exploiting Ukraine's dependence to extract concessions, the United States must bolster Kyiv's negotiating leverage to secure a settlement that protects Ukraine's independence. The measure of success must be whether Ukrainians can determine their own future, not whether an American president can claim to have closed a deal.

Terry Hansen
Grafton, Wisconsin

Terry:

Trump has been making deals with shady Russians for forty years. No discussion of his bias in favor of Putin could be complete without some mention of the high likelihood that somewhere in the background there's a fat pile of rubles destined for the Trump Organization's coffers.

Now let's consider blackmail. A court has determined that the President sexually assaulted one adult woman. He spent years running a so-called beauty pageant, where he delighted in barging into dressing rooms full of underage girls. If the Russkies don't have kompromat *on him, their agents belong in the gulag.*

The Editor

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The New Hampshire Gazette

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Published Fortnightly on Alternate Fridays

Founder: Daniel Fowle (1715 – 1787)
Enslaved Pressman: Primus X (ca. 1700 – 1793)

PO Box 756, Portsmouth, N.H. 03802

www.nhgazette.com • editors@nhgazette.com
(603) 433-9898

Subscriptions:
$25 per year for 26 issues
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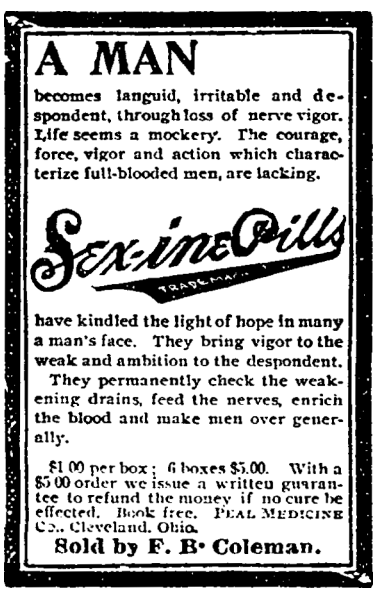
Running Out of Missiles Has Never Been So Profitable

by Richard M. Balzano

An inconvenient message recently landed on Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's desk: the United States may be running short of the materials required to fight the many wars it has volunteered for. The warning came from the heads of the Army, Navy and Air Force, joined by four-star commanders overseeing various portions of the globe. Prolonged operations against Iran, they warned, could leave American forces dangerously stretched elsewhere. Hegseth—the living embodiment of Axe body spray, gas station ED pills, and testosterone replacement therapy—claims reports of military depletion are overblown. This reassurance was accompanied by the resignation of Army Secretary Dan Driscoll. Everything is fine. Nothing to see here. This might be less remarkable if the United States weren't spending roughly a trillion dollars a year on its military. For that kind of money one might expect warehouses in Nebraska stacked floor-to-ceiling with missiles, shells, drones, interceptors and perhaps a Death Star or two still in the shrink wrap. Instead, Ukraine first exposed and Iran is now emphasizing an embarrassing fact: America manufactures sophisticated and profitable ways of killing people, but not necessarily the most advanced, and not enough to keep killing people for very long.

Such are the miracles of the free market. After the Cold War, America's defense industry consolidated into a cozy handful of giants. These companies discovered that the ideal weapon is not necessarily the one a soldier needs most. The ideal weapon is enormously complicated, takes fifteen years to develop, employs subcontractors in forty congressional districts, requires proprietary replacement parts, and costs enough to bankrupt a nation generations over. Washington latched onto the military-industrial teat and has been suckling ever since.

Russia and China have approached the problem differently. Wars of attrition eventually reduce engineering magnificence to arithmetic: How many missiles can be made? How fast? At what cost? How quickly can Tuesday's expenditure be replaced? Russia has organized enormous industrial capacity around artillery shells, missiles, drones and replacements, while China has built a defense-industrial base of extraordinary scale. Both have built the capacity to manufacture weapons in quantity and keep doing so when a conflict drags on. That should concern anyone whose Taiwan war plan assumes Amazon Prime delivery from Lockheed Martin.


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Our adversaries have us beat in technology where it matters, and hypersonic missiles provide an expensive illustration. Russia and China fielded operational hypersonic weapons while Washington spent years buying whatever goods our elected officials were bribed to keep buying. Hypersonic missiles fly extremely fast and maneuver in ways that make interception extraordinarily difficult. America is developing defenses against them, naturally, because nothing generates a second lucrative weapons market quite like discovering that somebody else's weapons program is better. Civilization has entered the mature stage in which taxpayers finance a missile, an anti-missile missile, and eventually an anti-anti-missile missile, while being told Social Security is fiscally irresponsible and peace is naive.

China and Russia are ahead of the United States in high-energy military lasers. Both have moved systems into operational use while Washington has spent billions cycling through prototypes and procurement programs. Lasers promise exactly what America needs: a cheap way to destroy drones and missiles without burning through scarce interceptors costing millions apiece. Washington, meanwhile, keeps producing programs to produce programs. Somewhere between the laboratory and the battlefield, American weapons development encounters defense contractors, congressional committees, and quarterly earnings reports, and the most expensive military on Earth discovers that spending the most is not the same thing as having the best weapons.

China's shipbuilding capacity is roughly 230 times greater than America's, much of it commercial, but even that distinction is blurry: Beijing requires new container ships, roll-on/roll-off ferries, bulk carriers and other civilian vessels to meet national-defense requirements, while its sprawling dual-use shipyards build commercial ships and warships side by side.

There are plenty of nifty death machines rolling off American assembly lines. Nobody should accuse this country of losing its knack for vaporizing strangers from breathtaking distances. The trouble is that less profitable production systems abroad may be better suited to producing the cheaper, abundant toys required for taking human life on an industrial scale. The MIC, however, has an obligation to its shareholders to convince Congress that every $10,000 problem requires a $100 million solution.

The F-35 may be the purest monument to this arrangement: the most expensive weapons program in history, plagued by cost overruns, maintenance headaches, and chronic readiness problems. The $82 million cost is a cover charge for a weapons program whose lifetime costs run into the trillions. Meanwhile, Russia's Su-57 lands at about $35 million per plane, and state-run weapons production means no premiums on replacement parts.

America's Israeli allies have adopted a useful principle of the modern arms business: nothing moves inventory like "battle tested." Israeli arms, drones, surveillance systems, and security technologies have become successful exports, with manufacturers boasting that their products have been tested under combat conditions. The antiseptic language of the arms bazaar leaves out where much of that testing occurs—Palestinians have served as an involuntary proving ground for technologies later offered around the world. All of this raises an impolite question. The United States has spent decades losing or walking away from wars despite possessing the world's most expensive military. Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan devolved from high-minded rhetoric to quagmires, predictably so to those who keep tabs on history. None was identical, but after a while even the slow student begins wondering whether military spending and military success are synonymous. Perhaps the wrong scoreboard is being used. Victory is ordinarily measured in territory secured, political objectives achieved and wars successfully concluded. Lockheed Martin, RTX, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics and Boeing have another set of metrics. A missile fired is inventory depleted. Inventory depleted is an order. An order is revenue. A prolonged conflict that terrifies Congress into emergency appropriations may be a geopolitical catastrophe, but somewhere else it is a very encouraging earnings call. Eisenhower prophetically warned in 1961 that the combination of a massive permanent arms industry and military establishment could acquire "unwarranted influence" over government and threaten democratic decision-making. Washington spent the next 65 years proving him right.

When generals warn that America is stretched thin on death toys despite spending unprecedented taxpayer dollars on them, perhaps the question shouldn't be limited to how the system failed. The better question is what the system is designed to do. If its purpose is to win wars quickly, cheaply, and decisively, the record is difficult to explain. If its purpose is to transfer fantastic quantities of public money into private hands while producing enough weaponry to ensure the next war remains possible, the picture clears considerably. The war machine may be running low on missiles, but it has never been healthier.

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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.

Half Full or Half Empty?

by W.D. Ehrhart

As far back as high school, and I'm now 78, I've always been a glass-half-empty kind of guy. Looking at the world that way means that I'm almost never disappointed. And every now and then, I get to be pleasantly surprised. One of those pleasant surprises—and a very pleasant surprise it was—came with the recent U.S. mid-term elections.

Only a few weeks ago, I wrote an essay called "It's Election Time Again" in which I warned people not to get too excited about some anticipated Big Blue Wave this time around. We'd been here before, most recently with Hillary Clinton in 2016, who couldn't possibly lose to the windbag buffoon she was running against.

But when I woke up the morning after this election and began to see the results, I had to admit that I had badly misjudged how things would turn out this time around. It really does seem to have been a Big Blue Wave. I haven't felt this good about my fellow citizens or the country I live in since Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr., won the presidency in 2020.

Here in my home state of Pennsylvania, Josh Shapiro was easily reelected, which was no surprise, but solidly reliable incumbents like Mary Scanlon, Madeleine Dean, and Chrissy Houlahan were also returned to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Moreover, Democrats Bob Brooks, Bob Harvie, Paige Cognetti, and Janelle Stelson all unseated incumbent Republicans. Philadelphia's Chris Rabb became the first openly Democratic Socialist elected to the House from Pennsylvania. And to top all that off, the Democrats held onto their majority in the state assembly in Harrisburg, and have gained control of the state senate for the first time in three decades.

Throughout the rest of the nation, results have been equally stunning. Both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate now have Democratic majorities. In Texas, Greg Abbott is soon to be an ex-governor, defeated by a Hispanic woman, and James Talarico has demonstrated that Republicans don't have an exclusive claim to Jesus and Christianity.

Maine's Susan Collins, who like some vampire always seemed to make it back into her crypt every election day before dawn, has finally been caught out in the sunlight. Abdulrahman Mohamed El-Sayed will represent Michigan in the U.S. Senate. Chris Pappas of New Hampshire will be the first openly gay man in the U.S. Senate. Kansas sends a Democrat to the Senate for the first time in 94 years. Peggy Flanagan, a member of the Ojibwe White Earth Band, becomes the first Native American woman ever elected to the Senate.

Democratic governors will soon be in the majority, too. The results of this election just go on and on and on. You certainly don't need me to tell you this. I'm sure you've been reading about it yourselves.

But a zebra can't change its stripes, nor a leopard it spots, and I feel obligated to remind you that the results of this election do not mean that it's finally "Morning in America." (Gee, that sounds familiar. Where have we heard that before?)

Even with the Democrats in control of both houses of Congress, they do not have a so-called "super majority" in the Senate, and thus Republicans still have enough votes to stymie much of what we'd like to see Congress do.

And even if both houses do enact the legislation to restore our national parks; honor our treaties and commitments to our allies; renew funding for Medicaid and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and so many other programs that our Destroyer-in-Chief has gutted; demand an end to unprovoked wars of aggression; and challenge the chaos and lunacy that MAGAMan and his Lickspittle Minions have created, any legislation passed by Congress will end up being vetoed.



A mural in Roncesvalles, France, September 14, 2025. From a photo credited to Chicken4War, published here under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.

And the Democrats do not have the votes to override a presidential veto.

If that were not bad enough, the Democrats can do nothing to change the current composition of the Supremely Unjust Court.

Oh, and don't forget that it was Democrat Bill Clinton who turned the Democratic Party into Republican Lite in the 1990s. And Democrat Barack Obama who brought into his administration some of the very people responsible for the economic disaster of 2008. And Democrat Joe Biden who was elected to remove Donald Trump from American politics, but failed miserably at the one thing he was elected to do.

And Hakeem Jeffries will be the first Black Speaker of the House of Representatives. But don't forget that while ordinary people like us were out in the street participating in the NO KINGS rallies in June 2025, Jeffries was eating wagyu beef and truffle agnolotti at a billionaire's mansion with a bunch of other party bigwigs.

This recent election is a very good thing indeed. A wonderful turn of events. I am more than happy to admit that I was completely wrong about how this election was going to turn out.

But this is no time to sit back and relax. There is still work to be done. Given the reality of the American political landscape, there will always be work to be done. And what lies ahead is at least as daunting as what we are leaving behind.

Indeed, it might do well to remember that the glass is still half empty.

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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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True "Wokeism" is a Core American Value – Stand up for it!

by Jim Hightower

As Scottish literary giant Robert Burns wrote, "The best-laid schemes of mice and men/Go oft awry."

His 1785 poem, titled "To A Mouse," could be directed today at the right-wing sloganeers who've been scheming so furiously to turn their hokey "woke" snobbery into a winning political stratagem. "Your local librarian is woke!" they screech. "So is Disney, Inc.! Some of your churches, too, plus all Democrats, and—OMG—even Bud Light!!!" Creeping Wokeism is the new Red Scare, Welfare Queen, and Willy Horton political bugaboos rolled into one, forming the main "issue" of Republicans now running for President, Congress, and dogcatcher.

But rather than getting defensive, insisting you are NOT woke, consider firing back by saying, "Of course I'm woke!" For the great majority of Americans, being woke is a very positive characteristic, meaning you're awake, attentive to what's going on. Indeed, in Black communities, "stay woke" has long meant staying alert to racial and social injustices. But even some Republicans must consider it bizarrely self-defeating for their party's top candidates to be urging voters to go to sleep.

GOP leaders explain that anti-woke means crusading against D.E.I (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness). But wait—that means they're opposing America itself, for we are a nation united under the essential principle of *e pluribus unum*. As affirmed by the egalitarian principles of the Declaration of Independence, the 14th Amendment, the Statue of Liberty—and our kindergarten teachings of sharing and fairness—ours is a country rooted in constant diversification, expanding equality, and the democratic idea that every voice ought to be included. Our country needs more of all three!

America is way short of achieving these historic ideals, but shame on those revisionist political elites now demanding we abandon even striving for them. Confront the charlatans!

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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.

Better Old News Than New Lies

from page three

accident. While pursuing a deer, he accidentally shot his horse dead, and was unable to free himself, falling under the animal.

• Down on the North Carolina coast two lighthouse keepers quarrelled about the color of the sea, and neither spoke a word to the other for three months, when they were both discharged by the government.

• Lady Colin Campbell, wife of Lord Colin Campbell, fifth son of the Duke of Argyll, has sued for divorce, and the case came up for trial in London Nov. 26th. Some of the evidence was so disgusting that even the London papers would not print it. If the evidence made public on both sides is true, Lord Lonsdale is quite a moral man, as British noblemen go.

• George Hazlett and Miss Sadie Allen of Buffalo, N.Y., went through the Niagara rapids and whirlpool in a barrel and came out all right. The girls is described as a rather pretty brunette, eighteen years old, and of good character. The trip was made last Sunday.

• Democratic election frauds in South Carolina are claimed. That's nothing. South Carolina has been made democratic by election frauds for many years.

• Trouble is reported in the "Creek Nation." On the afternoon of Thanksgiving day a brewery workman was pitched by one of his fellows into a tank of water hot enough to scald him considerably, but not quite hot enough to boil him. On Saturday evening there was a rumshop fight in that district, and the pitcher of Thanksgiving day was batted hard about the nose and eye by one of the enemy. When the Creek Indians get their war paint on they make things lively.

• The *Penny Post* announces that John S. Mosby, the guerilla chief, will deliver a lecture on "Stuart's Cavalry" in Music hall [sic] on Tuesday evening, Dec. 7th. We have a vivid remembrance of being made a prisoner of war by "Stuart's Cavalry" one pleasant evening in the summer of 1862, and shall enjoy hearing Col. Mosby tell of those famous riders.

• On Thanksgiving day Mr. George Shute of Newmarket, a noted gunner, went out to get a bird, and shot a fine plump partridge, which he put in his coat pocket with intent to convert into a pot-pie. Half an hour later, while Mr. Shute was stooping over, the dead bird fell from his pocket, and when he essayed to pick it up the pot-pie suddenly flew away with a resounding whir-r-r, the sportsman being too much surprised to think of his gun until breakfast was beyond range.

The New Hampshire Gazette
December 2, 1886

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

Smart Fish Don't Bite



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



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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 15

2010—Ex-cop James B. Fowler pleads guilty to the 1965 murder of civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson in Ala. He gets six months.
2008—Somali pirates take the MV *Sirius Star*. With a total value of $250 million, it's the largest prize ever.
1996—British officials return the Stone of Scone to the Scots from whom they stole it 700 years earlier.
1994—A barge, dead in the water during a tropical storm off Florida, carrying a new $50 million space shuttle fuel tank, is rescued by the crew of an oil tanker, MV *Cherry Valley*. They divvy up a record $4 million reward.
1967—The NVA mortars the Dak To ammo dump; 1,100 tons of ordnance create the war's biggest explosion.
1967—"I have never been more encouraged," says U.S. General William Westmoreland. Tet is 77 days away.
1967—The CIA hands LBJ the first of four reports on its illegal surveillance of anti-war activists. Because it refutes his belief in foreign influence, he rejects it and demands another.
1887—F(ranklin) P(ierce) Adams, namesake of N.H.'s only president (so far) and the godfather of the newspaper column, is born in Chicago.
1717—Six pirates, survivors of the wreck of *Whydah* on Cape Cod in April, are hanged in Boston.
1558—In celebration of Queen Elizabeth's coronation, a wickerwork effigy of the Pope is burned. It's stuffed with live cats to simulate shrieking devils.

2:56 2:57 8:41 9:23

Monday, November 16

2000—Bill Clinton goes to Vietnam — finally, when it's safe, as President.
1989—U.S.-backed pro-government "freedom fighters" in El Salvador murder six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and the housekeeper's daughter.
1969—President Nixon's Communications Director Herb Klein says he opposes government intervention in the news, but the networks are asking for it if they don't regulate themselves.
1966—Strasbourg students blow the student government's annual budget to publish a pamphlet, "On the Poverty of Student Life." Hilarity ensues, including the Situationist Movement.
1965—With 79 KIA & 121 WIA, U.S. units in Ia Drang say "mission accomplished, let's withdraw." Gen. Wm. Westmoreland says "No, stay."
1890—George Seldes is born. At 19 he'll start an 85-year career as a journalist, media critic, and author.
1856—Siding with Britain and its opium smugglers, the USS *Portsmouth* bombards a Chinese fort on the Pearl River in Canton, China.
1849—Fyodor Dostoevsky, 28, is sentenced to death for spreading "impudent words."
1776—The American brig-of-war *Andrew Doria* receives the nation's first salute from a foreign power at Fort Oranje, St. Eustatius.
1688—Boston hangs Ann Glover—old, Irish, and Catholic—as a witch.
1384—Jadwiga, a ten year-old girl, is crowned King of Poland.

3:45 3:49 9:33 10:13

Tuesday, November 17

2006—"We'll succeed [in Iraq] unless we quit," says George W.[MD] Bush.
2003—An Austrian muscleman becomes Governator of California.
1995—Multitasking President Clinton speaks on the phone with Rep. "Sonny" Callahan [R-Ala.] as he violates his marriage vows with an intern.
1992—*Dateline* broadcasts a rigged video of a GM truck exploding.
1985—Renault CEO Georges Besse is assassinated on a Paris sidewalk; the killers leave behind a leaflet, signed "Commando Pierre Overney"—a young communist killed in 1972 by thugs working for Renault.
1982—Holy Cross Church in King's Cross, London, is occupied by a 50-member sex workers collaborative.
1973—Speaking to newspaper editors at Disney World, Richard M. Nixon says, "I am not a crook."
1965—First Cav survivors of the Ia Drang are marched into an ambush; 155 are KIA, and 126 WIA. It's the deadliest day of the war for the U.S.
1953—An Air Force C-119 "Flying Boxcar" kills 10 Fort Bragg paratroopers in mid-air; five more die when the C-119 subsequently crashes.
1943—Soviet tank driver/mechanic Mariya Vasilyevna Oktyabrskaya is promoted to Sergeant for performing repairs under withering Nazi fire.
1747—Rioting sailors, laborers, and free Blacks, fed up with naval press gangs, take British officers hostage and shut down the city of Boston.

4:37 4:44 10:29 11:04

Wednesday, November 18

2025—The House Rules Committee votes against condemning fascism.
2020—Feds indict Kansan Shawn L. Parcells for wire fraud. He collected $1.1 million from 375 clients for performing autopsies, yet was neither a physician nor a pathologist.
2005—Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-Ohio) apologizes to 'Nam combat vet Rep. Jack Murtha (D-Pa.) on the House floor for implying he's a coward.
1999—Texas A&M's student-built Bonfire—a 59-foot stack of vertical logs—somehow collapses; 12 die.
1997—Operation Northwoods is exposed: the 1962 plan would have murdered U.S. citizens on the street to build support for an invasion of Cuba.
1988—Congress jacks up penalties for smoking crack. Lighter penalties for powder cocaine are unchanged.
1978—Jim Jones and 913 followers drink cyanide-laced Flavor-Aid in Jonestown, Guyana.
1977—"Dynamite Bob" Chambliss gets life for his 1963 bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Church.
1929—Marshall Ratliff, sentenced to the chair for robbing a bank in a Santa Claus suit, kills a man in a failed breakout from the Cisco, Texas jail.
1916—The Battle of the Somme peters out. The Allies have gained 2.5 square yards for each of 1,250,000 British, French, and German casualties. Germans later re-take most of it.
1883—U.S. railroad corporations are empowered to dictate what the time is.

5:29 5:41 11:27 11:55

Thursday, November 19

2005—Marines in Haditha murder 24 unarmed Iraqi men, women, and children. One Marine is tried for and convicted of dereliction of duty.
1967—A 500 lb. bomb from a Marine jet goes astray during the Battle of Dak To; 45 men from the 173d Airborne die, 45 are wounded.
1963—In Havana, Frenchman Jean Daniel, sent personally by JFK, finds Fidel Castro "cautiously receptive" to a rapprochement with the U.S.
1962—Dick "Dick" Cheney racks up his first drunk driving conviction, in Cheyenne, Wyo.
1960—At a party in New York City to celebrate the launch of his mayoral campaign, Norman Mailer stabs his second wife, Adele Morales, twice.
1932—A petition is signed by 19 of Germany's top industrialists asking President Hindenburg to appoint a new Chancellor: Adolf Hitler.
1929—A Cisco, Texas mob busts Marshall Ratliff out of jail and lynches him behind a theater at which the play "The Noose" is running. The first rope breaks, the second doesn't.
1924—Pioneering Hollywood producer Thomas Ince dies at 42, officially from a heart attack, but more likely from a [William Randolph] Hearst attack—a bullet to the head.
1915—A firing squad executes framed IWW organizer Joe Hill; his last words: "Don't mourn, organize."
1863—President Abraham Lincoln dedicates the cemetery at Gettysburg.

6:19 6:38 12:24

Friday, November 20

2025—The President writes that six members of Congress, one from N.H., ought to be hanged for sedition.
2020—"What is the downside for humoring him," says an anonymous high GOP official to *Washington Post* reporters. "It's not like he's plotting how to prevent Joe Biden from taking power on January 20th."
1980—In Louisiana, an oil rig drilling in the wrong spot hits a salt mine under Lake Peigneur. The rig, 11 barges, and a tugboat disappear.
1979—Fundamentalists seize Mecca's Grand Mosque, full of hostages. The CIA blames guiltless Iran.
1975—The Senate's Church Committee issues its report on U.S. efforts to assassinate foreign leaders; 349 pages make it past CIA censors.
1962—The Cuban Missile Crisis blows over, rather than up. With Armageddon postponed, President Kennedy orders an end to discrimination in federally-funded housing.
1943—Planners' failure to factor in neap tides makes the Marine landing at Tarawa far bloodier than necessary.
1820—A whale attacks the Nantucket whaling ship *Essex*, inspiring the greatest fish story ever told.
1812—North Hampton, N.H.-born Commanding General Henry "Granny" Dearborn's expedition to take Montreal ends just five miles across the border. Two of his units mistake each other for the enemy; five die and five are wounded in a fierce firefight.

7:07 7:32 12:44 1:18

Saturday, November 21

2025—In the Oval Office, the Mayor-Elect of New York City calls the President, sitting next to him, a fascist.
2024—Bibi Netanyahu's war crimes finally earn him an arrest warrant.
1973—Nixon Chief of Staff Alexander Haig ascribes an 18½ minute gap on an audio tape to "sinister forces."
1967—Commies in the 'Nam are "unable to mount a major offensive," says Westy, 71 days before Tet. "The end begins to come into view."
1964—The FBI sends a blackmail letter to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., urging him to commit suicide.
1933—FDR writes to a friend, "as you and I know… a financial element has owned the Government ever since the days of Andrew Jackson."
1927—The *first* Columbine Massacre: state cops in civvies machine-gun striking coal miners; six die.
1922—Rebecca Felton [D-Ga.] is appointed. The first female U.S. Senator wrote in 1897, "I say lynch, a thousand times a week if necessary."
1901—The President of Alabama's Constitutional Convention had said in May, "we want to…establish white supremacy." With their work ratified on this day, they attain their goal.
1817—The U.S. Army kicks off thirty years of warfare by attacking Seminoles in Georgia at Fowltown.
1801—The 2nd suspicious fire in 13 days destroys Treasury records after Republicans demand proof of Federalist Thomas Pickering's expenses.

7:53 8:23 1:33 2:09

Sunday, November 22

2003—AP reports on JFK conspiracy theories, including one claiming he orchestrated his own assassination.
2000—Two dozen well-dressed hooligans, many on the GOP's payroll, intimidate Miami election officials into shutting down a Presidential recount.
1975—USS *John F. Kennedy* and USS *Belknap* collide in the night near Sicily. A two-hour fire aboard the *Belknap* stops 30 feet short of the weapons magazine where they store the nukes.
1963—In Paris, a CIA man hands a lethal pen to a Cuban for use on Fidel Castro, at the behest of Bobby Kennedy.
1963—In Dallas, Texas, President John F. Kennedy is assassinated; at whose bidding is a matter of dispute.
1963—A secret Senate committee hearing *in re:* LBJ and bribery is called off due to JFK's assassination.
1941—Fighter ace Werner Mölders, a passenger, dies in a crash en route to the funeral of Luftwaffe Generaloberst Ernst Udet, a suicide.
1910—Brazilian sailors in Rio mutiny against the lash. Seizing the Navy's three most powerful ships, they end the lashings—and get amnesty.
1909—Tired of talk from male labor leaders, Clara Lemlich, 23, moves that garment workers strike. Next day, 20,000 women walk off the job; they win shorter hours, higher pay, and better working conditions.
1818—Edward "Blackbeard" Teach ends up with his torso in the drink and his head swinging from a yardarm.

8:39 9:13 2:20 2:59

Monday, November 23

1993—The U.S., in Congress, formally acknowledges that its Minister to Hawaii—who was an actual Congregational minister—conspired to overthrow the Kingdom of Hawaii.
1981—R. Reagan signs a secret directive creating the [illegal] Contras.
1976—Jerry Lee Lewis is arrested outside Graceland for waving a pistol and demanding to see Elvis.
1970—A Lithuanian radio operator jumps from a Russian trawler onto the deck of the Coast Guard cutter *Vigilant*. Commander Ralph Eustis allows Soviet sailors to board the cutter and seize the radioman.
1946—To teach "a severe lesson"—that Vietnam is ruled by France—the cruiser *Suffren* shells the bejeezus out of Haiphong, killing 6,000 and beginning the First Indochina War.
1936—In San Antonio, bluesman Robert Johnson begins a legendary three-day recording session.
1918—In Scotland's Scapa Flow, the German submarine *U-18* is sunk by the fishing trawler *Dorothy Gray*.
1903—Colo. Gov. James Peabody sends militia to Cripple Creek, and suspends *habeas corpus*, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly, all to crush the Western Federation of Miners. He ends up inspiring the IWW.
1899—The world's first jukebox plays in a San Francisco saloon.
1887—State militiamen massacre up to 300 Black, unionized cane cutters on strike in Thibodaux, La.

9:25 10:03 3:07 3:48

Tuesday, November 24

2006—"The only way we can win," says George W.[MD] Bush, "is to leave [Iraq] before the job is done."
1979—The U.S. admits troops in 'Nam were hit by Agent Orange.
1976—Steven B. Williams rams a White House gate with his pickup truck at 25 mph. It does not budge.
1971—Toting $200,000 in ransom cash, "D.B. Cooper" parachutes from a hijacked 727 over Washington State, into oblivion and America's heart.
1965—*The New York Times* runs a full-page ad signed by 500 WW II and Korean War vets protesting escalation of the Vietnam War.
1963—To spare Jackie Kennedy's feelings, strip joint proprietor Jack Ruby shoots Lee Harvey Oswald under the watchful eye of TV cameras and the Dallas Police Department.
1961—An overheated electric motor in Colorado cuts off all communications between SAC and NORAD.
1953—Sen. Joe McCarthy (R-Wisc.) claims the Truman administration is "crawling with Communists."
1947—All but 17 Congressmen vote to cite the Hollywood Ten for contempt after they take the 5th.
1922—Erskine Childers, a Brit supporter of Irish independence charged with carrying a pistol, is executed while his case is on appeal. He says to his firing squad, "Take a step forward, lads. It will be easier that way."
1759—Tobias Smollett gets three month in jail for libeling an admiral.

10:12 10:52 3:55 4:37

Wednesday, November 25

1997—In Plymouth, Mass., police serve Native American demonstrators a generous helping of pepper-spray.
1986—As Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese confesses that profits from illegal arms sales to Iran went to Nicaraguan *contras*, a reluctant Ronald Reagan fires U.S.M.C. Lt. Col. Oliver North.
1981—"Mad Mike" Hoare and 50 mercs just happen to launch a coup in the Seychelles to depose a government the U.S. didn't like. It fails, a farce.
1974—Britain outlaws the IRA after two bombs kill 21 and injure over 100 in Birmingham, England.
1968—Lifelong muckraker and media critic Upton Sinclair dies at 90.
1955—The ICC bans segregation on interstate buses—to no effect until '61, when Freedom Riders make it so.
1950—Great Appalachian Storm winds hit 110 mph in Concord, N.H.
1947—For refusing to rat out their friends to Congress, the Hollywood Ten are fired by studio bosses.
1940—Meant to stop SS *Patria* from deporting Jewish refugees, a Zionist bomb sinks it in Haifa harbor; 267 die.
1915—William J. Simmons burns a cross at Stone Mountain, Ga., founding the new, improved Ku Klux Klan: now it hates Catholics and Jews, too.
1865—Mississippi adopts the first and worst of a wave of Black Codes, assuring whites retain supremacy.
1864—Confederate arsonists set more than twenty fires, attempting to destroy New York City. They fail.

11:00 11:42 4:43 5:27

Thursday, November 26

2000—Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris—also, coincidentally, state co-chair of the Bush campaign—declares Dubya the winner.
1973—Rose Mary Woods takes the fall for the 18½ minute gap.
1970—After whites celebrate the 350th of the Pilgrims' landing by rescinding Frank "Wamsutta" James' invitation to speak, Wampanoags host the first annual National Day of Mourning at Plymouth, Mass.
1933—Thomas H. Thurmond and John M. Holmes are lynched in San Jose, Calif. Jackie Coogan—later TV's "Uncle Fester"—helps ready a rope. A judge, Timothy Fitzpatrick, says the mob "did a damned good job." Gov. "Sonny Jim" Rolph promises a pardon, but no one's even charged.
1932—In his newspaper column, Will Rogers mocks Herbert Hoover's theory of "trickle-down economics."
1922—Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon desecrate King Tut's tomb.
1921—Former Lt. Col. Charles W. Whittlesey, 37, commander of the "Lost Battalion" and a pallbearer for the Unknown Soldier, leaps from a ship and drowns in the Atlantic.
1910—Six workers burn to death and 19 die jumping from the fourth floor of a Newark textile shop. "Misadventure and accident" said the coroner's jury; penalty for the owner: $0.00.
1904—Joseph R. Burton [R–Kans.] becomes the first U.S. Senator convicted of a crime, *i.e.*, taking a bribe.

11:50 12:33 5:33 6:17

Friday, November 27

2002—Donald Rumsfeld signs off on "Category III" interrogation techniques—namely, torture.
2001—Gen. Tommy Franks, working on catching Osama bin Laden, is told by Donald Rumsfeld to drop that and revise plans to attack Iraq.
1997—In New York, a lampost fatally stabs Macy's Barney the Dinosaur balloon. Meanwhile, the Cat in the Hat knocks over a lampost, which then falls on two women, putting one of them in a month-long coma.
1969—At the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, 100 soldiers fast on Thanksgiving to protest the war.
1953—"I knew it," says 65 year-old Eugene O'Neill. "Born in a goddamn hotel room, dying in a hotel room."
1952—Winnie Ruth Judd, the Trunk Murderess, makes her sixth escape from Arizona's State Insane Hospital.
1900—To convince a Filipino town's president he should rat out local rebels, U.S. troops force salt water down his throat and burn down his town.
1898—*Portland* goes down in a gale off Gloucester. The "Titanic of New England" drowns as many as 245.
1868—In the Battle of the Washita, General George A. Custer and his troops massacre Black Kettle and 102 other Cheyenne survivors of the Sand Creek Massacre four years prior.
1837—France brings a naval barrage to a dispute over pillaged baked goods. The Citadel of Veracruz, Mexico is wrecked, The Pastry War has begun.

12:42 7:10 6:24 7:18

Saturday, November 28

2008—At a Long Island Wal-Mart, shoppers literally bust doors and trample Jdimytai Damour, 34, to death.
2005—Ex-Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-Calif.) pleads guilty to selling votes and dodging taxes.
1985—An internal Shell memo privately confirms everything its PR flaks are denying: CO2 from fossil fuels has been warming the globe for 100 years; seas are rising, and it's getting worse.
1979—Bad data supplied to pilots sends ANZ Flight 901 into Antarctica's Mount Erebus; 257 perish. Eventually, after an "orchestrated litany of lies" fails, the CEO is jettisoned.
1945—"As I understand it from the doctors," Gen. Leslie R. Groves tells a Senate committee, radiation poisoning "is a very pleasant way to die."
1942—The Cocoanut Grove in Boston burns; 492 die, 172 are injured.
1936—Basil Zaharoff, the world's fifth richest man, dies in bed at 87—about four times the age of those killed by the guns he sold to all sides.
1925—Communists have no right to free speech, says the American Legion's top "Americanism" honcho.
1919—N.H.-born Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood—on active duty—says of radicals, "Ship 'em or shoot 'em."
1858—The luxury yacht *Wanderer*, sleek, fast, and refitted for a trade outlawed 50 years earlier, docks at Jekyll Island, Georgia. The 409 enslaved Africans who survived the passage are the next-to-last such cargo to arrive.

1:27 1:37 7:18 8:04

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Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable – Tuesday, November 24th at 6:00 p.m.
Portsmouth Democrats Coffee Meetup – Friday, November 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*.

A wise woman puts a grain of sugar into everything she says to a man and she takes a grain of salt with everything he says to her.
— Helen Rowland
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