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The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Our Cup Runneth Over

What to be thankful for? Our cup runneth over. Your mileage, of course, may vary.

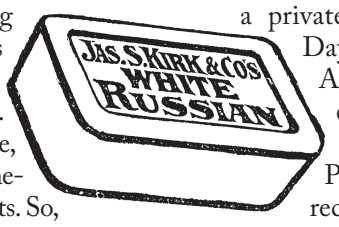
From the lowliest hack to the laureled legend, journalists yearn for a good yarn to write. Civilians who suffer collateral damage generally wish their lives had been less interesting.

On the time-honored grounds that dogs bite men every day of the year, we skip over the usual roster of Gazans and Ukrainians, and Congolese miners, and foreign workers in oil-rich Gulf states, and the inhabitants of low-lying islands, and run-of-the-mill Americans whose SNAP benefits and health care subsidies have been cut off in order to enhance their self-reliance, and turn to the 363 residents of Middletown, Iowa.

In their bucolic hometown, on the day before Thanksgiving, U.S. Army experts set off a 3,000 pound charge of C-4 sitting atop 68 nasty-looking barrels containing nearly five tons of highly unstable lead azide. Estimates suggest that a plume of lead dust might travel for 100 miles as gravity gradually brings it down upon the farms and fields of America's heartland.

It's a "toxic airborne event" right out of Don DeLillo's forty year-old novel *White Noise*. Note to booksellers and librarians: it's time to re-shelve that classic with the rest of the non-fiction. Officials pressed for time in this rapidly-deteriorating situation may find it useful as a cheat-sheet, mining it for impractical mitigation measures.

It goes without saying that we Americans have a well-deserved reputation for blowing shit up. The hard part is making innocent bystanders comfortable with the consequences. As with anything else, the more you do something, the easier it gets. So, by now it's reflexive: explain to the anxious that this latest load of lead will represent just a small fraction of what's already there.



The trick about using that trick is knowing when to stop. Dwelling on how that lead got there in the first place will not reassure anyone.

Automobile engines used to make a nasty banging noise called "knock" when going uphill or accelerating. That problem was solved in 1921 by a guy named Thomas Midgley, Jr.* Just add a little tetraethyl lead to the gas. Call it Ethyl, though. That makes it sound less like what it is: a potent neurotoxin.

Fifty years, millions of tons of lead, billions of dollars in profits, and a couple of generations of serial killers later, Congress legislated a phase-out—over the objections of conservative gearheads from coast to coast.

Thanks to that inherently socialistic enterprise known as *Wikipedia*, we can reconstruct a rough idea of how intentionally blowing up tons of lead in the nation's breadbasket came to be seen as a good solution.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. Defense Department found itself with "an accelerated need for lead azide." Predictably, the U.S. government "began stockpiling lead azide in large quantities." It was an investment in the future, and it paid off. The North Vietnamese Navy never did to San Diego what the Japanese did to Pearl Harbor.

Once that fiasco was finally over, our *Wikipediasts* tell us, "the use of lead azide dramatically decreased. Due to the size of the U.S. stockpile, the manufacture of lead azide in the U.S. ceased completely by the early 1990s. In the 2000s, concerns about the age and stability of stockpiled lead azide led the U.S. government to investigate methods to dispose of its stockpiled lead azide…." It must be tough to be a government. You try to do the right thing, and you end up with a surplus of touchy veterans *and* volatile explosives.

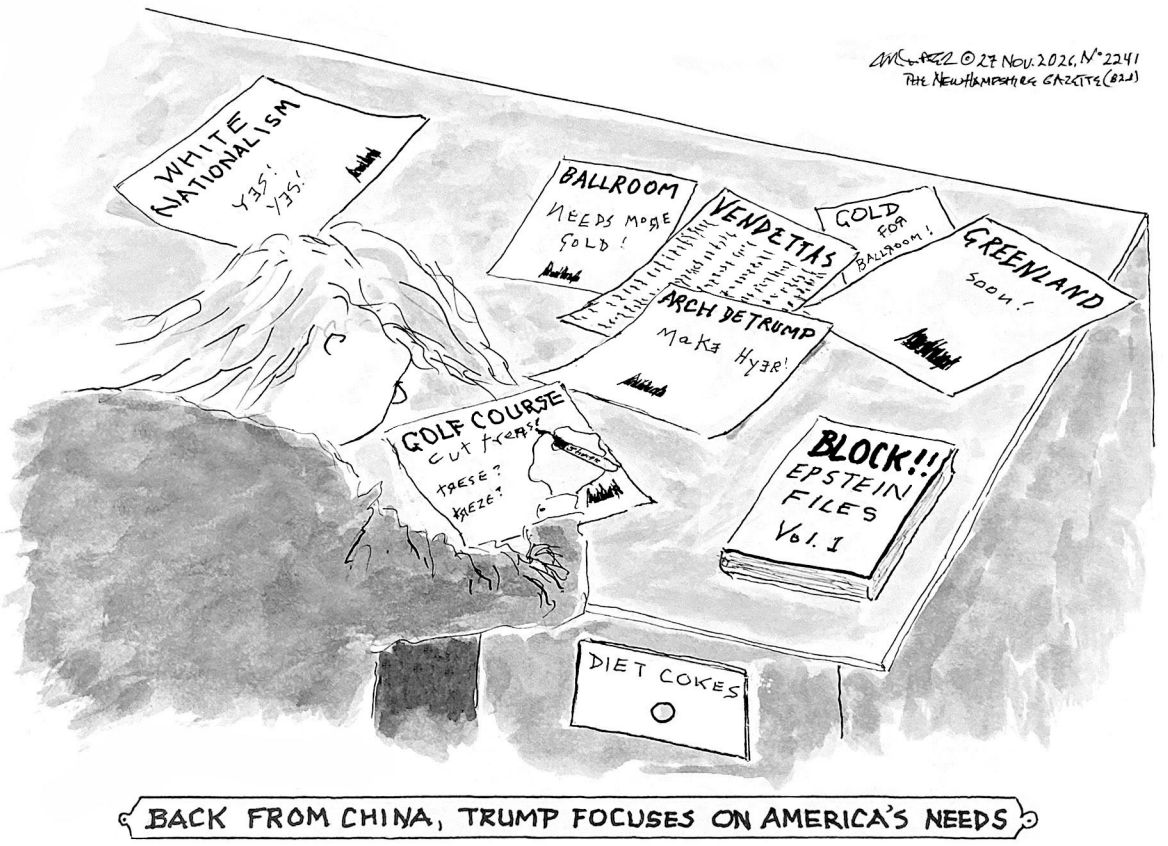
The Army's inventory of lead azide was stashed in 68 barrels, where it soaked in a soothing mixture of ethanol and water to prevent crystalization. All these barrels were lined up in concrete bunkers at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant just outside of Middletown. Monthly inspections were scheduled.

Though owned by the U.S. Army, the Iowa plant is run by an arm of a privately held company, Day & Zimmerman. A curious outfit, in its early days it built the Gatun Locks of the Panama Canal. More recently it manufactured artillery rounds for the Israeli Defense Force, including the ones that killed Hind Rajab, a five-year old Palestinian girl, six family members, and two paramedics in Gaza in January, 2024.

If the Army knew in 2004 that this stuff was so dangerous, how could experts in mayhem like Day & Zimmerman have let this situation get so out of hand?

The New Republic's Kate Aronoff may have found the answer. In a piece published Tuesday headlined "The Army's Story About the Iowa Lead Azide Detonation Makes No Sense," she quotes a former Army chemical officer, Dan Kasteza: "Civil servants have been badly treated by the Trump administration, and it could easily be that the one or two guys who really had a handle as to what was going [on] were forced into early retirement, had enough and quit, or were DOGE'd away."

* Midgley, who was also instrumental in the proliferation of ozone-killing Freon, did not live to see the rise of unleaded gas. He died in 1944. Partially paralyzed by polio a few years earlier, he was strangled by a hoist he designed to lift himself out of bed.



BACK FROM CHINA, TRUMP FOCUSES ON AMERICA'S NEEDS

'Psychotically Crooked':

President Trump Made As Much As $15 Million on Nvidia Shares in a Single Day

by Jake Johnson

The value of President Donald Trump's holdings in the AI chip giant Nvidia rose by up to $15 million on Monday after the company's board reinstated White House ally and Trump project donor Jensen Huang as chief executive.

Trump, whose investment accounts owned up to 370,000 Nvidia shares as of September 30th, publicly took credit for the board's decision, telling CNBC that he "convinced them" and "made the deal" to bring back Huang. The reinstatement came less than two weeks after Huang resigned following revelations that he had several extramarital affairs, including with a subordinate and a woman scrutinized by U.S. intelligence over her contacts with the Chinese government.

Nvidia's stock price surged more than 30 percent on Monday after news of Huang's reinstatement broke. The news also sparked a broad share price rally in the tech sector, which had sold off sharply in the wake of Huang's exit and amid news that the semiconductor giant was facing a Securities and Exchange Commission probe over its accounting practices.

The *Financial Times*, which first reported Trump's $15 million estimated gain from the Nvidia rally, noted that Trump "applied pressure" to the corporation's board over the weekend "after watching what was once America's most valuable company as well as the wider tech sector hemorrhage value last week."

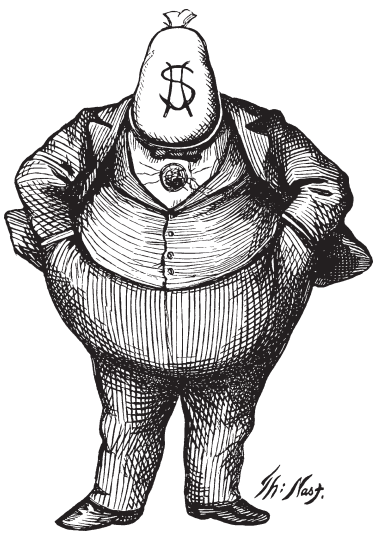
"Just to be clear: the president of the United States called into a private company's board meeting and pressured them into reinstating a fired CEO whose actions his own government is investigating, and personally made 15 million dollars in the process," wrote *Zeteo's* Mehdi Hasan in response to *FT's* reporting. "In any other era, a monumental political scandal for the president. But not in ours, apparently."

Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va.) called Trump's intervention "psychotically crooked," arguing that the president once again put "private gain above the national interest."

"He is attempting to grant functional immunity to Nvidia and declare Huang 'exonerated' even though ongoing investigations continue to reveal national security risks and a seeming contempt for the law," Beyer wrote. "And the leaders of the tech industry are all too eager to exploit Trump's corruption for their own ends, regardless of the consequences."

A BBC analysis of Trump's financial disclosures for the last two years found that the president's investment accounts "purchased shares of Nvidia worth between $23 million and $86 million," and that "he has bought Nvidia stock 85 separate times through a number of investment accounts."

"Trump has also sold some of his stake in Nvidia since returning to the presidency," BBC added. "Over 19 sales, Trump gained between $3.5 million and $10.2 million, according to his government disclosures."



Thomas Nast's famous caricature of William M. "Boss" Tweed, the Grand Sachem of Tammany Hall. Tweed was arrested while on the lam in Cuba after being recognized from Nast's drawings. Estimated to have stolen $3 to $4 billion, adjusted for inflation, he spent three years in the hoosegow before dying in New York's Ludlow Street Jail.

"We need to investigate what stock positions took place before the announcement," U.S. Sen. Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.) said on Monday. "This White House is the most corrupt in history."

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

Better Old News Than New Lies

The *Richmond Whig* says that no rich rascal has been convicted in Virginia since the war, and that the penitentiary is full of poverty-stricken wretches whom the law had no mercy for. The same proposition would be substantially true if made in regard to the other southern states, and it probably would not have to be shaded very much to apply to the northern states as well. It cannot be said that the law anywhere treats the poor man quite as it does the rich, but the unanimity with which its weight falls upon the colored and poor white trash offenders of the south is notable.

• President Cleveland is having a

to next page

Hegseth's Ex-Chief of Staff Calls on Him to Resign Over 'Shitshow' in Iran and 'Belligerent' Leadership

Joe Kasper, who served Hegseth for three months at the start of the Trump administration, said he'd "overindulged in ego, in attitude, and in entitlement."

by Stephen Prager

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's former chief of staff is calling for the top Pentagon official to resign over what the aide described as a "shitshow" in Iran and Hegseth's "belligerent" leadership of the department.

Joe Kasper, who served as Hegseth's chief of staff during the first three months of the Trump administration, told *Politico* in an interview published Monday that the self-styled "secretary of war" has "overindulged in ego, in attitude, and in entitlement."

Over the course of nearly an hour, Kasper savaged Hegseth over his purges of senior military personnel, his blocking of promotions for Black and female leaders, and his obsession with "distractions" like measuring soldiers' testosterone levels.

"There's quite an emphasis on the showmanship," he said. "The virtues of humility and basically service before self and those things have disappeared. I didn't see those at the start, and see them ever less so now."

Kasper said he realized within his first week on the job in early 2025 that it was "all about Pete rather than the institution and the men and women who support it."

That spring, Kasper was embroiled in a bitter power struggle with three other Pentagon officials—senior adviser Dan Caldwell, Hegseth's deputy chief of staff Darin Selnick, and Colin Carroll, chief of staff to Deputy Defense Secretary Stephen Feinberg. All three were fired in April 2025 after they were accused of leaking sensitive information, including details of U.S. military planning to "reclaim" the Panama Canal.

Kasper, who led the charge for their ouster, also left his full-time post that month. Hegseth has insisted that Kasper was not fired and has publicly defended him as a "great guy."

Kasper now says there was no evidence that the men he accused had leaked information. An internal investigation also found no evidence of leaks by the three men, according to *The New York Times*. Caldwell later rejoined the administration in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

A senior Pentagon official dismissed Kasper's criticism on Monday as "gossip" from a "disgruntled former staffer—someone who could barely survive 90 days in the building."

"Secretary Hegseth is laser-focused on restoring lethality to the force and supporting our warfighters, while Mr. Kasper is more focused on rewriting history to cover for his own failed tenure," the official said.

Kasper, however, suggested that Hegseth's power is already waning. Democrats are preparing to inundate the Pentagon with subpoenas over Hegseth's role in launching the unauthorized war on Iran, now in its ninth month despite early promises that it would last mere weeks. Other targets include his campaign of extrajudicial boat strikes, which have killed over 200 people in the Caribbean and Pacific, and the department's award of military contracts to members of President Donald Trump's family and to his allies.

"Pete's ability to be effective has been constrained, and very soon he'll have lost any ability to be effective," Kasper said. "For that reason and others, it's time for Pete to call it quits."

Lawmakers in both parties have criticized Hegseth. Earlier this month, the House narrowly rejected a bid to advance eight articles of impeachment against him brought by Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.), a leading GOP critic of Trump's foreign policy. Massie said Hegseth would "remain a threat to the Constitution if allowed to remain in office." He dismissed the idea that Hegseth's problem was a lack of effectiveness.

"In fact, he was very effective at killing schoolchildren in Iran," Massie said.

Even some Republicans who support the broad outlines of the Trump administration's aggressive foreign policy have criticized Hegseth's extreme secrecy and hostility toward congressional oversight. Hegseth has excluded Democratic members of Congress from classified briefings, withheld information about the costs, casualties, and objectives of the war on Iran, and repeatedly denied requests for evidence in investigations into the boat strikes.

In a memoir released in October, outgoing Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) said his vote to confirm Hegseth was his "biggest regret." In a separate interview, Tillis said the secretary "takes [Congress] for granted, and... treats us more like a manufacturing line in his company than his board of directors."

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), who is also retiring, said last week that "a lot of people would be able to guess" that she regretted voting to confirm Hegseth. She added that there is "very little transparency right now with what is being discussed between the White House and the Department of War."

Kasper suggested Hegseth has nobody to blame but himself for the rupture with Congress.



Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth demonstrating his proficiency at an exercise which, though not part of his official duties, is at least within his capabilities. DoD photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Alexander Kubitza, Fort Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., April 17, 2025.

"He's not just burned bridges up on the Hill," he said. "He's napalmed them… He's going to be suffocated, and it's not like it's going to be a slow suffocation. It's going to be a quick asphyxiation."

Should Hegseth remain in office, the incoming Democratic majority in the House could revive the impeachment effort. If the House impeaches him, it would take a two-thirds vote of senators present to remove him. With Democrats expected to hold 56 Senate seats beginning in January, potentially as few as 11 Republicans may be needed to remove Hegseth from office.

"The goal, for me, is to get Pete Hegseth removed as the head of the Department of Defense," Rep. Jason Crow (D-Colo.), who sits on the House Armed Services and Intelligence committees, told *The Atlantic* last week. "Every day he sits atop the DoD is a day that our service members don't have the leadership, they don't have the competency, they don't have the direction and the support that they need, and they are being put at great risk."

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



Just another one of those calm and balmy days in mid-November… wait, what? If the recent warm weather weren't disorienting enough, that convertible in front of Caffé Kilim appears to be a Rolls-Royce Corniche.

Better Old News Than New Lies

from page one

contest with rheumatism.

• Two hundred girls attacked and pelted with mud a bailiff and his assistant, who were serving writs of ejectment on tenants on Lord Dillon's estate at Ballyhannis, Ireland. The men beat a hasty retreat, leaving horse, car, and papers.

• Mme. Francois Belanger, of Natasknowan, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, has given an example of fecundity rare even in Canada. In November last she gave birth to four children, all healthy. The year previous she became the mother of triplets, and the year before that of twins, making nine children within two years and a few months.

• Reed, the defaulting treasurer of the South Boston Railway Co., is now said to have stolen over $300,000. He was treasurer of the Gas Co. at Exeter, in this state, from 1872 to 1883.

• Advices from Hanoi, the capital of Tonquin, state that pirates at Haker surprised the French frontier commission, and massacred two interpreters and four soldiers.

• In Campbell county, Dakota, some of the voters did not like either of the candidates for district attorney, and as a prominent citizen posessed a very intelligent pointer dog, they voted for the dog. That popular animal only lacked three votes of being elected.

• Ten acres of ground over the Fairmount coal mine at Pittston, Pa., caved in on the 4th inst., ruining the mine. A number of houses were wrecked by the cave-in.

• "Jim" Cummings, the Adams express robber, offers to give up $25,000 if he can be allowed to enjoy the rest in peace.

to next page

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NYT, CNN escalate Iran scare stories to sell upcoming U.S.-Israel airstrikes

A "dirty bomb" nonstory, "dual use" incitement, and a surge of vague "warnings" of a menacing Iran seek to prime a war-wary public.

by Adam Johnson

As the U.S. and Israel reportedly mull a new wave of attacks on Iran, the shoddy, increasingly ad hoc scare stories justifying this historically unpopular war are ramping up. Last week, American media consumers were fed lurid and frightening claims by CNN about a so-called "dirty bomb" plot, the *New York Times* scandalized and made sinister standard water infrastructure in Iran, and U.S. reporting, across the board, parroted vague Trump administration claims about "increased threats" emanating from Iran without a single shred of evidence.

In other words, it's clear there is an emerging PR campaign to inflate the threat from Iran, justify another full-scale attack, and give a general sense the "regime" is on the brink of collapsing.

First up, let us examine last week's most sensationalist, and least sourced, scare story: CNN's BREAKING NEWS-hair-on-fire report August 17th by Katie Bo Lillis, Zachary Cohen, Natasha Bertrand, and Kristen Holmes that "Iran is developing plans to potentially detonate a dirty bomb in Washington, sources say."

Who were these sources? "Seven U.S. officials," because presumably getting seven Trump administration officials, versus one or three or five, to parrot the same war propaganda provides at least a vague whiff of independent confirmation. The scary headline, which in the text of the article is qualified, somewhat anticlimactically, as Iran's "effort to give itself options rather than an indicator of an imminent attack," did not stop the cable news network—now owned by pro-Israel mega-billionaire David Ellison—from repeating the "threat" as both credible and urgent dozens of times throughout the week, including one discussion on The Lead with Jake Tapper that read like a parody news segment from "Robocop."

The frightening claim was, largely without pushback or criticism, echoed by most of the U.S. media, with qualifiers about the "plan" being entirely speculative being dropped altogether and the "dirty bomb" plot subtly morphing from speculation to established threat on chattering pundit panels on CNN and MSNOW. Buried in a *New York Times* report two days later was confirmation that the "threat," such as it was, was seeded and provided by Israel as part of "intensifying pressure from Israel" on Trump to ramp up attacks on Iran.

This nonstory was accompanied, à la 2003 color threat chart, by parallel claims about "chatter" "worrying" "U.S. officials" involving "stashed bomb-making materials inside the U.S." and novel claims about Iran potentially using "chemical weapons" in the U.S. "'Threats from Iran have increased substantially,' U.S. intelligence director says," Reuters informed the U.S. public. "Iran threats prompt U.S. officials to shelter on bases, raising alarms for Trump's security," Sinclair syndicated news breathlessly reported. "Trump says Tehran may be working on chemical or biological weapons as tension mounts," the David Ellison-owned CBS News added without skepticism.

CNN, playing the role of dutiful court stenographer, continued to report every Trump official claim without context or criticism.

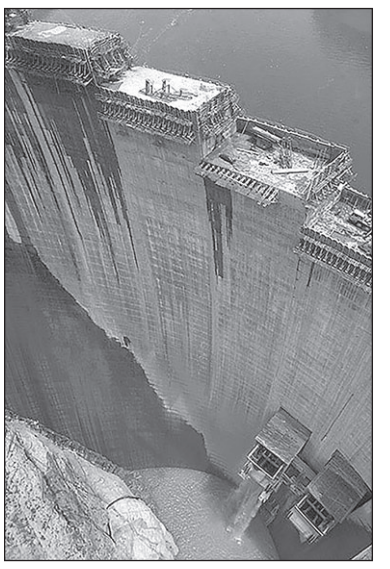
Is there any evidence of this "substantially increased" threat? There is not. Just an assertion by government officials and this is enough to mindlessly repeat as if some new evidence has been unearthed. Indeed, one would be hard pressed, after decades and decades of fear-mongering about "Iranian threats to the homeland" and supposedly thwarted plots, to know that the "world's largest exporter of terror" Iran has killed exactly zero American civilians in the past 40 years. One is, no doubt, exceedingly grateful that the biggest threat to Americans on earth is also, apparently, Mr. Magoo-level incompetent when it comes to actually carrying out terrorist attacks against Americans, having scored zero civilian deaths.

Next up, also on Tuesday, was a uniquely irresponsible—bordering on genocide incitment—article in the *New York Times* that went so far in its implied promotion of war crimes against Iran that it was widely criticized by Western experts, including many of the sources cited in the article. The tabloid-style story by Sanam Mahoozi and Erika Solomon, "War May Answer Longtime Riddle of Iranian Dams Built for No Clear Reason," heavily implied that Iran was building up a sinister network of water facilities for the purposes of supporting clandestine military activities—a speculative conspiracy theory with zero rigorous analysis fueled by spurious dot connecting and motivated reasoning.

One of the experts cited in the story, Kaveh Madani, director of the United Nations University's Water Institute, called out the *New York Times* on Twitter/X, writing: "Speculation is not evidence. Spatial proximity is not causality. Even those who attacked Iran have not made such claims linking dams to missiles! This reductionist, sensational narrative is irresponsible journalism with potentially dangerous consequences for civilian water infrastructure. The @nytimes should know better."

Madani followed up with a scathing criticism in *Forbes* magazine, accusing the *NYT* of "Politicizing, militarizing, or securitizing explanations of water management failures" that "distort[ed] scientific understanding and, more dangerously, create[d] narratives that put essential civilian infrastructure at risk."

The New York Times, per its usual responsibility-evasion style, responded to the pushback by claiming it was coming from "Iranian officials and others" without noting that the "others" were several of their own sources. The article, of course, serves one function and one function only: to justify the U.S. and Israel attacking Iran's water and other critical civilian infrastructure under the auspices of so-called "dual use"—a long-established propaganda framing that militarizes civilian infrastructure to provide a pseudo-humanitarian liberal justification for collective punishment and related war crimes. The *NYT*, as I detail in my recent book on the role of U.S. media in selling the Gaza genocide, played a similar role militarizing hospitals, journalists, humanitarian workers and food aid providers in Gaza by uncritically spreading Israeli claims that these noncombatants were secretly plotting with, working alongside, or otherwise infiltrated by "Hamas."



The Karun 4 dam, shown during the final stages of construction, April 19, 2011. Photo by Mehr News Agency, published under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

But what's important to understand is that the reporting is being used to serve the needs of power; it is not an instrument of independent accountability, much less a check on said power. Thus, as the U.S. and Israel ramp up for a new wave of attacks, U.S. media is mysteriously full of urgent, tabloid stories of Iranian threats and shifty dual-use evasions fed by a self-serving Trump government and a parallel network of zionist ideologues hell-bent on regime change in Iran.

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Adam Johnson hosts the Citations Needed podcast and writes at The Column on Substack. Follow him @adamjohnsonCHI. Published under Creative Commons License.



The recent mild, pleasant weather could not last, of course. Not in stick season, at this latitude. If it did we'd ***really*** *have something to worry about.*

Better Old News Than New Lies

from page two

• The Free Baptist society will celebrate the extinction of their church indebtedness by a jubilee festival and banquet on Thursday evening, Dec. 9th, in the Pearl street church. Five hundred invitations have been issued.

• There is a general complaint throughout the cities and towns of New England, of a scarcity of small coin, particularly cents, they being very difficult to procure in quantities sufficient to meet the demands of trade. We find it much more difficult to get ten-dollar bills.

• Twenty-seven Gloucester vessels and 136 lives were lost in fisheries during the past year. The season was an unusually disastrous one.

• A Philadelphia soap manufacturer declares that he advertises only in newspapers for the reason "that a man who doesn't read the newspaper has no use for soap."

The New Hampshire Gazette
December 9, 1886

• If a quarter of the testimony offered by both sides in the suit of Lady Colin Campbell for divorce from Lord Colin is true, it would be hard to find any society in the back slums of New York that would not be morally degraded by associating with either of them.

• The queen has forbidden the admission in the household of Windsor castle, or within the castle precincts, of newspapers containing reports of the Campbell case.

• A gang of thirty or more tramps raised a row in a liquor saloon at Shenandoah, Pa., and fatally wounded three men. Four of the tramps were jailed.

to page seven

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them."

– Maya Angelou (1928-2014)
poet, author,activist

"Wearing masks, practicing sacrilege in burning fiery crosses, appealing to race and religious hatreds is so thoroughly un-American and so contemptible that we are surprised that any intelligent person would engage in such perfidy for even one performance."

– north Georgia newspaper, *The Dalton Citizen*, 1925

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What's Going On

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



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Where's That Golden Egg?

To the Editor:

Gaylord Nelson, former U.S. senator and the founder of Earth Day, recognized that nature is the source of our national wealth and economic activity. He wrote, "These biological systems are the sustaining wealth of the world."

That's why climate action belongs at the center of today's affordability debate. In 2014, ecological economist Robert Costanza and his colleagues estimated the annual value of the world's ecosystem services at about $125 trillion. These benefits, including climate regulation, fisheries, forestry, soil conservation, and flood control, are increasingly at risk as climate impacts intensify.

Climate change threatens both these natural benefits and the physical infrastructure on which our economy depends—with consequences for household budgets like higher food prices and homeowners insurance premiums.

A 2020 report by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission documents the threat that climate change poses to America's energy, water, transportation and communication infrastructure. For example, it warns that extreme precipitation, inundation from sea-level rise, extreme heat and forest fires "challenge nearly every element of transportation systems, from bridges and airports to pipelines and ports."

A healthy economy depends on a stable climate. If our leaders are serious about affordability, they must look beyond today's prices to the natural and built systems that make economic life possible. Cutting emissions and preparing for climate impacts are investments not just in lower long-term costs, but in keeping those systems functioning.

Terry Hansen
Grafton, Wisconsin

Terry:

Have we got this right? Mother Earth put $342 billion a day into an ecological bank account. All of us are entitled an equal share. Billionaires pay to rig the rules so that they can reduce the amount of that daily deposit, in order to protect the vast wealth they've already accumulated while destroying the environment. Ecocide is legal. Objecting to it is class warfare.

The Editor

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Carine v Kalkanis

To the Editor:

In arguing that al-Qaeda wasn't responsible for 9/11, Gregory Kalkanis leaves out a lot.

American intelligence and German police reported that at least one and probably several of the hijackers were trained in al-Qaeda camps. (*Boston Globe*, Sept. 16, 2001, *Gainesville Sun*, Aug. 25, 2002). There is a video of Abdulaziz Alomari thanking "the leader, Osama Bin Laden." Al-Qaeda's treasurer made payments to some of the hijackers (*Washington Post*, Oct. 6, 2001). In 2000, military intelligence identified four of the future hijackers as al-Qaeda members (*New York Times*, Aug. 9, 2005) Bin Laden's 2004 claim of responsibility may not be decisive, but it is evidence.

I also think there are problems with Kalkanis saying that the hijackers were upset about "the oppression and violence that the U.S.-backed monarchies and dictatorships impose on their people." Al-Qaeda was not opposed to oppression and dictatorship. That they were in bed with the Taliban, one of the most oppressive regimes on earth, is part of the proof. Also, Bin Laden said in his 1996 fatwa that he intended to restore the caliphate, and in a statement made in November, 2001, he expressed his strong support for Indonesia's occupation of East Timor, and his outrage that the West helped East Timor gain independence. It was never about liberation.

The editor will probably dish out his usual *ad hominem* and straw men, but I'll try to bear it philosophically.

Aaron Carine
Dover, N.H.

Aaron:

Curious. You profess to disdain straw men, and yet you employ one by reducing Kalkanis's thesis to an absolution of al-Qaeda. And, as for leaving out a lot, you ignore his indictment of the Saudi monarchy—not to mention his, to us, at least, irrefutable claim that the Cheney-Bush administration used 9/11 as an excuse to impose a national security lockdown on the U.S. and the world.

You also seem to be suggesting that, in referring to al-Qaeda's abhorrence of "the… invasion of Iraq and… economic warfare against Iraq… and the U.S. support for the Israeli Government's murderous campaign against the Palestinians… [and the] occupation of southern Lebanon," Kalkanis is painting that terrorist group as a band of hippies who must hate all forms of oppression—as opposed to a bunch of religious fanatics determined to make others worship as they do. Kind of like evangelicals.

In short, despite your many admirable qualities, you have failed to change our views on any of these matters.

The Editor

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Rubio the Weathervane

To the Editor:

In his November 13th speech to the Federalist Society, Secretary of State Marco Rubio defended President Donald Trump's sanctions against the International Criminal Court (ICC), calling it "fake and illegitimate." He denounced it as "an unelected world tribunal" claiming authority over sovereign nations, including those that "never signed up for it."

Yet in March, 2022, then-Senator Rubio cosponsored a Senate resolution that described the ICC as a tribunal that "seeks to uphold the rule of law" by investigating and trying individuals accused of the gravest international crimes. The resolution encouraged ICC member states to petition the court to investigate Russian war crimes in Ukraine—even though Russia, like the United States and Israel, is not a party to the court's founding treaty.

Both Ukraine and the State of Palestine, a United Nations non-member observer state, accepted ICC jurisdiction over crimes committed on their territories. In the Israeli cases, the court stated that Israel's consent was not required because the alleged crimes occurred on Palestinian territory.

But after the ICC issued arrest warrants against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former defense minister Yoav Gallant for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza, the Trump administration responded with sanctions. President Trump's February 2025 executive order authorizing those sanctions explicitly cited the warrants.

When a court's legitimacy depends on whether it targets an adversary or an ally, international justice ceases to be a principle to uphold. Instead, it becomes just another political tool.

Terry Hansen
Grafton, Wisconsin

Terry:

At a campaign rally in Texas in 2016, Rubio spent six minutes mercilessly deriding Donald J. Trump. "Friends do not let friends vote for con artists," he said. Five months later, Trump had Rubio's endorsement. Ten years ago, Rubio was already the master of an essential political skill: adjusting his message to suit the circumstances. He is a natural. Open him up and you will find nothing inside.

The Editor

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A Remarkable Scientific Achievement

To the Editor:

Lately the administration seems to be discounting the importance of science. It is sad, considering the recent resounding success of a 1970's NASA program. Our intrepid *Voyager* is reaching one light day from Earth! This exciting venture is our deepest probe into space and is a tribute to science.

Lorraine Hansen
Rollinsford, N.H.

Lorraine:

In the greater scheme of things, mankind is but a blip—and quite possibly, as the writers of Season One of "True Detective" suggested, a tragic evolutionary mistake, considering human awareness of our species' mortality. On the other hand, thanks to Voyager, *we may derive great joy from the knowledge that somewhere way, way out there, Chuck Berry is playing, and always will be playing, "Johnny B. Goode."*

The Editor

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Our Government Sides with Measles

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to Mr. Trump and Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. They can now add another trophy in their anti-public health trophy case. As a result of their continued destruction of public health, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has revoked the United States' measles-elimination status, ending a 26-year run, after determining the country failed to halt continuous transmission of the virus for more than a year.

Since 2025, 7,500 cases of measles have been reported and 13 have died, which represents the highest number of measles cases seen in more than three decades. This epidemic happens to coincide with the return of Mr. Trump to office and the appointment of Mr. Kennedy as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The report stated that, "As part of its evaluation, PAHO reviewed epidemiological and laboratory evidence submitted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to determine whether the same strain of measles had been circulating in the United States uninterrupted for 12 months or longer, a sign of local transmission rather than imported cases." Mr. Trump and Mr. Kennedy cannot blame this epidemic on immigrants; it is all on them and their policies.

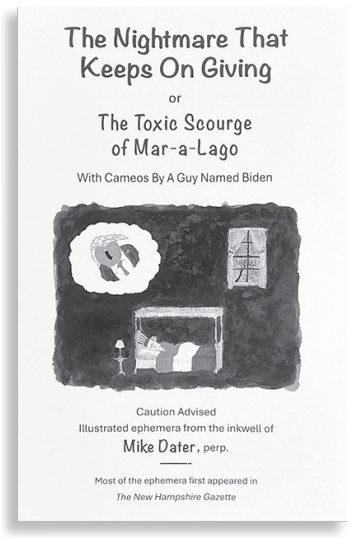
As a result, it means that the United States will continue to have large outbreaks, putting people, mostly children, at risk of preventable disease, hospitalization and death.

To restore measles-elimination status, a country must end transmission and remain free of an outbreak for at least 12 months. Considering those who control our public health system, this is very unlikely to take place while they are still in power.

And if this was not bad enough, the *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM) reported Monday that, months ago, federal health experts asked the CDC to issue a national alert warning doctors about the risks of measles during pregnancy. The CDC refused to do so. The NEJM reports cases of pneumonia, premature births and early hospitalization among women and their newborns as a result of their mothers contracting measles.

This reminds me of when Ronald Reagan in the 1980's prevented health officials from placing a mandatory warning on aspirin, because giving aspirin to children with flu, chickenpox and other viral infections ran the risk acquiring the potentially fatal complication of Reye's Syndrome. The medical journal *Lancet* estimated that if a mandatory warning label had been

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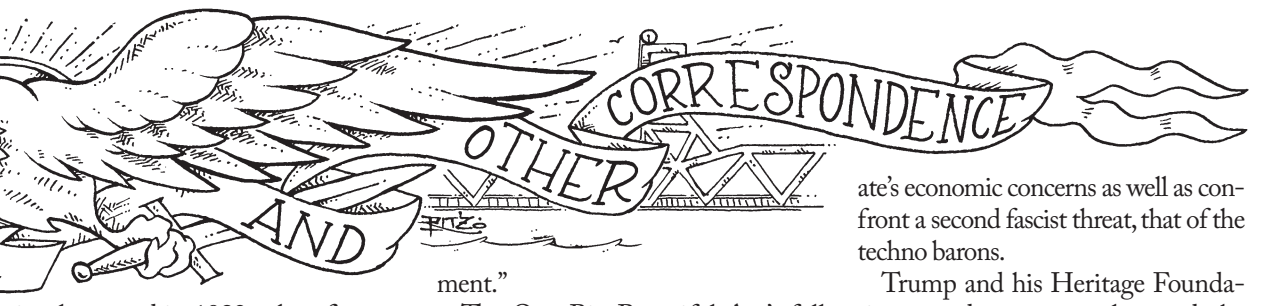
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implemented in 1982, when first requested, instead of waiting until 1986, approximately 1,470 children's lives could have been saved.

When politics, ideology and corporate greed impact public health, the consequences can be deadly. Yet we continue to allow it to go on unpunished.

Rich DiPentima, RN, MPH
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

Although we were unaware that the CDC had refused to issue a warning that would have protected the lives of mothers and babies, we might well have assumed that it would. Neither being a baby, nor having a baby, represents any significant advancement towards the glorious, transhumanist future being imposed on us by the pasty, grotesque billionaires who now run the planet—unless, of course, said baby was spawned by them.

The Editor

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Our Freedom to Be Sick and Hungry

Dear Editor:

On NHPR, I heard [that] Sen. Jim Jordan, [has been] elected as Republican Senate Minority Leader [for] the next two years. He said, "When Democrats offer more government, we'll offer more freedom… and we will bring that fight in committee, on the floor, and on the stump every single day." Commentary called him: "brawler."

President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill, enacted on July 4, 2025, is shamelessly tricky. While the millionaires and billionaires got a huge tax cut for years, the people, yes, got the "freedom" of less government.

More than six million people could be free of SNAP (food stamps). Starting in January, 2027, Medicaid's funding cuts and new work requirements will free people from medical care help. (Estimate for N.H.'s coverage loss—between 14,000 and 29,000 people.) Lost Medicaid coverage can close budget-stressed hospitals, often rural. FEMA help, after damages done by increasingly rough climate-changed storms and fires (drier landscape)? Elon Musk's "work" with DOGE, preceding the Republicans' One Big Beautiful Bill, reduced FEMA's reach, giving people the freedom possibly to recover on their own. Sen. Jim Jordan will lead this freedom "from government."

The One Big Beautiful Act's full rollout takes us into 2029. Crucial—the Democrats' Senate majority leader facing off with 62-year-old Jim Jordan. The people demand change. Gloves off? Elderly Sen. Bernie Sanders is recommending against elderly Sen. Chuck Schumer. Open discussion is needed.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:

Gloves off? Let's hope so. Maybe issue some brass knuckles.

The Editor

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The Coming Fight Against Techno-Fascism

To the editor;

The resounding victory of the Democratic Party in the midterm elections was good news for supporters of liberal democracy and opponents of fascism. Voters soundly rejected Trump and his MAGA candidates with the result that Democrats will control both branches of Congress as well as many state governments. Control over Congress will give Democrats the means to constrain Trump's authoritarian impulses during his last two years in office. Control of the budget and the recovery of Constitutional powers surrendered by the MAGA Congress such as tariff regulation and restraints on the President's war powers are powerful checks on Presidential action.

Winning the elections, however, is only the first step in returning serious governance to America. Democrats must avoid becoming hamstrung by conflicts between moderates and progressives that would prevent them from generating the fundamental reforms necessary for preserving American democracy. The recent appointment of Stephen Miller as Chief of Staff is a clear sign that Trump intends to continue his fascist agenda through executive fiat, regardless of election outcomes. Democrats must unite to counter Trump initiatives, but they must also create a long-term policy agenda that addresses the root causes of the electorate's economic concerns as well as confront a second fascist threat, that of the techno barons.

Trump and his Heritage Foundation agenda present a clear and obvious threat to American democracy, but the fascism promoted by right-wing zealots of Silicon Valley is more subtle, pervasive, and dangerous than Trump's heavy-handed authoritarianism. Marinated in adolescent memes of dystopian video games and science fiction, the tech barons act as if they are edgelords with dominion over a less enlightened society. These technofascists, who include Peter Thiel, Marc Andreeson, and Elon Musk, believe that social progress depends on the innovations generated by engineers and programmers who should be unconstrained in their pursuit of technological development. To the technofascists, democracy is a failed, corrupt, and inefficient system whose institutions are obstacles to a rationally designed Utopia created by technocratic elites. Therefore, democracy should be replaced, and society should be governed by technocrats who can efficiently guide society toward prosperity. In this system, technology is controlled and owned by techno elites and becomes the means of ensuring their power and wealth while the rest of society exists to service the technology and the tech lords.



It's not hard to see expressions of this ideology. Technology platforms have already monopolized most social media (*e.g.*, Meta and Alphabet). These platforms produce few distinctive benefits for users, rather they extract value from users by selling their data and charging fees, making billions for their owners, and ignoring the social and psychological damage caused by their use. The shift of many tech barons toward Trump is an obvious attempt to prevent government regulation of tech initiatives, especially AI. Recent comments by Open AI CEO Sam Altman reveal the presumption of the tech barons. About the dangers of AI, Altman has said that "the world should accept some bad things happening for the benefits of this technology." It's an argument akin to proposing that nuclear weapons be developed and sold on free markets—sure, some bad things may happen as countries work out their differences, but it will all work out in the end! Altman has also deplored that too much computing power is in the hands of individual PC owners rather than being available to AI developers. These comments reveal the arrogance of the technofascists. Who has put them in sole charge of the development of a technology that may cause widespread harm? If AI has immense potential for damage, all those affected must have a say in deciding its course.

Democrats face issues well beyond Trump's bungling authoritarianism. They must also counter the technofascists that seek to replace democratic governance while addressing complex economic problems. It will not be an easy task, but the future of American democracy may depend upon their success.

Robert D. Russell, PhD
Harrisburg, Pa.

Robert:

Nearly a thousand years ago, thousands of people trekked from Europe to the Middle East at the behest of a religious leader. Those that survived the trip—no mean feat in those days—then set about smiting the local occupants. This nonsense went on for a couple of hundred years. During that time, thousands upon thousands of people killed each other by whatever gruesome methods they had available. In the end, as far as we can tell, nothing was accomplished that would have justified all that suffering.

One might hope that a millenium, more or less, would be enough time for humankind—if we may apply that misleading term to our bloodthirsty species—to have developed better bullshit detectors. But of course, one's hopes…

Sadly, evolution's pace seems ill-equipped to outpace man's predeliction for tinkering. Now, it seems, our latest wave of inventions doesn't even need to be designed to kill us. They're perfectly capable of annihilating the species accidentally. Such is progress, we suppose.

To go through all this chin-scratching and come to this conclusion might suggest that we're advocating surrender and despair. Far bleepin' from it. One of the more admirable traits that we featherless bipeds have retained is a tendency, at least among some of us, when all seems lost, to fight on regardless of the odds. Going out swinging has got to feel better than wallowing in defeat and despair.

Besides, the recent election has demonstrated that a critical mass of Americans have simply had it with the status quo. And there's a hell of a lot more of us than there are of them.

The Editor

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Were POWs Left in Southeast Asia?

Dear Editor:

Veterans who served in Vietnam are haunted by the knowledge that some of our comrades were very likely abandoned in Southeast Asia when hostilities ceased.

For many years following the 15-year war, dozens of POW/MIA organizations (supported by veterans groups and members of Congress) pursued thousands upon thousands of reports of possible Americans left behind.

Recognizing a half century has passed, activities to find live POWs have ceased. Only the POW/MIA Flag remains to remind those of us who remember the sacrifices and horror these abandoned soldiers, sailors and airmen endured.

You may request of Congress, the "Report of the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs - United States Senate," dated January 13, 1993. It's Report #103-1 (103rd Congress - 1st Session). The 1,223-page, two pound, six ounce document will keep you busy when the snows come.

The committee was chaired by Senators John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Robert Smith (R-N.H.). The committee included: Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), Charles Grassley (R-Ia.), Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), Robert Kerry (D-Neb.), Herbert Kohl (D-Wisc.),

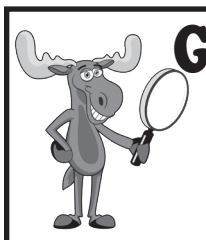
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MASH NOTES, HATE MAIL AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

from previous page

John McCain (R-Ariz.), Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Charles Robb (D-Va.).

The committee conceded there was no proof any U.S. POWs survived, but neither was there evidence that all of those known to have been captured, but did not return, had died.

In his floor statement January 23rd, 1993, Senator Bob Smith said this (paraphrased): "Based on our review of all available intelligence information, the committee unanimously agreed there is evidence indicating the possibility of survival of American POWs after 'Operation Homecoming.'" Committee members reported individually that no compelling evidence existed proving Americans were alive in captivity. Neither was there proof there were not.

In perspective, as Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) claimed at the time, "there were at least 1,400 live sightings and thousands of second hand reports, yet our government judged not a single report credible."

Robert McFarland (National Security Advisor to Ronald Reagan), William Colby (former Ambassador to Vietnam and Director of the CIA, and numerous Congressmen and Senators (even Aleksander Solzhenitsyn) strongly believed our soldiers were left behind alive.

Political interests have always taken precedence over our servicemen and women. It was eloquently stated years ago by Harriet Ison of the Laos Embassy: "There is a greater destiny for our foreign policy in Asia and the POWs are expendable in pursuit of that policy."

Retired Navy Captain, Eugene "Red" McDaniel, had this to say: "If I had known, as a POW, what I know now about our government, I could not have lived 2,110 days in captivity. I was prepared to fight; I was prepared to be wounded; I was prepared to be captured; I was even prepared to die—but I wasn't prepared to be abandoned."

Nor, I strongly suspect, would today's servicemen and women (if they have a smidgen of wholesome upbringing and attended schools that imparted upon their young souls the most fundamental concepts of decency and respectability) favor a President and Commander-in-Chief who considers us "losers and suckers" for wearing the uniforms of the United States Armed Forces.

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.

David:

President Richard Nixon announced in 1973 that "all of our American POWs are on their way home." He knew that was not true. The Washington Post *reported on September 21, 1992 that Kissinger aide Winston Lord testified, despite strong indications that "as many as 20" POWs may have been alive in Laos at the time of Operation Homecoming, Nixon "decided not to scuttle the [Paris] agreement [with North Vietnam] over the MIA issue."*

The Editor

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Mr. Lackluster

Hi, Steve,

From the little I've seen of him on TV my question is, How do we get rid of Jeffries?

I received the usual format response from my U.S. Representative when I suggested she vote for a new Speaker.

So we now have Mr. Lackluster in charge.

Very disappointed.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Hunter
Portland, Oregon

Hi, Elizabeth,

We feel your disappointment. A Revolution to free ourselves from the country of your birth, and this is the best we can do? At least we've been spared Boris Johnson. Your letter brings back summer days at the old Devoy place. Best regards to you and Erland.

The Editor

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Chávez's Venezuelas:

Divesting Myth From Reality

by Richard M. Balzano

Lula da Silva's precarious electoral victory in Brazil is a reminder that Latin America's Pink Tide remains very much alive, and that the political struggles which gave rise to it nearly three decades ago are far from over. The Pink Tide was the wave of left-wing governments that swept the region following a repressive Cold War in which U.S.-backed regimes crushed popular movements and safeguarded an economic order serving domestic elites and foreign capital. It began with Hugo Chávez, elected president of Venezuela on December 6, 1998, whose Bolivarian Revolution sought to reverse the inequities of colonial and neocolonial policies in Venezuela. As December 6th approaches, it's worth revisiting Chávez's controversial legacy.

Hugo Chávez's Bolivarian Revolution, named after colonial revolutionary Simón Bolívar, democratized Venezuelan political life: repeated elections, a presidential recall vote, and community councils gave poor Venezuelans organized power rather than demanding their obedience. Citizens' rights within the new constitution were even printed on the sides of state-subsidized grocery items. A 2002 U.S.-backed coup to restore the oligarchic status quo was overturned through popular mobilization, with hundreds of thousands of citizens flooding the streets of Caracas demanding his return. Washington unsurprisingly cried foul every time Chávez got re-elected, but the Carter Center evaluated the Venezuelan electoral process and asserted that their elections were "the best in the world" at the time.

Chávez was hardly shy about confronting American imperialism. He called George W. Bush the devil at the United Nations and complained of sulfurous odors lingering at the podium, he regularly denounced American imperialism; and he spoke up for Palestinians. This didn't earn him friends in Washington, but Chávez outlasted a U.S.-backed coup attempt, subversion, sabotage, diplomatic and economic hostility, and a relentless propaganda campaign to become one of the most villainized figures in the American political imaginary. American television pundits openly called for his extrajudicial execution—back when that still qualified as a shocking breach of etiquette, before the current lapse in American political discourse around such matters.

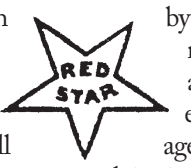
Many Americans will tell you that Chávez destroyed the Venezuelan economy, but that claim doesn't hold up. Chávez did not inherit a healthy, diversified economy and ruin it with his brand of Bolivarian socialism. He inherited a monocultural petro-state shaped over generations by a neocolonial division of labor: exporting crude, importing essentials out of necessity, and channeling oil rents through entrenched elites. Fernando Coronil* calls this the "neocolonial disease." A common misconception is that Chávez nationalized Venezuela's oil industry, but it had already been nationalized in 1976; what he actually did was commit the unforgivable sin of restructuring the industry, reasserting state control over state oil company PDVSA and renegotiating foreign oil interests to restore sovereignty over the country's natural wealth. From 1978 to 1998—before Chávez—Venezuela's per-capita GDP had already fallen 21.5 percent. Chávez entered office amid 22-year-low oil prices, then faced a U.S.-backed coup attempt in 2002 and an opposition-led oil lockout that destroyed roughly 24 percent of GDP. Calling that downturn "socialist mismanagement" is historical vandalism.

The record reversed after the Chávez government regained control of PDVSA. From early 2003 to mid-2008, real GDP rose nearly 95 percent; most growth came from non-oil sectors, with private activity growing faster than the public sector. Household poverty fell from 54 percent to about 26 percent by late 2008, while extreme poverty dropped 72 percent. Real social spending per person more than tripled from 1998 to 2006. Public primary-care physicians increased twelvefold; school food programs reached more than four million children; higher-education enrollment more than doubled. Those figures are not abstractions. They mean substantial improvements and opportunities for people excluded by the old order.

The 2008 global financial crisis sent oil prices plunging from roughly $137 to $41 per barrel in just six months. With petroleum accounting for approximately 93 percent of Venezuelan exports, this external shock devastated export revenues and helped push the economy into a 3.3 percent contraction in 2009. This was not some uniquely Venezuelan socialist failure: it was an international capitalist crisis striking a country whose dependence on oil had been entrenched long before Chávez took office. An economy exists for people—not investors, bond traders, or Washington. The claim that Bolivarian socialism "failed" erases the inherited oil trap, deliberate economic disruption, and the Revolution's redistribution of national wealth. Chávez should be judged by whom his government served, not by the lamentations of wealthy expats from their second homes in Miami. On that test, his legacy is a historic victory for Venezuela's working majority.

The claim that Venezuelan emigration during Chávez's presidency was the fault of, or proves the failure of, his administration ignores who was actually leaving and why. Early emigrants were disproportionately wealthy business owners, educated professionals, and oil-industry personnel, including individuals opposed to Chávez's redistribution of wealth and nationalization policies. This was fundamentally different from the mass displacement of working-class Venezuelans that accelerated after 2014, following Chávez's death. Treating these distinct migration waves as one continuous exodus caused by Chávez's policies erases the class conflict surrounding the Bolivarian Revolution and misrepresents the historical record.

Whenever an anti-imperialist government ousts a neocolonial, Western-aligned regime, it is held to an entirely different standard. In Venezuela, as elsewhere, revolutionary governments inherit deeply entrenched economic dependency, export-oriented economies stripped of meaningful diversification, and staggering concentrations of wealth. Such problems cannot be resolved in a single election cycle, or even a decade. Yet poverty, inequality, and economic vulnerabilities produced by generations of colonial and neocolonial exploitation are routinely repackaged as evidence of leftist mismanagement, as if centuries of exploitation and structural inequality could be undone with the flip of a switch. And when these governments attempt the structural transformations necessary to overcome that inheritance, those very efforts are condemned as authoritarian overreach. The historical causes of inequality are erased, the attempts to dismantle them are vilified, and the revolution is scapegoated for both the conditions it inherited and the measures it takes to change them. It's a rigged standard: damned for the problems they inherit, and damned for trying to solve them.



This narrative did not emerge by accident. Washington, corporate media, and policy institutions spent decades projecting Chávez as a dictator and Bolivarian socialism as a catastrophe, obscuring the revolution's achievements. FAIR found that 95 percent of major U.S. newspaper commentaries examining Venezuela in early 2005 were hostile to Chávez, while influential newspapers had openly welcomed the 2002 coup against its democratically elected president. W. Bush-era Congressional Research Service reports recycled hostile corporate-media narratives into supposedly authoritative briefings on Venezuela, poisoning the well for uninformed lawmakers while giving more calculating, reelection-minded politicians a convenient guide to the anti-Chávez propaganda their constituents had already been conditioned to believe. This gets to the crux of how and why this history is so difficult for Americans to digest: it forces them to confront the possibility that their country wasn't defending democracy from Chávez—it was defending entrenched power from the Venezuelan poor.

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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.

* Fernando Coronil (1944 – 2011) was a Venezuelan anthropologist and historian best known for his study of the politics of oil in Venezuela. – *Wikipedia*

"Mama, I Want to Go to School"

by W.D. Ehrhart

As those of you who read my writing know, I have had for nearly three years a wonderful, though at times heartbreaking, correspondence with Rawand Gawad abu Ghanem, a young Palestinian woman living in Gaza with her husband and two sons, Yamen, six, and Mohammed, one and a half. I've written about her before.

I've just received another letter from her dated October 21st, but I only received it a few days ago. She writes:

My Dear Friend,

I am sorry to write to you of new sorrow, but sometimes just holding this paper and pen in my hands is what reminds me that I am alive.

While I am grateful to Allah that he has granted me the blessing of children, I must raise them in an environment that lacks the minimum necessities, here in a city that loves life but cannot live it.

What we have instead is a life of continuous resuscitation, day by day, in this beautiful Gaza that is no longer beautiful.

I gave birth to my son Yamen before the genocide began and now it is time for him to begin kindergarten. I dream of buying him a backpack with many zippers, a lunch box, and a kindergarten uniform. I imagine putting into this bag his comb, extra socks in case his own get dirty from playing, a towel and water bottle filled with sweet water, not the dirty, poisoned water we drink now.

I imagine taking Yamen to the bookstore to buy books, pens, pencils, an eraser and bright stickers of animals and rainbows to encourage him. And I imagine buying him stationary that won't catch fire when he holds it, for the words he might write that will stay on the page and not be torn from his hands.

I imagine my son waiting for the bus each morning, the bus that no longer exists, to take him to the kindergarten that no longer stands, but was once filled with the sounds of children. I wonder what that kindergarten imagined for itself just before it was bombed, the desks and shelves and toys rising upwards, defying that same gravity written in its books.

Yamen is nearly six years old now. He asks me why I won't register him for school. He says, "I want to have education so I can be old like you, Mama and Baba. I want to get up early, brush my teeth, drink milk and wash my face to be ready to learn." I reassure him daily that, Inshallah, "Soon" he can earn a certificate. This word "soon" has become like a wave on the sea that keeps moving farther out, just like the ceasefire that never existed for us.

But my son has earned two certificates outside of school. The first is the Certificate of Suffering, which all Gazans now hold. The second is a Certificate of Waiting. Waiting for food, waiting to fill the water jug, waiting for a sky clear of bombers, waiting to wake alive one more day in this worn-out tent we share with mice and insects.

But like his mother, my son will continue to hope for education and life. Because he is Palestinian, and lives inside our beloved Gaza.

– Rawand

A few days after the recent U.S. midterm elections, I listened to senator-elect Abdul El-Sayed, who was asked by an interviewer what his views were on Israel, U.S. aid to Israel, and antisemitism.

El-Sayed criticized in no uncertain terms U.S. unconditional military aid to a nation built on "apartheid" (which it is) whose government's treatment of Palestinians constitutes "genocide" (which it does). I have not encountered many U.S. politicians willing to speak so honestly about any of this.

He also made clear something that every apologist for Israel's current policies completely ignores: that opposition to Israeli government policies does not equal a hatred of Jews living in Israel or anywhere else, including the U.S.. It is not antisemitic to deplore either apartheid or genocide.

He talked about the worries he has for his own children's safety as Muslims in America, his belief that all children should be safe, and that all of us have a shared responsibility to combat both antisemitism and Islamophobia.

I have run out of patience with people who take any criticism of Israel as proof of antisemitism. Who argue that the deaths of some 78,000 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank since October 7th, 2023, by the Israeli Defense Forces and the so-called "settlers" are justifiable in the face of what Hamas did on that day.

Hamas did not even exist when the first Intifada began in 1987, and in fact was created with the help of the Israeli government in a successful attempt to prevent the Palestinian Authority (the descendant of the Palestine Liberation Organization) from taking control in Gaza.

Moreover, Israeli "settlers" in the West Bank have regularly and routinely engaged in terrorism, including murder, with impunity ever since 10/7/23, and even before that day.

So the argument that Hamas has brought this retribution upon the Palestinian people is simply without foundation.

Meanwhile, Rawand and her husband and her children have never done anything to anyone, and do not deserve what is happening to them every single day of their lives.

I hope with all my heart that some of these newly elected members of Congress like El-Sayed will have the courage and the influence to change U.S. policy in the Middle East. We can certainly expect nothing new from professional political hacks like Hakeem Jeffries and Chuck Schumer. But maybe, just maybe, this Big Blue Wave will result in real change, and Rawand and her family will live long enough to see an end to their suffering.

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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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UN Relief and Works Agency Zaitoun Boys School, Gaza Strip, February 12, 2024. Photo by Abedallah Alhaj. Published under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO license.

When and Where Was the First Thanksgiving Feast?

by Jim Hightower

Let's talk Turkey!

No, not the Butterballs in Congress. I'm talking about the real thing, the big gobbler—46 million of which we Americans will devour this Thanksgiving.

It was the Aztecs who first domesticated the gallopavo, but the invading Spanish conquerors "fouled-up" the bird's origins. They declared it to be related to the peacock—Wrong! They also thought the peacock originated in Turkey—Wrong! And, they thought Turkey was located in Africa—well, you can see the Spanish were pretty confused.

Actually, even the origin of Thanksgiving Day in the U.S. is confused. The popular assumption is that it was first celebrated by the Mayflower immigrants and the Wampanoag natives at Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1621. They feasted on venison, furkees (Wampanoag for gobblers), eels, mussels, corn, and beer. But wait, say Virginians, the first Thanksgiving Food-a-Palooza was not in Massachusetts—the feast originated down here in Jamestown colony, back in 1608.

Whoa there, pilgrims! Folks in El Paso, Texas, say it all began way out there in 1598, when Spanish settlers sat down with people of the Piro and Manso tribes, to give thanks, feasting on roasted duck, geese and fish.

"Ha!" says a Florida group, asserting the very, very first Thanksgiving happened in 1565 when the Spanish settlers of St. Augustine and friends from the Timucuan tribe chowed-down on "cocido"—a stew of salt pork, garbanzo beans and garlic—washing it all down with red wine.

Wherever it began, and whatever the purists claim is "official," Thanksgiving today is as multicultural as America. So, let's enjoy! Kick-back, give thanks we're in a country with such ethnic richness, and dive into your turkey rellenos, moo-shu turkey, turkey falafel, barbecued turkey… and so on.

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

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Better Old News Than New Lies

from page three

• Anderson Perry, the colored janitor of the Maryland university in Baltimore, and John Ross and Albert Hawkins, also colored, have been arrested for murdering Emily Brown, a poor, sick white woman sixty years old. The murder was committed Dec. 10th, and the body was sold to the university for $15, which was the motive for the crime.

• The governor and council of New Hampshire decline to allow United States government prisoners to be confined to the state prison.

• A woman whose name is not given, landlady of the Marsh house, a disreputable den in Rochester, was probably fatally cut on the 13th inst. by Alexander Burnham, in a drunken row.

• A young girl belonging to a respectable family in Dover was found lying across the railroad track, helplessly drunk, last Saturday evening, and was pulled just in time from in front of a train. She was kept in the police station all night.

• The clergy and leading citizens of Brunswick, N.J., have started a crusade against indecent theatrical posters and lithographs.

• Two men coming down State street during the heavy snow storm of Tuesday night, the 7th inst., found lying in the snow in front of the residence of Mr. James C. Brown a marine, stupefied with liquor and cold, and took him to the police station. He had evidently been lying there some time, and had he laid much longer would have created a vacancy in the marine corps.

• The wharves wore a desolate and deserted look on Wednesday, the 8th inst. From Pier wharf to Portsmouth bridge only one vessel was in sight, and that was a small two-masted schooner, light, lying at Concord railroad wharf.

• A classical Boston shoe dealer advertises "anhydrous boots." They are presumably a great improvement upon the cowhydrous article.

• A series of forgeries committed by a couple of young women of Lafayette, Ind., have come to light. The girls are Clara and Flora Jones, sisters, and very handsome blondes, who have been conspicuous at all the masquerade balls recently given in the place, and who have been the talk of the town. They will be the talk of the town a good deal more now.

• A gentleman of sixty-nine summers was united in matrimony with a widow of thirty-three in this city on Monday.

• The steam fire engine Kearsarge, which has been at the Portsmouth Machine shop having a new steam drum put on, is ready for service again.

The New Hampshire Gazette
December 16, 1886

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





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Golden Medical Discovery

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 29

2015—To protect the lives of fetuses, Robert L. Dear kills three adults and wounds nine more at Colorado Planned Parenthood clinic.
1963—LBJ's Warren Commission is established to deny the possibility that conspirators assassinated JFK.
1960—To celebrate Patrice Lumumba jailing on a CIA tip, Ike tells that agency to try harder to kill Castro.
1947—The UN calls for cramming 70% of Palestine's population—Arabs—onto 44% of the land, so 30%—the Israelis—can occupy 56% of it.
1944—*U-1230* drops off two Nazi spies at Hancock Point, Maine.
1900—In Portland, Maine, Mildred Sisk is born; she grows up to be the Nazi radio propagandist "Axis Sally."
1864—Ignoring a truce flag, Col. (& ex-minister) John Chivington leads a Colorado militia in the slaughter and mutilation of 150 Cheyenne women, children, and old men at Sand Creek. A local paper says the soldiers had "covered themselves in glory" [a typo].
1830—Farm workers in Dorset, England, jailed for protesting low pay, are released by a mob of workers claiming to be followers of "Captain Swing."
1781—*Zong* Captain Luke Collingwood orders 133 enslaved souls thrown overboard live, lying about a water shortage to game his insurance.
1729—The Natchez people repay decades of haughty brutality by massacring 230 Frenchmen. Women and enslaved Africans are spared.

2:23 2:35 8:16 9:01

Monday, November 30

2016—Trump spox Scottie Nell Hughes—pro-gun despite a brother, aged eight, lost to an armed 12-year-old—says "There's no such thing, unfortunately, anymore, of facts." [*sic*]
1999—Anarchists cancel the World Trade Organization's meet in Seattle.
1974—Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.) appears onstage at Boston's Pilgrim Theater with stripper Fanne Foxe.
1972—Nixon spokesdrone Ron Ziegler says with a mere 27,000 Americans left risking their lives in Vietnam, the White House will no longer update the nation on withdrawals.
1965—Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara offers LBJ two Vietnam options: get out now, or go all-in, suffering 1,000 KIAs per month and perhaps losing anyway.
1961—Liberal hearthrob JFK OKs plan for terror attacks against Cuba.
1954—Failing to clear the summit by 500 feet, a DC-3 crashes on N.H.'s Mount Success. All seven aboard survive the crash, but two die during two freezing nights at the crash site.
1954—Liz Hodges of Sylacauga, Ala. is bruised by an eight-pound meteorite that busts through her roof.
1835—A "hack writer," in William Faulkner's view, "who would not have been considered fourth rate in Europe," is born: Samuel L. Clemens.
1812—Bombastic and disorganized Gen. A. "Apocalypse" Smyth orders his men to invade Canada. They turn their weapons on his tent; he flees.

3:23 3:37 9:19 10:00

Tuesday, December 1

2007—Presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani, at Federal Cigar in Portsmouth, refuses to autograph a *New Hampshire Gazette* for counterman Dave McNicholas, but agrees to sign a photo of himself—which he takes with him when he leaves.
2003—Howard Dean, leading the pack in polling, tells Chris Matthews he'll "break up the giant media enterprises;" giant media enterprises soon label Dean "unelectable."
1974—Two Boeing 727s crash on the same day. One hits Mt. Weather, Va., leading to the exposure of a secret bunker for government bigwigs.
1969—The U.S. Selective Service effectively guts the anti-war movement by instituting a draft lottery.
1968—The Walker Commission reports that the Chicago PD rioted during the Democratic Convention.
1964—Lured to J. Edgar Hoover's FBI office with hints of reconciliation, Martin Luther King, Jr. is shown instead he's under illegal surveillance.
1955—On a bus in Montgomery, Ala., Rosa Parks changes the world.
1842—Secretary of War John C. Spencer's son Philip, 19, a midshipman aboard the USS *Somers*, along with two sailors, and without benefit of court martial, is hanged for mutiny.
1777—Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben lands in Portsmouth, N.H. from France, *en route* to Valley Forge, where he will turn George Washington's disorganized rabble into a trained army.

4:25 4:43 10:25 11:00

Wednesday, December 2

2020—Roger Stone says that to help steal the election, North Korean boats brought bogus ballots into the U.S. through harbors in Maine.
1986—Pres. Ronald Reagan says he can't remember what he knew about Iran-Contra, or when he knew it.
1984—Union Carbide's Bhopal, India plant kills 16,000. Union Carbide is forced to pay $14,000 in fines.
1980—Lyndon LaRouche's *Executive Intelligence Review* breaks the story of the "October Surprise."
1980—U.S.-backed death squads murder four nuns in El Salvador.
1975—Mary Jo Cook, repentant, testifies the FBI paid her to infiltrate Vietnam Veterans Against the War.
1956—*Granma* lands 82 rebels in Cuba. Only 12 make it to the Sierra Maestra, but that is enough.
1954—The Senate votes 67-22 to "condemn" Joe McCarthy. Among the Nays: Styles Bridges [R-N.H.].
1943—The USS *Sailfish*, formerly the *Squalus*, sinks the Japanese carrier *Chuyo* near Truk. Aboard *Chuyo* are 21 survivors from the USS *Sculpin*, which had aided in the 1939 rescue of the *Squalus*; only one of them survives.
1942—Leo Szilard says to Enrico Fermi, after their atomic pile in Chicago achieves a self-sustaining chain reaction, it's a "black day in… history."
1859—John Brown, condemned premature anti-fascist, says to his hangman, "I hope you will not keep me waiting any longer than necessary."

5:27 4:43 11:33 12:00

Thursday, December 3

2004—George W.[MD] Bush nominates Bernard Kerik to be Secretary of Homeland Security. Five years later he's Federal Inmate 84888-054.
1996—A New York company making Medals of Honor is fined $80,000 for selling 300 bootleg copies.
1980—Secretary of State Al Haig says four Maryknoll nuns recently murdered by Salvadoran death squads may have been gun-runners.
1976—Two days before a scheduled anti-violence concert in Jamaica, seven gunmen shoot Bob and Rita Marley and two band members. Everyone survives; they play a 90-minute set.
1966—The AEC explodes a .38 kiloton A-bomb 10 miles west of Purvis, Miss., inside an underground cavity created by a 5 kiloton A-bomb blast conducted two years earlier.
1964—In Berkeley, 600 cops arrest 800 people for the crime of demanding freedom of speech.
1946—Spotting scab truckers in downtown Oakland, Calif., workers block them by standing in the streets: a huge General Strike has begun.
1944—U.S. troops watch as British-trained Greek police and Nazi collaborators fire into a massive crowd of anti-Nazi demonstrators in Athens; 28 die as the Greek Civil War begins.
1888—"The citizen… is trampled… beneath an iron heel. Corporations… are fast becoming the people's masters," warns noted Commie Grover Cleveland in his State of the Union.

6:28 6:56 12:39

Friday, December 4

2016—To free the fictitious child sex slaves of the Democrat Party, Edgar Welch shoots up Comet Ping Pong in Washington D.C. with a real gun.
1993—R.I.P. Frank Zappa.
1982—Returning from a trip to Latin America, President Reagan says, "I learned a lot. You'd be surprised. They're all individual countries."
1981—President Reagan OK's CIA spying on U.S. citizens.
1979—French commandos "convert to Islam," then help the Saudi military drive rebels from Grand Mosque. The indiscriminate killing by these infidels enrages Osama bin Laden; the CIA concludes the episode is not a sign of widespread Islamic radicalism.
1969—Chicago cops, aided by the CIA, murder Black Panther security guard Mark Clark, then assassinate Fred Hampton, who's been drugged.
1952—A "Great Smog" descends on London. So thick that moviegoers can't see the screen, it persists all winter and kills about 12,000.
1950—In *Feres v. U.S.*, the Supreme Court rules that servicemembers can't sue the U.S. for injuries.
1947—On orders from genial ol' Ike, the Attorney General publishes a list of 51 "subversive organizations."
1837—In the Arkansas State House, Speaker John Wilson and Joseph Anthony employ Bowie knives during a debate on wolf bounties. The winner, Wilson, is later acquitted of murder.

7:24 7:57 12:58 1:41

Saturday, December 5

2013—Ex-Senator Scott Brown says, in N.H., he's been helping Republicans "raise awareness as to the issues… here in Massachusetts."
2002—At a party on Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday, GOP Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott expresses regret over desegregation.
2001—A B-52, sent the wrong co-ordinates, bombs U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan, killing three.
1996—Federal Reserve Chair Greenspan warns: "irrational exuberance" may have inflated stock prices.
1994—The GOP rams Speaker Gingrich down the House's throat.
1988—A Grand Jury in N.C. indicts "holy" man Jim Bakker on charges of fraud and conspiracy.
1965—An A-4 Skyhawk accidentally rolls off the USS *Ticonderoga* near Japan. Plane, pilot, and one-megaton B43 H-Bomb are still missing.
1960—The Supreme Court rules that restaurants in interstate bus stations can no longer be segregated.
1955—The CIO, red-baited into irrelevancy anyway, merges with the AFL.
1955—"Uppity Negroes" in Montgomery, Ala., boycott the municipal mass transit system.
1945—Navy Flight 19, five Grumman Avengers and 14 men, vanishes off Ft. Lauderdale. During the search for them, 13 more aviators disappear.
1894—Alabama repeals its child labor laws in a bid to lure a Massachusetts textile corporation. It works.

8:16 8:53 1:52 2:37

Sunday, December 6

1967—Chaplain Angelo "Charlie" Liteky carries 23 wounded men to safety in Vietnam despite intense hostile fire. For his bravery he is given the Medal of Honor, which he returns in 1986 to protest U.S. foreign policy.
1962—The Pentagon's Arthur Sylvester tells journalists at N.Y.C.'s Deadline Club, "It's [the] government's right, if necessary, to lie to save itself when it's going up into a nuclear war."
1937—The Supreme Court rules poll taxes are Constitutional—why should Blacks and poor whites get to vote?
1933—Federal judge John M. Woolsey rules that Joyce's *Ulysses* is not obscene and therefore may be imported.
1929—In Les Cayes, Haiti, U.S. Marines fire at 1,500 Haitians protesting their presence, killing at least 12.
1928—Soldiers in Cienega, Colombia fire machine guns at workers striking against the United Fruit Company. At least 47 die, possibly several thousand.
1918—The U.S. War Department ceases shackling conscientious objectors to the walls of solitary cells.
1917—Windows break 40 miles away when a munitions ship explodes in Halifax, N.S. The largest explosion until the A-bomb, it kills 1,600.
1907—Two connected mines explode in Monongah, W. Va. At least 362 die in the U.S.'s worst coal mine accident.
1865—Georgia ratifies the Thirteenth Amendment, thus making slavery illegal—leaving a loophole for exploitable prisoners, though.

9:05 9:44 2:43 3:27

Monday, December 7

2006—The "Justice" Department fires eight prosecutors for failing to persecute enough Democrats.
1995—France is virtually paralyzed when 1.75 million workers protest global exploitation.
1993—The Department of Energy admits it conducted more than 200 secret weapons tests.
1987—A disgruntled ex-employee shoots a Southwest Airlines pilot and co-pilot. The plane breaks up while diving at Mach 1.2, killing all aboard.
1985—After R. Reagan overrules their warnings—it's illegal to sell arms to Iran and give the profits to assassins—Cap Weinberger and George Schultz joke about jail visiting hours.
1975—Indonesia invades East Timor; over the next 24 years, 200,000 are killed with U.S.-supplied weapons.
1964—Japan awards the Order of the Rising Sun to Gen. Curtis LeMay, killer of half a million Japanese.
1961—At Peterson Field, Colo., MPs hold civilians at gunpoint as CIA-trained Tibetan commandos are smuggled aboard a C-124.
1941—Japan attacks Pearl Harbor.
1941—*N.Y. Times* headline: "Navy is Superior to Any, Says Knox."
1910—The Revolutionary Avengers, a band of Polish anarchists, stick up a freight train for 7,000 roubles.
1874—Angered by a Black sheriff's election, whites in Vicksburg, Miss. begin a month-long slaughter of 150-300 Black men, women, and children.

9:49 10:30 3:29 4:13

Tuesday, December 8

2006—Congress votes to destroy the U.S. Postal Service by making it prefund pensions for 50 years.
2004—Sec. of Defenselessness Donald Rumsfeld tells disgruntled soldiers to quit bitching and go to war with the unarmored vehicles he gave them.
1993—Bill Clinton signs NAFTA, shipping umpteen jobs elsewhere.
1982—An anti-nuclear weapon protestor, Norman D. Mayer threatens to blow up the Washington Monument with a dynamite-laden van. After ten hours, police shoot him dead.
1976—A prop on the set of "The Six Million Dollar Man" is found to be the mummified remains of Elmer McCurdy, born in Maine in 1880, hanged in Oklahoma in 1911.
1972—United Flight 553 crashes in Chicago killing 45 people including E. Howard Hunt's wife Dorothy, who was carrying $10,000 in $100 bills.
1953—Good ol' Ike announces Atoms for Peace, leading to an Iranian nuclear program four years later.
1906—Ex-Senator Arthur Brown [R-Utah], a chronic philanderer, is fatally shot by an ex-mistress, whose fetus he had recently aborted.
1864—Pope Pius IX denounces liberalism, socialism, & rationalism.
1854—Pope Pius IX proclaims *Ineffabilis Deus*, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.
1793—Madame du Barry is guillotined for aiding emigrés. Her enslaved servant Zamor blew the whistle.

10:32 11:12 4:13 4:55

Wednesday, December 9

2019—Leaked documents reveal that officials lied about the war in Afghanistan. Some profess to be shocked.
2008—The Governor of Illinois, Democrat Rod Blagojevich, is arrested for attempting to sell a Senate seat.
1983—Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese says people go to soup kitchens because it's "easier than paying."
1970—Because he's talking to General Al Haig, Henry Kissinger keeps it simple: "Kill anything that moves."
1966—"We are in a much stronger position than two years ago. [Commies] will not be able to succeed [in Vietnam]," says Sec. of State Rusk.
1960—Its pilot asleep, a B-52 rolls into a dive over N.Y state. Fearing a crash, the navigator ejects. That awakens the pilot, who orders "Bail out!" The crewless, nukeless plane flies 100 miles before crashing near Barre, Vt.
1959—The British government circulates a memo ordering the destruction of all records of its colonial crimes.
1950—General D. "Dugout Doug" MacArthur proposes detonating 26 A-bombs to create an impenetrable barrier across the Korean peninsula.
1949—Two of the Hollywood Ten, in prison, get company: ex-HUAC honcho J. Parnell Thomas [R-N.J.], convicted for padding Congressional payrolls and pocketing the cash.
1864—Hundreds of freedmen are drowned or enslaved after Union Gen. Jefferson C. Davis orders them abandoned at Ebenezer Creek, Ga.

11:11 11:52 4:53 5:35

Thursday, December 10

2004—Gary Webb, the CIA-Contra-drug reporter, gets two gunshots to the face. The coroner says, "suicide."
1992—Sen. Bob Packwood (R-Ore.) admits he's a groper but won't resign.
1986—Boston-born film actress Susan Cabot is killed by a dwarf, her illegitimate son by King Hussein, to whom she was introduced by the CIA.
1976—In a memo to President-elect Carter, pollster Pat Caddell makes the case for a "permanent campaign."
1971—The Senate, buying Wm. Rehnquist's lie disavowing a letter supporting racial segregation, confirms him for the Supreme Court.
1969—Skipping the ceremony, Nobel Laureate Samuel Beckett OKs a TV interview. In it, he stands mute.
1967—Trying to lower the cost of natural gas, the U.S. government explodes an A-bomb in N.M.
1966—U.S. jets bomb Marines in Vietnam; 17 Marines and Navy medics are euphemized as "friendly fire."
1943—A year after learning the facts, the Polish government-in-exile reveals to the world that Nazis are "exterminating" Jews. The world shrugs.
1937—G.P. Thompson gets the Nobel for Physics for proving electrons are waves. His dad won it in 1906 for demonstrating that they're particles.
1789—Moses Brown hires Samuel Slater, a Briton, to build the first U.S. textile mill, in Pawtucket. By poaching British technology and exploiting children, Brown becomes filthy rich.

11:50 12:30 5:32 6:13

Friday, December 11

2006—President George W.[MD] Bush, on national TV, denies having ever been "a knee-walking drunk."
2000—The Supreme Court hears arguments in the matter of *Bush v. Gore*.
1998—President Clinton begs forgiveness for his sins. Instead he gets three Articles of Impeachment.
1985—Veep George H.[H.]W. Bush, at a Manchester, N.H., dinner honoring the late William Loeb, demeans himself by reading aloud Loeb's most scurrilous attacks against him.
1981—Salvadoran troops, U.S.-funded, torture, murder, and rape 900 men, women, and children at El Mozote.
1964—As Ernesto "Che" Guevara speaks at the United Nations, a 3.5 inch rocket launched from Queens falls harmlessly into the East River.
1960—Seeing at the last minute that JFK has his wife and kids with him, Belmont, N.H. resident Richard Pavlick defers his plan to crash into the President-elect's car with his dynamite-laden Buick.
1951—A few days after slipshod coal dust removal techniques are approved by state inspectors, the New Orient mine in West Frankfort, Ill., blows up, killing 119 miners.
1917—Guilty of fighting back when Houston cops rioted in August, 13 Black soldiers are hanged in unison.
1838—Hampton-born Charles Atherton's (D-N.H.) "gag rule" passes. It is now verboten to discuss in Congress any measure that would limit slavery.

12:27 1:07 6:11 6:50

Saturday, December 12

2006—The *Portsmouth Herald* misquotes Sen. Barack Obama [D-Ill.], who, the day before, in Portsmouth, did *not* say, "The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice."
2000—The Supreme Court selects George W.[MD] Bush to be #43.
1995—A Flag Protection Amendment fails by three votes in the Senate.
1994—Freshmen Reps. of the new GOP majority fête Rush Limbaugh and make him an honorary Member at a raucus Heritage Foundation shindig.
1985—Arrow Air Flight 1285 crashes at Gander, killing 248 U.S. paratroopers and eight crew. Islamic Jihad claims credit, which a sketchy U.S. investigation attempts to deny.
1984—Eight minutes after the end of his first execution, Alpha Otis Stephens keeps breathing and moving. So, Georgia electrocutes him again.
1983—"New Trends in Missiles," a Boston trade show, draws an anarchist's entry; 1,000 cockroaches symbolize the only winners of nuclear war.
1983—Nancy Reagan sits on Mr. T's lap and kisses him on the scalp.
1969—A bomb at the Piazza Fontana in Milan kills 27 and wounds 84. The perps—the state—blames anarchists.
1950—Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-Bushmills) gives columnist Drew Pearson a kick in the groin.
1942—The *Queen Mary*, carrying 11,339 GIs and crew, rolls 52° when hit by a rogue wave up to 90 feet high; 55° and she would have capsized.

1:04 1:07 6:49 7:28

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Portsmouth Democrats Coffee Meetup – Friday, December 18th at 8:00 a.m.
Portsmouth Democratic Roundtable – Tuesday, December 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

"Of all Smells Bread: Of All Tastes Salt."
— George Herbert (1593-1633)
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