

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

Sympathy for the Devils

It may just be the Stockholm Syndrome, but we're starting to feel almost sorry for the muckety-mucks who run — or thought they were running — the Republican Party.

Last August, George Will, who comically seems compelled to portray grimly the ancient Roman virtue of gravitas, quite generously wrote that the "Republican field [was] the most impressive since 1980, and perhaps the most talent-rich since the party first had a presidential nominee, in 1856.

"But 16 candidates," Will went on, "are experiencing diminishment by association with the 17th." He was referring, of course, to Donald Trump, whose gravitas barely exceeds that of Al Czervik in *Caddyshack*.

Early in March, with their options dwindling, a passel of panicked poobahs, desperate to thwart Trump's ambitions, boarded a squadron of private jets and flew to an emergency skull session at exclusive Sea Island, Georgia.¹

Having to hold such a meeting must have been disconcerting, but at least they could conduct it with some dignity, beyond the prying eyes of the swinish multitude.² The tenor of the discussion has, shall we say, devolved since then.

Ben Carson came straight out and said he was endorsing Donald Trump — who had previously called him "pathological" and compared him to a child molester — because Trump had offered him a position in his Administration. Neither Trump nor Carlson seemed to know or care that any such *quid pro quo* is illegal and carries a penalty of two years in the pokey.

Sen. Lindsey Graham then "endorsed" Ted Cruz — the last viable non-Trump and the most-loathed Senator since Joseph McCarthy, whom he uncannily resembles — while metaphorically wearing a clothespin on his

nose. Graham — who had previously said if Cruz was murdered on the floor of Senate no one in that body would vote to convict his assassin — called the Alberta-born Senator his "15th choice."

So far, so weird. Then things took a turn for the sordid: Trump and Cruz began tussling over the relative hotness of their would-be First Ladies.

We may never know who actually started the wife fight. Neither campaign has more than a passing acquaintance with the truth, and few competent, reputable news organizations have sufficient resources to waste them on such an absurd investigation.

This much is clear: wealthy Texas lobbyist and Cruz surrogate Andrea McWilliams, in a move whose etiquette seems rather dubious, used the recent death of former First Lady Nancy Reagan as her cue to say on television that it was "critically important" for voters to remember that Melania Trump would be the first third wife to become First Lady, and "the first First Lady that has ever posed nude"

Trump responded with a threat to "spill the beans" about Cruz's wife Heidi. This was generally taken to be a reference to a bout of severe depression — which would be perfectly understandable in anyone married to Ted Cruz.

At this point, as Republican apparatchiks prepared to swallow their pride — along with a few shots of Pepto-Bismol — and embrace Ted Cruz to save themselves from Trump, and in blatant defiance of the laws of gravitas, things plummeted even further downhill: the *National Enquirer* reported that Cruz had had at least five extramarital affairs. One CNN guest accused another of being one of Cruz's lovers. The March 26th *New York Post* carried a front page headline saying, "Dirty Tricks: Cruz, Trump in



Cuban Mistress Crisis."

Amidst this roiling turmoil, the 2016 Republican National Quicken Loans Convention™ looms. Trump may have enough delegates to win on the first ballot, or he may not. The Republican establishment doesn't know which result to fear more.

In his inimitable fashion, Trump has said that he ought to get the nomination even if he falls short of the required 1,237 delegates. #Because Trump. If he does not, there could be riots.

He's not calling for riots, mind you. They may just happen. As in, "nice arena you've got here. Be a shame if anything happened to it. As for my campaign manager, who will be appearing in court on May 4th to answer charges of simple battery against a reporter. That's no big deal. He just hired Kendall Coffey, a great lawyer. Sure, Coffey lost his job as a U.S. Attorney because he bit a stripper once. But that kind of thing could happen to anybody."

Meanwhile, back at the fantasy ranch so many Republicans call home, more than 50,000 patriots have signed an online petition to allow delegates to carry guns at the convention. Now, that would be a first: a convention that's not just contested, but armed.

As we said, we started to feel almost sorry for this bunch. Then we remembered that the global economy is organized around policies they have promulgated. Thanks to those policies, Lamborghini found a market for a \$2 million, 770-horsepower car capable of exceeding the speed limit on U.S. interstate highways by 147 miles per hour. Those policies, though, provide no incentive

for anyone to produce vaccines for so-called "orphan diseases."

To the contrary, under policies supported by virtually all Republicans, industrialized meat producers, to increase their profits, not only can feed animals massive quantities of antibiotics, thus hastening the resurgence of untreatable diseases, but they also can deduct the cost as a business expense.

Likewise, Republicans protect the right of fossil fuel corporations to protect market share by subsidizing fake science denying that fossil fuels are rendering the planet uninhabitable by humans.

Today is April Fools Day. Looks like the joke's on us.

1 — Everyone's heard of panic rooms by now — apparently oligarchs need a whole panic resort. Sea Island is just the kind of place to make a jittery nabob feel comfortable. There is only one road in, so that the rifraff can be kept at bay. Its management is reliable: the owners defaulted twice in recent years, then declared bankruptcy after buying some advice from Goldman Sachs. Visitors can golf at a course called "The Plantation" while reminiscing about the good old days on the island, back when chattel slavery was still in vogue.

2 — The phrase "swinish multitude" was coined by Edmund Burke (1729 - 1797) in his *Reflections on the French Revolution*. Burke is widely acknowledged by today's conservatives as the godfather of their movement. He didn't fool John Kenneth Galbraith (1908-2006), who observed, "The modern conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness."

The Alleged News®

Worst Sugaring Season Ever

On March 1st and 2nd the Halloran family, maple sugar producers living in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, stood and watched as three acres of their sugar maples were cut down against their will. Armed U.S. Marshals stood by to protect the the tree-cutters, who were working under contract for Constitutional Pipeline. According to *RT.com*, the pipeline is "a partnership of \$1 billion Texas company Cabot Oil; \$12 billion Oklahoma company Williams; Piedmont Natural Gas, also from Texas; and the public utility holding company WGL serving the Washington D.C. area."

In February, Megan Holleran had said, "landowners in Pennsylvania ... will never receive any of this gas ... will be paid one time for a permanent easement on their right-of-way that they will never be paid for again, but will still continue to pay taxes on [the land] for the rest of their lives and never be able to use [it]."

The trees are gone, but the pipeline consortium may never use the land either. It is not certain that the pipeline will ever be built.

"In New York, they're being held up by a ... water quality permit they still have not yet been issued," Holleran said. "If the per-

mits aren't issued in New York the pipeline won't be constructed and they'll have cleared all the trees in Pennsylvania for no reason."

The easement was taken by eminent domain, which requires that the property owner be paid. The valuation process is deeply flawed, though, says Holleran.

"They were further granted the right to take the land prior to paying us anything for it. So, how is anyone supposed to do a fair appraisal of the trees after they've been cut? A fair appraisal of the land after it's been cleared? And then, on top of that, they determine the appraised worth of the

forest based on its timber and how much you can sell the logs for but we don't sell the logs, we tap the maple trees and that's a renewable resource. It's sustainable. It would last forever."

The Constitution Pipeline is being built to carry natural gas fracked from the Marcellus Shale to markets in New York and New England.

The *Independent*, on March 5th, carried a story headlined, "Fracking could be behind startling increase in U.S. methane surge, experts say — Rapid rise in the global-warming gas, 86 times more powerful than CO2,

is spotted by satellites." It quoted Harvard scientists saying U.S. emissions of methane had "increased by more than 30 per cent over the past decade."

The researchers were unable to attribute the rise to any particular source, the story said, but they did point out that "U.S. production of shale gas increased nine times during the same period," and that "other studies show that many fracking operations are emitting much more methane than has been officially recognised."

The Alleged News®

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The Alleged News®
from page one

Is There a Pattern, Here?

During the 1940s, the now-forgotten George Seldes published a newsletter he called *In Fact*. It was the first publication to carry stories about the connection between smoking and cancer. Here are some excerpts from *In Fact*.

"Tobacco Shortens Life," January 13, 1941:

"Between the ages of 30 and 60, 61 percent more heavy smokers die than non-smokers. A human being's span of life is impaired in direct proportion to the amount of tobacco he uses, but the impairment among even light smokers is 'measurable and significant.'

"The facts for the foregoing statements come from Johns Hopkins University, department of biology. They constitute one of the most important and incidentally one of the most sensational stories in recent American histo-

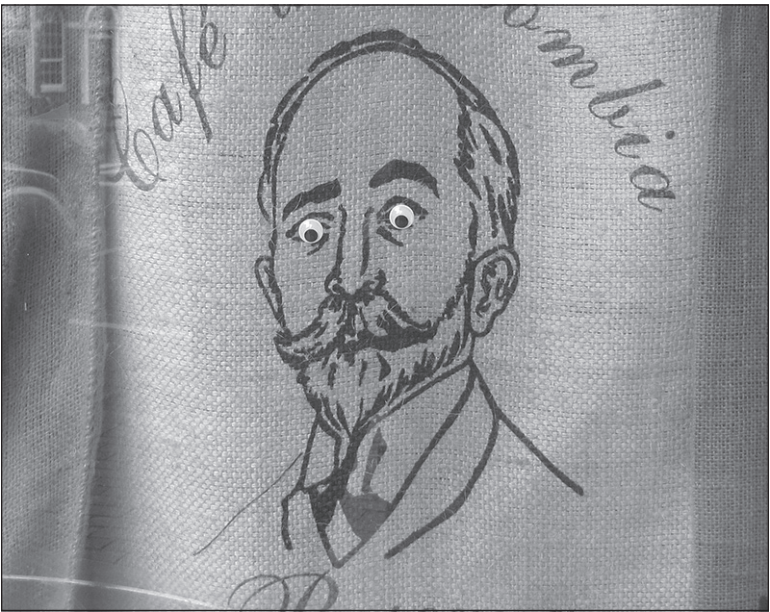
ry, but there is not a newspaper or magazine in America (outside scientific journals) which has published all the facts."

"Cigarettes and the Press," January 1, 1945:

"One answer to the question why corporations which have no goods to sell are spending hundreds of millions of dollars in advertising is this: they advertise to keep the good will of the newspapers (as well as the public)."

"AP Softens New Warning Linking Cancer to Cigarettes," August 2, 1948

"A new medical warning linking lung cancer to cigarette smoking was issued July 15th, but only a watered down version of it reached newspaper readers because the Associated Press, which sent out the story, followed it with a bulletin to editors telling them to kill the entire article because it was 'controversial.' A substitute story, sent an hour and a half later, was considerably weaker than



Strolling north on Daniel Street, in the vicinity of the café formerly known as Brioche, our Wandering Photographer found himself confronted by a rather stuffy Colombian gentleman who appeared to have been thinking, "You must be joking, son, where did you get those shoes?"

the original report, but even this edited version was suppressed by most papers. In New York City, for example, only one of the nine main papers, the *New York World Telegram*, mentioned the item. The *Telegram* used the corrected version."

Seldes reported on a variety of topics most publications wouldn't touch, like the FBI's infiltration of labor unions. Content like that drove *In Fact's* circulation up to 176,000 at its peak.

It incensed J. Edgar [Mary] Hoover, though, who badgered the Post Office into scrutinizing Seldes and his subscribers. Harassment like that drove *In Fact* out of business in October, 1950.

Thus did the conservatives of the day, by enforcing their version of political correctness, extend for a few more decades the tobacco industry's license to kill — for a profit. Compared to what the fossil fuel industry is doing today, that amounts to a petty crime.

Tip of the Boonie Hat

Hope everyone had a good Vietnam Veterans Day. Oh, you missed that? We would have missed it, too, were it not for a faithful subscriber. Thanks, TontoControl, for your reminder that "The best way to honor our fallen soldiers is to stop creating so many of them."

Yes, Tuesday, March 29th was the 43rd anniversary of the 1973 withdrawal of the last U.S. combat troops from Vietnam. What does it say, that the nation honors the veterans of that war on the the day we walked away? It would certainly seem to undercut the notion, increasingly popular since the Reagan Administration, that we should have stayed just a few more decades.

Capistrano del Norte

Days are getting longer, buds are swelling: spring is coming, bringing with it the hated sound of overgrown airborne lawnmowers, aka little red helicopters.

During their relative absence over the winter, most helicopter-haters have been happy to forget their very existence. As with the nation's oligarchs, but operating on a smaller scale, those who profit by annoying their neighbors are forever seeking ways to advance their own interests. The best the opposition can do is create bumper stickers.



So it was last week, when the owner of Seacoast Helicopters managed to simultaneously exploit a young man suffering from a terrible, intractable illness and a certain daily newspaper so predictably manipulable that it might as well be a vending machine.

For the cost of a brief joyride — which we in no way begrudge the young man, any more than we would the flight of a medevac chopper — the helicopter operat-

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er got a feature story which, were it paid advertising, would have cost him hundreds if not thousands, of dollars. The process was repeated just a few days later with an Easter egg drop.

Ronnie James Dio in Bronze

Last fortnight we reported that 500 people from around the world had signed an online petition, directed at the City Council, asking it to approve the erection of a bronze statue of Portsmouth-born heavy-metal legend Ronnie James Dio in Prescott Park. By Tuesday of this week the number of signers had risen to nearly 5,000. A *GoFundMe.com* page has been established to raise \$50,000; \$770 has been raised so far.

There are risks inherent in conducting any sort of public business online, of course. Just ask the UK's Natural Environment Research Council [NERC]. Planning to launch a new £200 research ship in 2019, NERC set up a webpage asking for naming suggestions.

When last we checked, *Boaty McBoatface* was still the leading contender, with *Blas de Lezo* closing in. De Lezo was the one-eyed,

one-armed, one-legged Spanish admiral who defeated the British fleet at the Battle of Cartagena, thereby making "great contributions to British undersea research."

Other suggested names included *Boat Midler*, *Ship Happens*, *Flying Spaghetti Monster*, *Call of Cthulu*, *Gnarly Narwhal*, and *Polar Bear Grylls*.

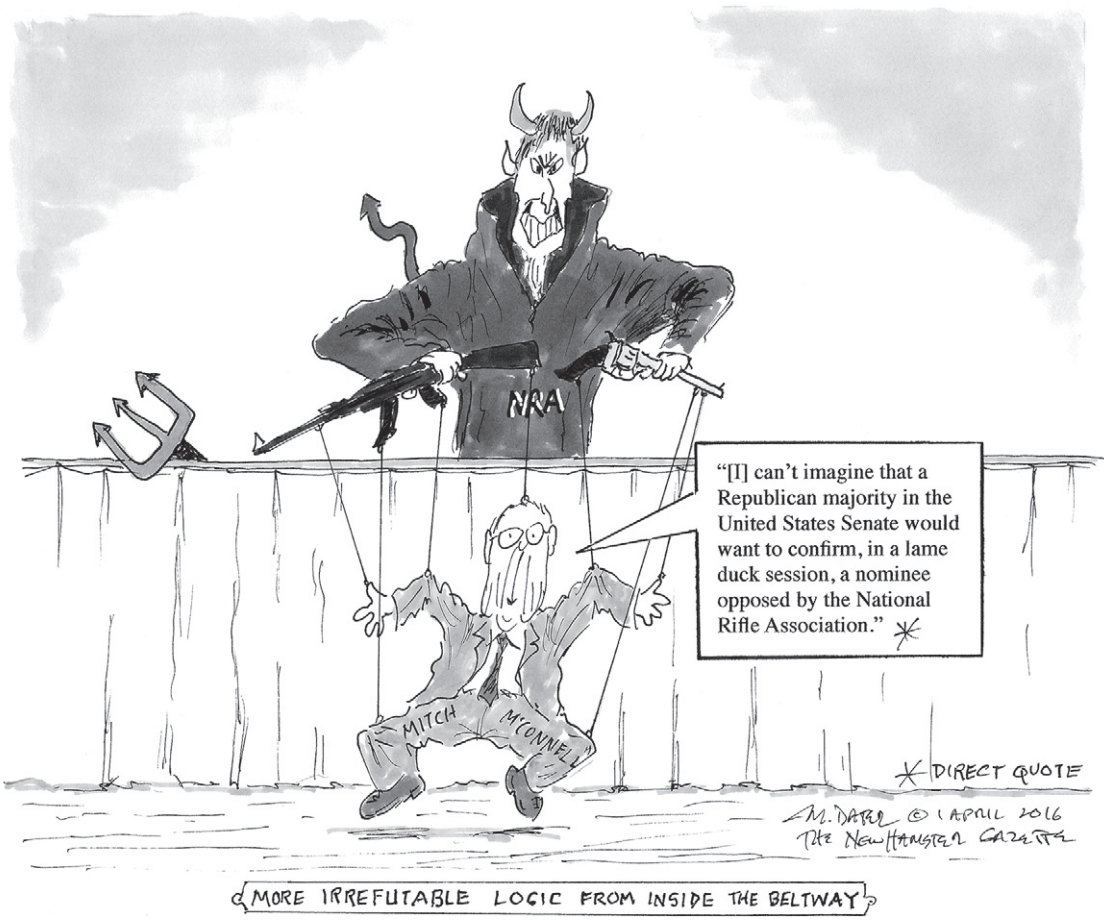
Our favorite: *Titus Oates*, in honor of Captain Lawrence Edward Grace "Titus" Oates. Doomed by frostbite and gangrene, left the Scott Antarctic Expedition tent to improve the chances of his companions and walked out onto the ice shelf on March 16, 1912, saying, "I am just going outside and may be some time."

The Once and Future AD's

It is with deep sadness that we report a hiatus in the availability of Portsmouth's best barbeque. AD's on Lafayette Road closed on March 20th; we had the honor, we believe, of picking up the last order at that location. We are assured that AD shall return, and closer to town, too.



After a prolonged campaign of relentless harassment from the Flag Police, a certain financial institution on State Street has finally knuckled under and replaced its flag. That, at least, is the theory in the break room; correlation may not prove causation, but they've got a quota to fill. No citation was issued for the wrapping of the new flag around the pole. At the time of inspection, winds had been between 20 and 40 mph for eight hours.



Explore Quamphegan Landing

There is nothing quite like a free trip into the past with knowledgeable local guides. Anyone interested can take such a trip to Quamphegan Landing tomorrow, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

The Quamphegan Landing District, recently declared eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, is the area just east of the falls which give the Salmon Falls River its name. For those trendy souls who have forsaken their birch bark canoes in favor of the new horseless carriages, the District is the area at the east end of the Rt. 4 bridge, where Liberty Street intersects with Main Street in South Berwick.

Long before English traders arrived in the 1630s, the area was a seasonal fishing ground for the Wabanakis, who called the place Quamphegan. Literally translat-

ed, Quamphegan might be rendered as Dipnet, as it comes from the Wabanaki "quamp," meaning dip, or scoop, and "hegan," meaning net, or tool.

From the 1790s, when the waterfall at Quamphegan was crowded with mills and wharves and called "the Great Landing Place," until a large cotton textile mill was built in 1831, and on through the middle of the 1800s, the center of South Berwick was at this location.

Wendy Pirsig, Nina Maurer, and Norma Keim will lead the walking tour, which will begin at the Counting House Park on Liberty Street. The tour along the Salmon Falls River will include the Counting House, as well as the surrounding 19th century neighborhood. Families with children are welcome, just don't leave them in previous centuries.

The tales to be told may include a South Berwick sea captain cap-

tured by pirates, hundreds of mill workers weaving cotton into textiles, arson attacks and battles over liquor laws, gundalows unloading fresh lobsters from Portsmouth, and merchandise coming in from the far corners of the globe.

The Counting House Museum, the last remaining structure of the cotton mill, is now home to the historical society. The small local history research center preserves thousands of documents, photos, books and historic objects gathered by local residents. The collection is under the care of local amateur historians or professionals who donate their time and will assist visitors in doing research. It is open year round by appointment and for regular weekend afternoons from June through October.

More information is available at www.oldberwick.org, by calling (207)384-0000 or by writing info@oldberwick.org.

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Big Government, Small Hands
To the Editor:

America's government is clearly bloated, convoluted, suffering from paralysis, and subject to the corrupting influence of special interests. Sure, we're all fed up with it, but we just can't seem to agree on a remedy.

However, looking at Donald Trump's numbers, it appears a growing number of Americans now favor replacing oligarchy with dictatorship. And, it may actually make sense to do it! After all, if we eliminate due process and the rule of law, gridlock and dissent become non-issues. And, if "democratic socialism" is suddenly mainstream, why not a little "fascist authoritarianism" to balance the scale? Could be just what America needs to clean out those clogged-up arteries.

Of course, none of this current mess should have happened. The squeaky clean conservative team of Paul Ryan and Nikki Haley would have been extremely appealing to a wide slice of conservative (albeit misguided) voters and would have caused serious heartburn for a tired and baggage-laden Clinton campaign. But, to the disappointment of many, the party of Lincoln is now so fractured and inept that neither of these two well-mannered prospects will even consent to making a run. And, it may be too late anyway, because The Donald is "predicting" (read condoning) riots and violence in the streets should he be denied the nomina-

tion! Think it over. When Xi Jinping, Putin, or King Abdulla says "jump," their people go airborne. So why not here? And how fortunate we are to have found a colorful narcissist bursting with moody bombast who is itching to take on the job!

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.
Rick:

You may be on to something. Fascist authoritarians, like the poor, always seem to be with us. Truth in labeling might make them slightly less annoying.

The Editor

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**Congress is A.W.O.L.**  
To the Editor:

Beginning in August of 2014, when our large all-volunteer standing military first began airstrikes against the Islamic State, as Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter's Veterans Liaison, I made the case that Congress needed to pass a Declaration of War to get a buy-in from the American people or at least pass a new Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF) to demonstrate Congress' commitment to the effort. Congress has passed neither over the past eighteen months of our military striking the Islamic State in Iraq, Syria, and soon possibly Libya. With New Hampshire's first in the nation presidential primary behind us, and our focus shifting towards the election of our congressional delegation, please consider the candidates' commitments to uphold their constitutional duties.

Concerns over a large standing army being under the control of a single elected official, prompted our founding fathers to install a series of checks in our Constitution. Article II, Section 3, names the President Commander-in-Chief and with it the power to direct the military. Meanwhile, to balance that power, Article I, Section 8, Clause 11, vests in Congress the responsibility to

declare war. Furthermore, Article I, Section 8, Clause 12, gives Congress the power to raise and support a standing army, but limits appropriating funds to support that army to just two years. In 1973, Congress made the War Powers Resolution law, over President Nixon's veto, in response to President Nixon sending our military to war in Cambodia without their authorization. The War Powers Resolution allows presidents to commit our military for only sixty days without a Declaration of War, an AUMF, or in case of a "national emergency" caused by an attack. Presidents are allowed thirty additional days to withdraw our forces.

Reviewing conflicts since our last Declaration of War illustrates how the public's connection with the frontlines are tied to whether a large standing military exists and how Congress authorizes its deployment. Congress last declared war in World War II, and the associated draft was accompanied by a home front war effort where everyone sacrificed under rationing, price controls, and higher taxes. The Vietnam War was the last time the draft was used to raise a large army, keeping the public immersed in the fighting, but the AUMF that authorized it was not accompanied by a home front war effort. The Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Wars were all authorized by an AUMF using only our large all-volunteer standing military, resulting in less than one percent of Americans being connected to the past decade and half of war and even the costs being passed off to future generations. Now that all combat arms are rightfully open to women, some Members of Congress are considering doing away with the Selective Service altogether instead of requiring all able bodied eighteen year olds to register, which would only further exacerbate the disconnect between the American public and the conflicts

*Mash Notes,* **HATE MAIL**

we send our all-volunteer military to fight.

In addition to shielding the American public from our wars, a large all-volunteer standing military can be readily deployed by the President without Congressional authorization. In March, 2011, the United States launched airstrikes against Muammar Gaddafi's forces in Libya without an AUMF, and after the sixty-day restriction had expired, it was argued that no authorization was needed because our military's role was limited to supportive airstrikes. By contrast, in August 2013, the President sought an AUMF to launch airstrikes against President Bashar al-Assad's forces in Syria for using chemical weapons against his own people, but only the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was willing to do their Congressional duty and vote on it. The following year, after sixty days of airstrikes against the Islamic State passed without congressional action, the 2001 AUMF that authorized the Afghanistan War against Al Qaeda and the 2002 AUMF that authorized the Iraq War were cited as Congressional authorizations.

America's all-volunteer military, not the American people, have been at war for the past fifteen years, with many of the volunteers fighting against the Islamic State today being Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. Their new mission continues to grow, with March bringing the first ever American ground artillery barrage against the Islamic State and talks of American advisors accompanying Iraqi Army Brigades in the eventual assault to retake Mosul. As both a former artillery platoon leader and a former Iraqi Army Battalion combat advisor, the ability of Members of Congress to say they support the troops then neglect their fundamental Constitutional duties appalls me. My

hope is that the next Congressional delegation we elect will fulfill their vows and at a minimum pass a new AUMF if they continue to vote to fund our large all-volunteer standing military's campaign against the Islamic State.

Josh Denton  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Josh:  
*Lip service to the Constitution, lip service to veterans — do we detect some kind of pattern here?*

The Editor

~~~~~  
"Nuts!"
To the Editor:

Nuts!
We've had an "Executive in Absentia" for the last seven years. Mr. Obama has been on a perpetual, Presidential vacation running our Federal government by executive action, and subsequently not abiding by the checks and balances between the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches set forth by our Founders in the U.S. Constitution.

Now, with the sudden death of Supreme Court Justice, Antonin Scalia, Mr. Obama suddenly wants to adhere to the Constitution and fulfill his Constitutional role by nominating a replacement for the deceased brilliant and Honorable Justice.

We are in the heat of a domestic revolution with the upcoming political elections! The U.S. Senate should be in no rush to confirm Mr. Obama's sudden nominee since whoever becomes the next Supreme Court Justice will have a significant impact on the High Court and the lives of U.S. citizens for many years and countless generations.

We, Americans, through our representatives in the U.S. Senate, are being asked by the Democrat Establishment in Washington, D.C. to surrender our voice in the selection process. In the words of

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"I've seen the needle and the damage
done, a little part of it in everyone,
but every junkie's like a settin' sun."
- Neil Young (1945-) from "The Needle and the Damage Done"

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And Other Correspondence

Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, acting division commander of the 101st. Airborne Division troops defending Bastogne, Belgium, during World War II's Battle of the Bulge, when given a surrender ultimatum by overwhelming numbers of German troops, I say, "Nuts!" to this hypocritical Democrat demand.

I stand with Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) and the other members of the U.S. Senate who propose to give the people of New Hampshire and the people of America a proper and necessary voice in the vetting process of the next Supreme Court Justice through the election of our new President.

Nick De Mayo
Sugar Hill, N.H.
Nick
Funny, as we were reading your letter, the term "Nuts!" kept going through our mind, as well.
The Editor

Gregg Never Learns

To the Editor:
In his most recent Op Ed in the March 20, 2016 *Seacoast Sunday*, Judd Gregg continues advocating for the tired and disproven trickle down economics started under Ronald Reagan, as well as displaying a total lack of understanding of public health and preventive medicine.

In his piece, he again calls on Republicans to initiate "major tax reform passed by both houses now." He goes on to restate the basic principles of Republican economics: "There should be lower rates, counterbalanced with fewer deductions. The doers in our society should be given a reason to go out and do."

With regard to taxes, the top marginal tax rate currently sits at 39.6 percent — one of the lowest rates in the history of the nation. During the Eisenhower presiden-

cy, a period of some of the highest economic growth the nation has ever experienced, the top marginal tax rate was 91 percent. The doers in the 1950s had no problem going out and doing what doers do. Unfortunately, the current doers in the country seem to be unable to do things with taxes almost 60 percent lower than in the 1950s, reflected by our anemic Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 2015 our GDP grew at a rate of 2.9 percent, while in 1951 it rose at a rate of 11.3 percent.

Gregg also calls for eliminating certain tax deductions which he fails to identify. In the past Republicans have suggested cutting the mortgage interest and real estate tax deductions, two of the few tax deductions available to middle class people. They never seem to call for eliminating the many tax loopholes and deductions available to wealthy individuals and corporations.

With regard to health care, Gregg calls for creating a system where everyone gets coverage for "catastrophic events while allowing people to use health savings accounts, or HSAs and other vehicles to cover their everyday health costs." This approach is totally the wrong way to go if we are interested in preventing disease, and finding and treating diseases at their earliest and most treatable stage. While I agree that people need catastrophic event coverage, the real savings in health care comes from providing primary and secondary preventive services, such as immunizations, well child check ups, early prenatal care, screening exams such as prostate cancer, colonoscopies and mammograms, none of which would be covered by a catastrophic insurance plan. Considering that the average working person, experiencing flat wages and are already unable to save

for their retirement or their children's education, where are they going to get the money to place in HSAs to cover their "everyday health costs?" For example according to the New Hampshire Department of Insurance (www.nhhealthcost.nh.gov), the cost for an Emergency Room visit of medium complexity is between \$637 and \$2,141 depending on the hospital. A basic office visit from \$68-\$296, a comprehensive preventive office visit, \$198-\$608, a colonoscopy, \$1,970-\$6,047, a mammogram, \$430-\$883, and a laboratory general health panel, \$102-\$277. For a family of four, the out of pocket expenses for basic health care can well be in the thousands of dollars a year, even without any non-catastrophic illnesses or accidents. To think that the average family can manage their "everyday health costs" by putting money in HSAs is naïve and unrealistic. It will result in people putting off non-emergency care, skipping important prevention services, and increasing health care costs and reducing the health status of the population.

As Senator, Judd Gregg voted for both of the Bush tax cuts. According to the Congressional Budget Office, if these tax cuts would have expired in 2013 as scheduled, the national debt as a share of our economy would have plunged by almost half. Now Gregg is calling for more tax cuts and to have the middle class and poor to pay for them by reducing health care and eliminating their few available tax deductions. As JFK stated in the 1960 presidential campaign, "an elephant never forgets, but he never learns." Those words referring to Republicans are even more true today than they were in 1960.

Rich DiPentima, BA, BSN
Portsmouth, N.H.
Rich:
We have been watching Gregg since we worked for his opponent in the 1980 Congressional race. He

will never change. He suffers from a pre-existing condition and there is no treatment.

The Editor

Ayotte's Obstinacy

To the Editor:
When elected officials find themselves on the wrong side of a political issue, they generally do one of three things: (a) admit they were wrong (rarely), (b) compromise, or (c) "double down." By doubling down and re-stating their initial positions frequently and emphatically, politicians intend to mislead the public into believing that they are entirely convinced of the correctness of their stands and could not in good conscience change their minds. In reality, they want to maintain, often for political reasons, their original views, yet hope to escape the wrath of the voters for doing so.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte has doubled down on her stand in opposition to the consideration of a new Supreme Court justice. President Obama has fulfilled his constitutional duty by sending the name of Merrick Garland to the Senate for deliberation. Ayotte refuses to consider Garland. Does Ayotte disapprove of his credentials? I think not.

"Merrick B. Garland, a Harvard-educated lawyer and classic overachiever, was working in lucrative private practice at Arnold & Porter in the nation's capital when, in 1989, he was offered a position as a federal prosecutor handling criminal cases. It meant a 50 percent cut in pay and trading a sumptuous office for one that smelled of stale cigarettes. He jumped at it." (*New York Times*, 3/16/2016).

"Garland, chief judge of the D.C. Circuit Court, the most important Federal Appeals Court in the nation, has more Federal judiciary experience than any Supreme Court nominee in history. Before President Obama elevat-



ed him to the prestigious court in 1997, Garland, as a federal prosecutor at the Justice Department, led the (successful) investigation of the Oklahoma City terror bombing and the notorious Unibomber case." (*Boston Globe*, 3/17/2016).

So what could be Ayotte's reason for refusing to back hearings and an up-or-down vote on Garland's candidacy? Like other Senate Republicans, she does not want to place the conservative majority on the Court in jeopardy. That is puzzling because Garland is probably the most moderate candidate a Democratic president would propose and is liked by Republicans and Democrats across the political spectrum.

How does the public feel about Ayotte's refusal to consider a new Supreme Court Justice? According to a *Washington Post-ABC News* poll (3/3-6/2016), 63 percent of Americans believe the Senate should at least hold hearings on a Supreme Court candidate's qualifications, while only 32 percent oppose them — a nearly 2-to-1 majority. Ayotte's position is in a distinct minority.

As the *Concord Monitor* notes in an editorial (3/17/2016), "But Ayotte is no longer taking a stand for the American people, as she claims, she is blocking a hearing for a judge who is widely respected among Republicans and Democrats alike, and obstructing the

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Newcomers

by William Marvel

We all play the role of new-comer several times in our lives. We move up to a new school with an entire class, or go off to college alone. Sometimes we start new jobs. The greeting always varies, from a warm welcome to ostracism, interspersed with the passive nods of the wary and the indifferent.

Each year, an enormous number of people make themselves newcomers by changing their residence from one place to another. According to the Census Bureau, about 12 percent of the population in the United States now relocates each year. That's somewhat better than the early 1950s and the mid-1980s, when the rate exceeded 20 percent, but that's a lot of people uprooting their lives. In the first year of Ronald Reagan's second term, over 46,000,000 people pulled up stakes in this country, and most of them were looking for greener pastures.

My father did not retire from

the Navy until I was five, so I remember that feeling of being the new kid, especially when we went to Key West. Then there was Pine Tree School, where most of the children had such strange-sounding Yankee accents, but still found it reasonable to make fun of the way I talked. At Conway Junior High I was a newcomer all over again, and later still at Kennett High School, several time in the army, at college, and in any number of new jobs.

Still, those were all temporary situations, and I always had a home base that I could call familiar territory. Even on Key West I knew I was just a visitor, and that my real home was in South Conway, where my grandparents' place and our house both stood waiting. When my father finally moved us back for good I had most of a year to settle in without the complication of meeting new people, because we were the only family on Davis Hill. There wasn't another child within a mile, and the road was so rough beyond our house

that a week might pass without a car coming by. If we heard a vehicle picking its way around the rocks and ruts up the back side of the hill we would stand around and wait for it — mostly to see if they made it, and partly to see who it was.

Because I've had the extraordinary good fortune to have the same permanent home my entire life, I can't imagine what it's like to abandon everything that's familiar and leap, or be thrown, into the uncertainty of a new community. My closest comparable experiences came from those aforementioned instances of provisional immersion in alien environments, which I (and most of those who shared them with me) approached with diffident humility — however little that quality may have been an integral part of our individual characters. Even the most self-assured people usually suppressed any inclination to criticize the established culture of the new environment until they had a chance to understand it.

If they thought they recognized the dynamics of their new place, group, or situation, they almost invariably had the sense to refrain from saying so at the outset, and marking themselves as arrogant know-it-alls.

In all the recollected instances I'm describing, the novices were alone, or in the distinct minority. Those who occupy a majority or a plurality in any human community, meanwhile, seldom show either diffidence or humility. Instead, they tend to accentuate and celebrate whatever they share most in common, using it as a vehicle for mutual support and validation. That appears to hold true even if their most obvious common feature is the disadvantage of inexperience.

That paradoxical pride in a personal deficiency seems especially evident in towns with as peripatetic a population as Conway's. People with vague and distorted impressions of their new surroundings run for public office before their names are dry on

the voter registration rolls — as self-assured as Donald Trump that they know what is wrong and how to fix it. Other transients, after revealing their recent arrival from a better world they nevertheless abandoned, use public meetings to lecture the town's most civically responsible citizens on the error of their ways. Unwittingly or compliantly, such Johnny-come-latelies often act as mere tools for established local factions, the very existence of which they lack sufficient perspective to recognize.

"Mobility" is just a euphemism for vagabondage. It may be a boon to the real-estate industry, but it breeds disconnection and a sense of disposable community. Those who only plan to move on lack the environmental and social interests of those who feel tied for life to one place. Nomads never know the sense of belonging to an entire community, where even your foes are your friends, and in large numbers such newcomers diminish that experience for all.

More Mash Notes, HATE MAIL, and Other Correspondence, from Page Five

proper function of the U.S. Supreme Court."

Gary Patton
Hampton, N.H.

Gary:

Ayotte's obstinacy reflects that of her predecessor, Judd Gregg. The state has changed, though. She may not be able to duplicate his persistence.

The Editor

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American Democratic Socialism

To the Editor:

Socialism is a broad abstract concept not a material substance. Even material things come in various forms. Snow falls and then becomes ice which later melts to

become the base substance water. Broad abstract concepts like socialism do not have a base substance and because of this do not have a pure form that exists somewhere. Speaking of Democratic Socialism in practice similarities are to be expected but so are differences from country to country and within each country over time. Here in the United States we could choose to adopt only one or two social programs that are synonymous with European Democratic Socialism and adopt them in a uniquely American way. Our methods for implementing Single Payer Healthcare might

be very different from standard practices in Europe. Starting fresh we could leave out from the start things that would be difficult to change where Single Payer has been practiced for decades.

Proponents of socialism like to point out the popular benefits enjoyed by the citizens of socialist countries in Europe like single payer healthcare. Detractors are quick to point out the high income tax rates these citizens pay. Their argument is that if the U.S. went single payer our personal income tax rate would instantly become equal to that in France. Based on magical thinking and

a false premise the argument is false. Single payer is economically more efficient than what we have got now and we are not France. We can have our own brand of socialism, an American Democratic Socialism that enjoys the benefits of but avoid the pitfalls of European Socialism. Unless perhaps you think we are too weak and stupid to manage that happiness.

Socialism is generally thought to be only a left wing or liberal thing but this need not be true of American Democratic Socialism. The current American Left constantly seeks to create, maintain and fund social programs that

target the economically disadvantaged and minorities while the Right seeks to de-fund, disable and eliminate those same programs. American Democratic Socialism can stand aloof from this catty little fray by seeking always to institute society-wide programs that benefit everyone. Single payer healthcare, publicly funded elections and high quality affordable education are some policy goals that transcend our current Left Right divide. These seem more left than right only because the current right has moved so far to the extreme right. A New Right could easily emerge that plays a

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Let's Adopt The Gop's National Platform

by Jim Hightower

Well, I didn't expect this! The National Republican Party has published an official policy document showing that the GOP really might be more than a gaggle of serve-the-rich plutocrats and wacky, Trumped-up right-wingers. Just when you thought the party was consuming itself in the know-nothingism of its presidential pretenders and the

recalcitrant do-nothingism of its congress critters, out comes a sign of sanity. In this 18-page manifesto, the party proclaims that, "Our government was created by the people for all the people, and it must serve no less a purpose." All the people! Forget pontifications by Wall Street billionaires dividing America into virtuous "creators" (like themselves) and worthless "moochers" (like you and me)

— this document abounds with commitments to the common good. "America does not prosper," it proudly proclaims on page three, "unless all Americans prosper." Wow — that's downright democratic! And how's this for a complete turnaround: "Labor is the United States. The men and women, who with their minds, their hearts and hands, create the wealth that is shared in this country — they are

America." Holy Koch brothers, share the wealth? Yes, and how about this: "The protection of the right of workers to organize into unions and to bargain collectively is the firm and permanent policy of the [Republican Party]." Eat your heart out, Scott Walker, and you other labor-bashing GOP governors! The document also supports our public Postal Service, the United Nations, equal rights for

women, expanding our national parks, "vigorous enforcement of anti-trust laws," and raising the minimum wage. New enlightenment in the Grand Old Party. Hallelujah! Can all this be true? Yes — except it's not new. This document is the Republican Party Platform ... of 1956. Copyright 2016 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ehrlich (laura@jimhightower.com).

cost/benefit watchdog role. Keeping cost down and pushing for larger co pays from individuals directly benefiting from the programs. A generous left checked by a frugal right both seeking only what is best for the country. For example free tuition at community and state colleges is perhaps too generous and might attract too many slackers. If instead community college was out of pocket affordable to young adults still living in their parents homes and working only part time that would be acceptable to most folks. Broad social programs funded in part by those that benefit directly would be a big improvement from the mess things are in now and the country as a whole be much better for it. Perhaps Bernie was mistaken to call himself a Democratic Socialist since so few know what that really means. Having thought quite a bit about the meaning of Democratic Socialist I have concluded that I do not know. At least not yet because it seems that what Bernie Sanders has actually done is to start the Democratic Socialist ball rolling. Where will it finally land and what exactly will Democratic Socialism be when it gets there remains to be seen. Here in America we have the right to our own brand of socialism. It can be what we want it to

be and we can reject the things we do not want. If you found this short discourse interesting and would like to further explore my thoughts, go to www.americandemocraticsocialism.us. Tom Laperriere Rochester N.H.
 ~~~~   
 **McConnell's Folly**   
 To the Editor:   
 Immediately after President Obama nominated Judge Merrick Garland to fill the Supreme Court vacancy, Republican leader Mitch McConnell said the Senate would not consider the nomination until after the next President is inaugurated, in ten months. McConnell holds some off-hand remark made two decades ago by Democrat Joe Biden, then Senate leader, in such high regard that he uplifts those words into what he calls "The Biden Rule," claiming it is more important than the Constitution. Really? Should such churlish cynicism pass as responsible government? McConnell knows very well that the Constitution gives the people responsibility for choosing a President every four years, not three years and two months, and that the President is responsible for fulfilling his duties for a full four years, not three years and two months.

McConnell vowed to obstruct everything our President would attempt to do, immediately after the voters elected him, twice. Republicans like McConnell have tried to shut down our government services, they threatened to bankrupt the full faith and credit of our country's debt obligations, and now they want to grind up our highest court of Justice with their partisan politics. Maybe responsible voters will replace these irresponsible Republican Senators with Democrats in November. Meanwhile, McConnell should evoke the so-called Biden Rule to recuse himself from the Senate until after the voters express their preference. Bruce Joffe Piedmont, CA   
 ~~~~   
 Profile in Courage Nomination
 To the Editor:
 Just in the event the committee allows me a say, I wish to nominate U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard for the 2016 JFK Profile in Courage Award. Tulsi Gabbard, not yet even 35, is/was considered a rising star in the Democratic Party. She is a U.S. Representative for Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District and was, up until two weeks ago, the vice-chair of the Democratic National Committee, when she, defying warnings from the DNC,

resigned out of disappointment with the DNC and corporate media's treatment of Senator Bernie Sanders and endorsed him for the 2016 Democratic Presidential nomination. Congresswoman Gabbard is also a Major in the U.S. Army Reserves, has deployed to both the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars as part of a Medical Unit, where she bore full witness to the extreme horrors of ill-conceived war. Gabbard cited the primary reason for her full-throated endorsement of Bernie as being that he is the only candidate that she completely trusts to prevent the next needless war or intervention and who will apply America's precious resources to nation-building at home. I had an identical discussion this morning with a wise, young friend, who, like my children, grew up as the child of a career serviceman, and is a staunch Bernie supporter, who shared this profound sentiment: "Having grown up a military brat, a great number of my childhood friends have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, having followed in their parents' footsteps. What has saddened me almost as much as this war's rising death toll, is the disillusionment so many of my buddies have experienced. Kids I once knew as patriotic, proud members of ROTC, have grown into

depressed, guilt-stricken adults. It has broken my heart to watch their eyes dim and their smiles wrinkle My military friends never speak proudly of their service. They look down in shame when people thank them for their service. My soul aches to see how broken these once idealistic people have become." Congresswoman Gabbard deserves recognition for her courage and foresight and Bernie deserves the votes he will receive from me and my good friend in November. Wayne H. Merritt Dover, N.H.
 ~~~~   
 **GateHouse "Dittography"**   
 To the Editor:   
 Re: your March 18 issue on Gatehouse's version of body counts, filling empty spaces. My local hometown newspaper, *The Wellesley Townsman*, scarfed up a few years ago by GateHouse after several years of downsizing by Fidelity, in yesterday's issue filled half a page with the reprint of the previous several paragraphs. Apparently nobody is supposed to notice, much less point it out as an apparent business model. Thanks for filling the spaces well, including the entertaining hate mail paranoia. Jim Tartari Wellesley, MA   
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ADMIRAL FOWLE’S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua's ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of

Badger's Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3	MONDAY, APRIL 4	TUESDAY, APRIL 5	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6	THURSDAY, APRIL 7	FRIDAY, APRIL 8	SATURDAY, APRIL 9
2014—Sen. Jerry Moran [R-Kan.], whose top contributor is Koch Industries, reads into the <i>Congressional Record</i> a <i>Wall Street Journal</i> op-ed in which Charles Koch defends his right to spend millions buying elections. 2004—Asked to name his biggest mistake, George W.[MD] Bush is unable to answer. 2003—U.S. Marines cross the Tigris River on their way to Baghdad. 1996—Ted “Unabomber” Kaczynski is arrested in his Montana cabin. 1992—After the exposure of some of its other scams, Congressional “leadership” announces its sudden opposition to free health care for solons. 1974—Hit by 148 tornadoes, 13 states lose 315 people; 5,484 are injured. 1973—The first mobile phone call is made, on a 2.4 lb. device, by a Motorola employee to a rival at AT&T. 1966—In South Vietnam, 3,000 troops protest against the Ky gov’t. 1954—In Wisconsin, a strike begins at the Kohler bathroom fixture factory. Six years later the workers win. 1936—Bruno Hauptmann gets the chair in the Lindbergh baby case. 1895—Oscar Wilde’s libel suit against his lover’s father begins. 1882—Robert Ford, that dirty little coward, shoots Jesse James. 1868—In Hawaii, an intrepid soul rides a 50-foot tidal wave. 1860—The Pony Express begins operating between St. Joseph, Mo. and Sacramento, Calif.	1991—A helicopter pilot rashly tries to inspect the landing gear of Sen. John Heinz’s small plane; a collision ensues. Five die, including two kids in their elementary school. 1989—Alice Walton, reaching for her cellphone while speeding in her Porsche, hits and kills 50-year-old Arkansas cannery worker Oleta Hardin. 1984—Congress ends funding for the Nicaraguan Contras. President Reagan reacts by illegally selling arms to the Ayatollah Khomeini. 1975—Operation Babylift begins with a C-5A out of Tan Son Nhut. It crashes into a nearby rice paddy killing 154, including 78 kids. 1968—Martin Luther King Jr. is murdered in Memphis, perhaps by James Earl Ray, with help from shadowy unknown figures. 1967—Martin Luther King Jr. denounces the Vietnam War and calls for common cause between civil rights and antiwar movements. He is then denounced by 168 major newspapers. 1933—The 785 foot-long Navy dirigible <i>Akron II</i> crashes off the New Jersey coast. Of 76 crew and passengers aboard, three survive. 1914—Large squads of mounted cops attack thousands of Wobblies in Union Square, N.Y. 1887—In Argonia, Kan., Susanna M. Salter becomes the nation’s first female mayor. 1877—The first home telephone is installed in Somerville, Mass.	2014—Former N.H. GOP Chair Jack Kimball calls upon Sheriff Joe Arpaio to put President Obama “in an orange suit ... and drag his butt out of that White House.” 2010—Flagrant safety violations at W.V.’s non-union Upper Big Branch coal mine result in an explosion killing 29 miners. 2006—Texans in Waco boo Bill Nye for saying the Bible misrepresents the Moon as an emitter of light. 1995—“How do you stop an elephant if it goes berserk on the grounds of the Capitol?” asks Sen. Bob Smith [R-N.H.]. Alas, his motion to ban pachyderms is defeated. 1962—LBJ crony Billy Sol Estes is indicted for selling fake mortgages on fake fertilizer tanks. 1956—A hired thug throws acid and blinds Victor Riesel, New York newspaper columnist and crusader against labor racketeers. 1955—The Farmers Home Administration announces it will issue mortgages on home bomb shelters. 1952—Howard Hughes shuts down MGM temporarily because the authors of all eleven stories in production are suspected communists. 1926—H.L. Mencken is arrested in Boston for selling his magazine, <i>American Mercury</i>. 1794—“Be sure you show my head to the mob,” says Georges Jacques Danton to his executioner, “it will be a long time ere they see its like.”	2009—BP’s Deepwater Horizon obtains relief from oppressive federal over-regulation. 1992—Donald E. Harding gasps, moans, and makes obscene hand gestures for five minutes before dying in Arizona’s gas chamber. 1977—“If the president does it,” Richard Nixon tells David Frost, “that means it’s not illegal.” 1968—Oakland police shoot it out with the Black Panthers. Bobby Hut-ton, 18 and unarmed, dies. 1967—Knocked overboard three miles off North Vietnam, U.S. sailor Doug Hegdahl is picked up alive hours later by fishermen. Two years later he’s set free, having memorized details about 256 fellow POWs. 1954—“The time has come,” says JFK, “for the American people to be told the truth about Vietnam.” 1953—The Cotton States League throws out the Hot Springs team for signing black pitchers. 1917—Former peace candidate W. Wilson declares war on Germany. 1909—Matthew Henson, black son of a Maryland sharecropper, becomes the first non-Inuit to set foot on the North Pole. Ailing Admiral Peary stays in the sled but later takes credit. 1868—Brigham Young marries #27. 1712—Twenty-three enslaved Africans revolt in New York, killing nine whites and injuring six others. Twenty-one are later convicted and executed.	2003—U.S. troops take Baghdad. It is a great victory. 1994—Employee Auburn Calloway attacks the flight crew of Fed-Ex Flight 705 with hammers and a spear-gun in a suicidal attempt to win death benefits for his family. After a fight leaving the cabin awash with blood, the crew subdues him and lands safely. 1990—Future Bush #43 administration appointee John Poindexter is found guilty of multiple felonies in the Iran/Contra scandal. He later wriggles out on appeal. 1970—California Governor Ronald Reagan announces his nuanced position regarding student demonstrations: “If it takes a bloodbath, let’s get it over with.” 1966—The U.S. retrieves an H-bomb lost off the coast of Spain. 1961—A cracked electrical plug causes an F-100’s Sidewinder missile to blow the wing off a B-52 during a training exercise over New Mexico; in its crash, three airmen die. 1954—In a news conference, likeable Ike erroneously characterizes Southeast Asia as a row of dominos. 1926—In Rome, Violet Gibson, 49, the tiny, frail, and deranged daughter of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, shoots Mussolini in the face. 1922—Secretary of the Interior Al-bert Fall, a Republican, leases the federal Teapot Dome oilfield to his pal Harry Sinclair, who, coincidentally, loans Fall \$25,000.	1984—Richard Nixon observes, “It’s the media’s responsibility to examine the President with a microscope ... but when they use a proctoscope, it’s going too far.” 1974—Hank Aaron breaks Ruth’s record for career homers, reaping him hate mail and death threats from sports fans. 1971—A Wethersfield, Conn. home is struck by a 6 lb. meteorite. 1956—Parris Island DI marches six U.S.M.C. recruits into a swamp for disciplinary purposes. They drown. 1952—Truman orders the Army to seize steel mills. 1947—After eighteen days of excavation, New York Police find compulsive hoarder Langley Collyer dead in his junk-crammed Harlem townhouse. 1945—An Allied airstrike on Celle, Germany hits an ammo train next to a train full of internees being sent to Bergen-Belsen. Several hundred survivors are shot trying to escape. 1942—Americans and Filipinos on Bataan surrender to the Japanese. 1913—The oligarchy takes a hit as the 17th Amendment kicks in, requiring direct election of U.S. Senators. 1885—U.S. troops invade Panama, “to defend our national interests.” 1864—The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, outlawing slavery, passes in the Senate. 1826—In a duel, Secretary of State Henry Clay misses Sen. John Randolph; and Randolph misses Clay.	2006—“Scooter” Libby says “W” OK’d leaks of secret CIA intel. 2003—In Baghdad’s Firdos Square, American troops pull down a large statue of Saddam Hussein in front of an audience of Iraqis. 1997—A Cambodian newspaper proposes importing mad cows to clear land mines. 1981—The U.S. sub <i>George Washington</i>, carrying as many as 160 nuclear warheads, collides with and sinks a Japanese freighter in the East China Sea. 1972—Dwayne “Archer Daniels Midland” Andreas gives \$25,000 to the Nixon reelection campaign in return for which the Comptroller of the Currency later approves a bank charter. 1959—NASA introduces America’s first seven astronauts. 1927—Death sentences issued by Judge Webster Thayer, who had called Nicolas Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti “those anarchist bastards” during their trial, are upheld in Massachusetts. 1914—Adm. H.T. Mayo demands a 21 gun salute from Mexicans at Tampico, provoking an international incident. 1865—Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders his Army to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse. 1553—Rabelais dies, leaving this will: “I have nothing. I owe much. I leave the rest to the poor.”
8:11 8:49 1:51 2:29	9:09 11:24 2:50 5:07	9:42 10:32 3:24 5:47	10:57 11:21 4:40 5:05	11:48 5:31 5:53	12:10 12:38 6:22 6:42	12:58 1:29 7:13 7:31
SUNDAY, APRIL 10	MONDAY, APRIL 11	TUESDAY, APRIL 12	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13	THURSDAY, APRIL 14	FRIDAY, APRIL 15	SATURDAY, APRIL 16

2005—Tens of thousands of Iraqis mark the 2nd anniversary of Saddam Hussein’s fall by shouting “No, No to Satan!” and demanding that U.S. troops leave.

1996—An Australian gadget registers a wind speed of 253 mph, thereby depriving Mt. Washington of its old 231 mph world record.

1972—Crooked financier Robert Vesco slips \$200,000 to Nixon’s re-election campaign in exchange for which Attorney General John Mitchell cuts him some slack.

1970—A deed is prepared giving presidential and vice-presidential papers of Richard Nixon to the National Archives — backdated to qualify him for an otherwise illegal tax deduction.

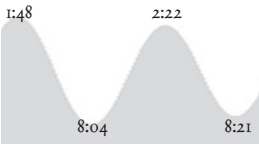
1963—The *U.S.S. Thresher* implodes about 220 miles east of Boston killing 16 officers, 96 enlisted men, and 17 civilians.

1945—Doctors at Oak Ridge inject Ebb Cade, an African American car wreck victim, with plutonium to see what happens.

1928—Illinois holds a “Pineapple Primary,” named for the 62 bombings which preceded the balloting.

1919—Deceived by a colonel being blackmailed by a general, Emiliano Zapata is ambushed and murdered. His killers are cheated of half of their bounty.

1865—Rioters in Portsmouth destroy the office of Joshua Foster’s Copperhead newspaper *The States and Union*.



2007—Aufweidersehen, Kurt V.

2006—At the Washington Nationals home opener, the ceremonial first pitch is thrown by Vice President Dick “Dick” Cheney, who is greeted with jeers and catcalls.

2003—U.S. officials in Iraq unveil decks of cards showing 55 “Most Wanted” Iraqi officials.

2002—Venezuelan generals replace Pres. Hugo Chavez with Pedro Carmona in a CIA-approved coup.

1985—Press Secretary Larry Speakes says his Boss will lay a wreath at Bit-burg, where Americans and Germans lie buried. Oops: Americans, no; Waffen SS, yes.

1968—The Civil Rights Act of 1968 is signed into law.

1954—Most boring day of the 20th century, a British computer scientist says in 2010.

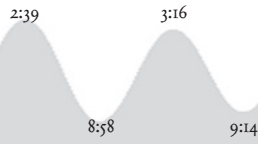
1951—President Harry S Truman fires General Douglas MacArthur for insubordination.

1950—A U.S. B-29 carrying a nuclear weapon crashes near Albuquerque. The nuke’s high explosives ignite; good thing the fissile core wasn’t installed.

1941—Ford signs its first contract with the United Auto Workers.

1938—Richard Whitney, president of New York Stock Exchange, gets five to 10 for larceny.

1898—President McKinley generously declares Cuba’s independence from Spain.



2007—The George W.[MD] Bush White House announces that official messages about the firing of eight U.S. Attorneys were among five million sent via private Republican National Committee servers — and “lost.”

2001—Veep Dick “Perpetual Dick” Cheney files his 2000 tax return which shows that \$5.1 million of his \$36 million adjusted gross income came from Halliburton.

1937—Sixty thousand U.S. students demonstrate against war.

1867—William Bullock, inventor of the web-fed rotary press, dies of complications after his leg is crushed in a web-fed rotary press.

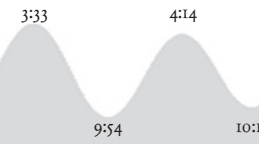
1864—At Fort Pillow, hundreds of Union soldiers, black and white, are massacred by thousands of Confederates led by Gen. Nathan B. Forrest, who later founds the KKK.

1862—Union men steal a Confederate locomotive, *The General*, in Georgia and head north; but conductor Wm. A. Fuller, on foot, on a handcar, and finally in another locomotive, chases *The General* down.

1861—Confederate gunners fire on Ft. Sumter.

1788—A mob in New York, opposed to body-snatching, attacks a hospital, occupies the dissecting room, and displays body parts at the windows. The two-day riot kills five.

1782—American militia troops massacre 100 neutral, Christian Indians of the Delaware Nation.



2002—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is back in office after an exciting day off.

1992—Chicago’s business district is shut down due to flooding after the Chicago River breaches an underground tunnel system.

1981—Rep. Jon Hinson (R-Miss.) resigns three months after being arrested for attempting to commit oral sodomy in a House restroom.

1981—For a fraudulent article about an 8-year-old junkie, the *Washington Post*’s Janet Cooke is awarded the Pulitzer Prize.

1970—The *Apollo 13* moon shot lives up to its numeral.

1962—Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* is published.

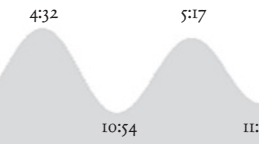
1953—The CIA’s MK-ULTRA brainwashing program begins.

1919—British troops massacre at least 379 unarmed Indian men women and children at Amritsar.

1901—After 14 years on Devil’s Island, French anarchist Clement Duval’s 20th escape attempt succeeds. He makes it to New York City and lives to be 85.

1873—In Grant Parish, La., the White League and the Klan kill 280 African-Americans in the Colfax Massacre on Easter Sunday.

1861—Fort Sumter surrenders with a cannon salute to the flag. A stray spark causes an explosion killing Private Daniel Hough, the first casualty of the Civil War.



2006—Six retired generals sign a *New York Times* Op-Ed calling on Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to resign.

2004—John Ashcroft blames Bill Clinton for terrorist attacks that took place seven months after Clinton left office.

1999—Dan Quayle throws his propeller beanie into the ring.

1994—Over Iraq, U.S. fighter jets shoot down two U.S. helicopters.

1988—An Iranian mine nearly sinks the guided missile frigate *U.S.S. Roberts*.

1964—RIP Rachel Carson.

1945—Eight days into its first patrol an improperly-flushed high-pressure head floods the *U-1206*. Commander K.A. Schlitt scuttles the boat; four die, the remaining 46 crewmen are captured.

1939—John Steinbeck’s *Grapes of Wrath* is published.

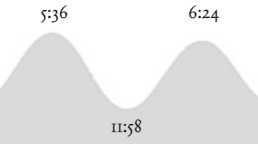
1935—A terrible windstorm crosses the Great Plains, bearing away topsoil.

1910—President Taft becomes first president to throw out the first baseball, from the stands.

1865—John Wilkes Booth shoots Abraham Lincoln.

1860—First Pony Express rider arrives in San Francisco.

1772—In South Weare, N.H. the County Sheriff tries to collect fines from sawmill owners for stealing the King’s trees. They beat him up.



2015—In Zimbabwe, big-game hunter and Texan Ian Gibson is crushed to death by an elephant.

2013—Two bombs explode near the finish line of the Boston Marathon.

2003—George W.[MD] Bush installs Gen. Jay Garner to administer Iraq “until an Iraqi government can be formed.” He lasts less than a month.

1994—Dick “Dick” Cheney explains to C-SPAN viewers that G.H.[H.] W. Bush didn’t topple Saddam Hussein because it would have created a “quagmire” in Iraq.

1992—Leona Helmsley, America’s anti-sweetheart, takes up residence at a federally-owned Crowbar Hilton in Lexington, Ky.

1974—William Randolph Hearst’s gun-totin’ granddaughter Patty helps the Symbionese Liberation Army rob a San Francisco bank.

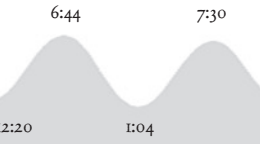
1970—Rep. Gerald Ford calls for the impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.

1961—The CIA’s ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion begins as three flights of falsely-marked American B-26s bomb and strafe Cuban airfields.

1958—A B-47 Stratojet crashes on takeoff and burns at Pease AFB, killing all four crewmen aboard.

1912—The *Titanic* changes course and heads for the bottom.

1895—In Hoboken, Josephine “Minerva” Blatt lifts 23 men standing on a wooden platform; combined weight: 3,564 lbs.



2008—“Thank you, your holiness,” George W.[MD] Bush says to Pope Benedict, “Awesome speech.”

2005—Jozef Galica, of Ponorin, Poland is quoted in *Gazeta Wyborcza* saying the death of John Paul II, the Polish Pope, has inspired him to close his brothel. First miracle?

2003—Pre-written obituaries are discovered prematurely posted on CNN.com, including one for Dick “Dick” Cheney identifying him as the “UK’s favorite grandmother.”

1992—The House Ethics Committee — no laughing, please — releases the names of 303 check-kiting Reps.

1992—President of Afghanistan Mohammad Najibullah, a Commie, resigns, making way for a more enlightened government.

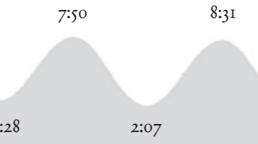
1973—Perhaps to relieve an excess of inventory, the Pentagon begins bombing Laos.

1969—Eminent Christian Billy Graham advises Richard Nixon to bomb North Vietnam’s dikes — estimated casualties: 1 million.

1954—“There is no reason why French forces should not remain in Indo-China and win,” says Richard Nixon, three weeks before the Viet Minh overrun Dien Bien Phu.

1953—Ike says militarism hangs humanity “from a cross of iron.”

1947—In Texas City, Texas, a load of fertilizer aboard the French vessel *SS Grandcamp* explodes, killing 581 in a 3-kiloton explosion.



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