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The Fortnightly Rant

In Memoriam, By the Numbers

[Note: Portsmouth's Central Veterans Council asked the Editor to deliver the keynote address at the City's Memorial Day ceremonies this Monday. These are his prepared remarks. — The Ed.]

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Today, as spring becomes summer and life surrounds us in great profusion, we gather to remember those men and women who, while in military service, gave their lives to our country.

Our ways of remembering have become quite familiar. We observe certain rituals: a parade, marching bands, a lone trumpet playing "Taps." What we do here today will hardly differ from what will be done in a thousand other towns, or from what was done here a hundred years ago.

This is as it should be. Today, as a nation, we mourn our losses. Our rituals provide us with some degree of comfort.

Today we also celebrate the nation for which they gave their lives. We celebrate the Constitution which defines this nation, and gives it its form, the Constitution which they swore to support and defend. By doing so, we reassure ourselves that their sacrifices had some meaning, some transcendent value.

Many combat veterans will say that when they fought, it was not for some vague and exalted principle, but for the lives of those around them. Their point is indisputable. The middle of a firefight is no time to ponder abstract philosophical questions.

This, on the other hand, is that time — this is exactly that time.

Members of infantry squads may fight to preserve each other, but they do not collectively decide to declare war; nor do they determine foreign policy.

They are where they are to carry out the will of this nation, whose

Constitution they have sworn to support and defend, even at the hazard of their own lives. They fight for their brothers in arms, but they die for us; for us, and for the Constitution we all share.

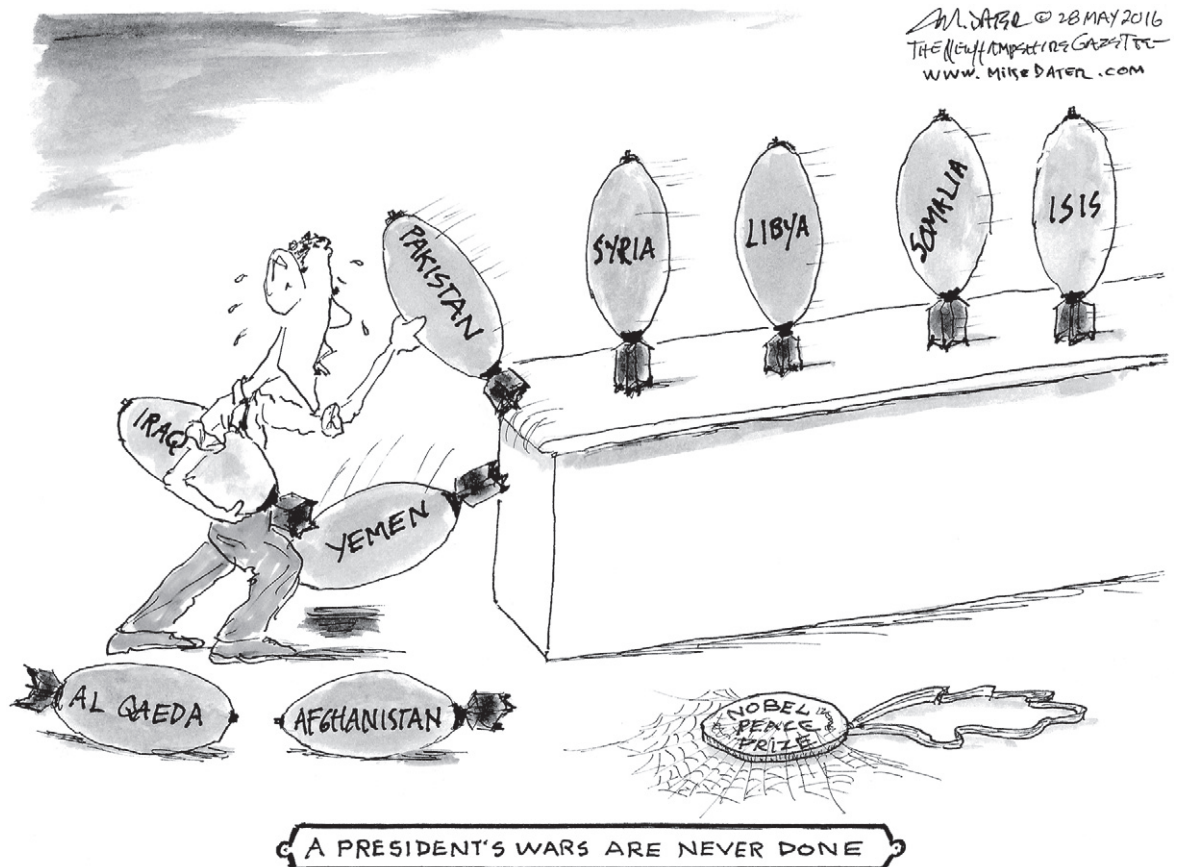
Today's ceremony differs in one respect, though, from all that have gone before. That difference is in the number of those whom we remember. That number, being cumulative, climbs inexorably. Counting from the Battle of Lexington and Concord in 1775, and running through last Wednesday, that number stands at one million, three hundred fifty-four thousand, six hundred and sixty-four.

It is difficult, if not impossible, for mere mortals to grasp any such number. To put it into perspective, it is equal to the current population of the State of New Hampshire, plus the towns of Kittery, Eliot, and South Berwick in Maine.

To the best of my knowledge, when we consider this aggregate number, we make no distinctions between deaths which were heroic and those which were more prosaic. It may thrill us to contemplate the sacrifice of a man who died taking San Juan Hill. For every soldier killed in action during the Spanish-American War, though, another four died from typhoid fever alone. Each gave all he had.

Similarly, when considering that number, we make no distinction between the four hundred thousand who died in World War Two and the dozen killed in the Second Opium War.

The former has gained an apparently iron-clad reputation for having been "The Good War." There are sound reasons for that. It was recent, and is therefore memorable. It had the third highest rate of participation per capita, after the Civil War and the Revolutionary War. It was fought



A PRESIDENT'S WARS ARE NEVER DONE

against a clearly discernable evil, and it ended in the unconditional surrender of two formidable enemies. Those wishing to avoid seeing that war in a misleadingly positive light are referred to Paul Fussell's *Wartime*, published in 1989, and Studs Terkel's *The Good War*, a collection of oral histories published in 1984.

The Second Opium War is long forgotten, even here in New Hampshire, though it was conducted by the administration of our own Franklin Pierce, and supported by the frigate *U.S.S. Portsmouth*, built just across the river. It was a rather feckless attempt to help the British preserve their purported right to sell opium to the Chinese, over the objections of the Chinese government.

In good wars and bad we incur debt towards all our dead, heroic and unfortunate alike. How should we live in relation to that debt?

How else but by looking to our Constitution and asking, how

goes our effort to form a more perfect union? Have we established justice? Have we insured domestic tranquility? Are we providing for the common defense? How is the general welfare? Are the blessings of liberty secure for our posterity?

Judging by the numbers, with a defense budget exceeding that of the next 13 nations combined, the common defense should be the least of our worries. True, some of our military personnel are on food stamps, to the tune of about \$84 million a year. We can reduce that to zero by increasing our defense budget by one one-hundredth of one percent, and using those funds to increase pay for the lowest ranks.

But wait — it is the common defense we must provide for, yet the percentage of Americans who serve in uniform is smaller now than at any other time in our history. Where does that burden fall? Amy Lutz, a Ph.D. at Syracuse University, studied that question

in 2008. Looking at a broad range of indicators, she could find only one significant predictor of military service. It was socioeconomic status — those with lower family income were more likely to enlist. While this may not surprise anyone, still some may find it disturbing — particularly in an economy like ours, where tax breaks for job creators are plentiful, but jobs being created are scarce. Can we honestly say we are discharging our debt without asking such questions?

One final number, and one final question: our current President, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, will soon leave office having spent eight years at war. Perhaps we should ask how that happened, too.

These are not questions which can be answered easily; nor problems that can be solved easily. We should try, though. We owe that much to the fallen.

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The Alleged News®

"Oh, the Fascism That Blooms in the Spring, Tra La ..."

The 2016 Presidential Election continues to exceed all expectations, at least in terms of entertainment. Some have criticized its length and said they wished it was over; we wonder though if, come November, they might feel a twinge of nostalgia for these days, before we knew whose finger will be poised to launch our nuclear arsenal.

Our news feed disgorged a Fox poll on May 21st showing Hillary Clinton trailing Donald Trump by a mere three points, her 42 to his 45. Not having been born yesterday, we filed it under Propaganda rather than Polling.

The following day a poll came in from Manchester-based Amer-

ican Research Group. It showed a tie between Clinton and Trump, with 46 percent each. Again, we discounted the result, not for bias but a track record of unreliability.

On Monday we received a retweet hyping a new poll that had Trump leading Clinton by two points, 46 to 44. Considering the sender — something called Trump2016HQ — it was ripe for dismissal. The trouble was, it cited an ABC/Post poll.

According to the *Globe's* James Pindell, the nation is in this thrilling situation because "Republicans have come around to Trump" while Democrats are still divided. Apparently this means the #NeverTrump campaign is off. We are

reminded of our favorite Marx, Groucho, who said, "These are my principles. If you don't like them, I have others."

According to *Politico*, an NBC poll earlier in the month reported, "47 percent of respondents said their reaction to Trump's becoming the presumptive nominee was fear. Just 26 percent said they were hopeful, while another 21 percent said they were angry and 16 percent were surprised." That adds up to only 110 percent, which seems a little scant under the circumstances. Perhaps they left out the respondents who said they were nauseated, depressed, suicidal, or all of the above.

There is a possible upside to

the end of the Republican horse's ass race: enterprising journalists — if any such animals are left — are now free to pick up the trail blazed by David Cay Johnston and flesh out the story of the Trumpster's links with organized crime.

Johnston began inquiring into Trump's business practices as a reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, about 27 years ago. Last August he published a brief piece in *National Memo*, headlined "21 Questions For Donald Trump," several of which involved organized crime. We alluded to that piece in our paper of September 4, 2015.

On Sunday, *Politico* published a

piece by Johnston which provides a much fuller picture of Trump's business practices, headlined, "Just what were Donald Trump's ties to the Mob?" The short answer is that "Trump's career has benefited from a decades-long and largely successful effort to limit and deflect law enforcement investigations into his dealings with top mobsters, organized crime associates, labor fixers, corrupt union leaders, con artists and even a one-time drug trafficker whom Trump retained as the head of his personal helicopter service."

Not long after Trump set up

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shop in Manhattan, he hired a lawyer named Roy Cohn — yes, the same snarling fellow who lurked in the halls of Congress with the red-baiting Junior Senator from Wisconsin, Joseph McCarthy. Cohn also provided legal services — if that's the correct term — to both Anthony "Fat Tony" Salerno, head of the Genovese crime family, and C. Paul "Big Paul" Castellano, head of the Gambino crime family. In the early 1980s, all were involved in the construction of Trump Tower.

Everything has to be somewhere. Trump decided Trump Tower should be where the Bonwit Teller building stood. Built in 1929 for Stewart & Company, the basic structure consisted of "12

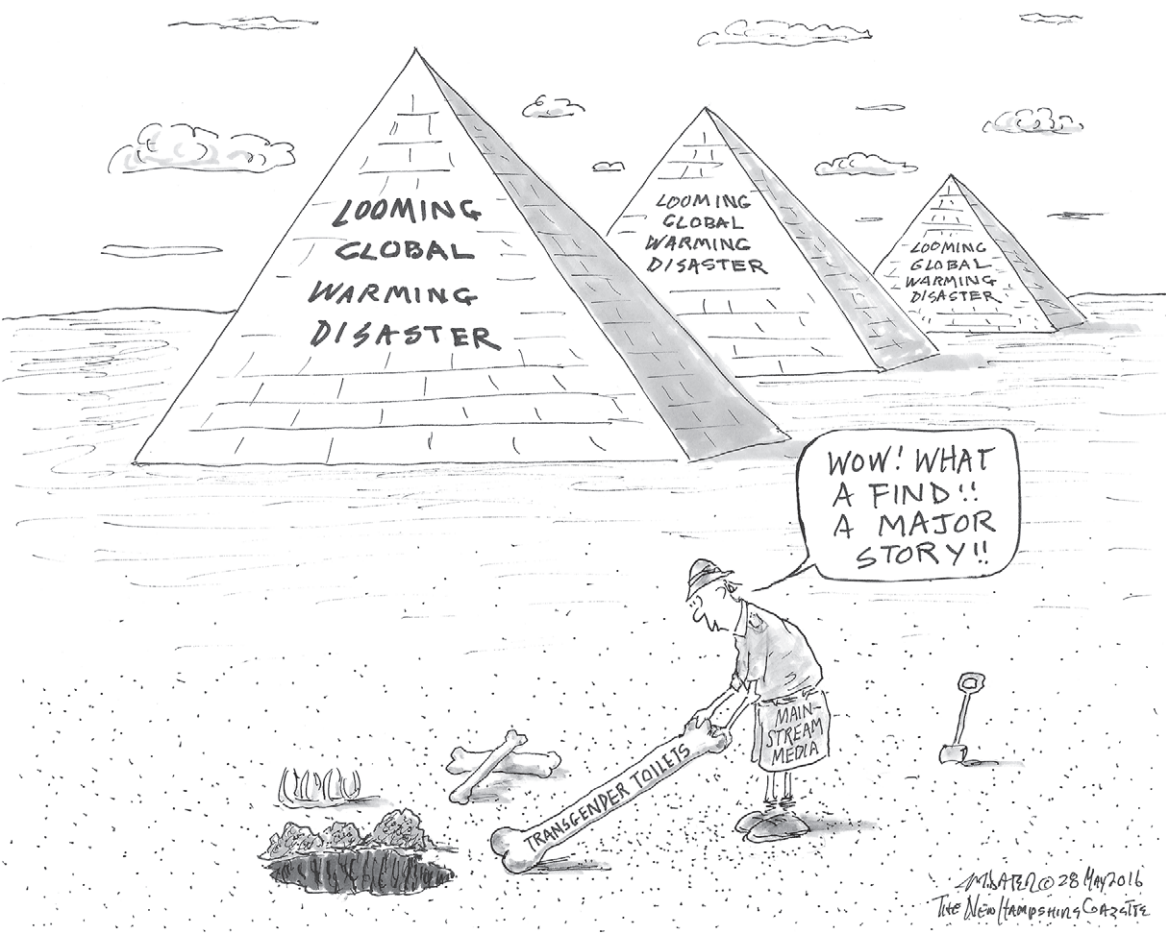
stories of severe, almost unornamented limestone climbing to a ziggurat of setbacks," according to the *New York Times'* Christopher Gray. Its entranceway, though, was "a stupendously luxurious mix of limestone, bronze, platinum and hammered aluminum" which was "like a spilled casket of gems: platinum, bronze, hammered aluminum, orange and yellow faience, and tinted glass backlit at night."*

Cornell University's *Preservation News* reported in July of 1980 what Trump did with that treasure: "Two irreplaceable Art Deco sculptures were smashed by jack-

* For a local example of this charming technique, see the backlit sign above the door of the Hartford Building on Congress Street [Bull Moose Records]. Also built in the Art Deco era, by Fernando Wood Hartford, it formerly housed *The New Hampshire Gazette* [and the *Portsmouth Herald*].



In the 1990s, Strawberry Banke operated a boatshop in the Sheafe Warehouse at Prescott Park. Visitors could chat with Nick Brown and other builders while they turned raw lumber into elegant small boats; modern examples of designs developed locally to suit the Piscataqua's "cross-grained and wily waters." The Banke also had stewardship of the Captain Edward H. Adams, an historically accurate 70-foot gundalow built in 1982. Both programs were discontinued more than a decade ago. The Gundalow Company took over the Captain Adams in 2002. Ten years later it launched the Piscataqua, a modern interpretation of the type, upgraded with a diesel engine and other features allowing it to carry students throughout the watershed. Now, Strawberry Banke is once again offering a boatbuilding program, under the direction of Nate Piper, who was Project Manager during the construction of Piscataqua.



hammers last month under orders from a New York City developer who had promised them to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"The 15-foot high stone bas-relief sculptures, which depicted semi-nude goddesses, were part of the Bonwit Teller building

"In addition, a 15-by-25 foot nickel-plated grille that had adorned the building's facade has been missing since it was supposed to be shipped to a New Jersey warehouse. Neither the Trump Organization nor the warehouse has any idea of the whereabouts of the hefty ornament.

"All three pieces had been promised to the museum in a February letter from Trump, who said he would save them if it was not too expensive. A museum official told *Preservation News* that a patron had offered to help defray this cost.

"But the Trump Organization,

which estimated the cost of preserving the sculptures at \$32,000 plus a 10-day construction delay, decided that it was not worth it and the stone reliefs were crushed into dust with no warning to the museum or anyone else."

As David Cay Johnston describes its construction, Trump Tower went up in the same classy manner that Bonwit Teller came down.

"Salerno and Castellano and other mob families controlled both the concrete business and the unions involved in delivering and pouring it. The risks this created became clear from testimony later by Irving Fischer, the general contractor who built Trump Tower. Fischer said concrete union 'goons' once stormed his offices, holding a knife to throat of his switchboard operator to drive home the seriousness of their demands, which included no-show jobs during

construction of Trump Tower.

"But with Cohn as his lawyer, Trump apparently had no reason to personally fear Salerno or Castellano — at least, not once he agreed to pay inflated concrete prices. What Trump appeared to receive in return was union peace. That meant the project would never face costly construction or delivery delays."

Profitable though it may have been, the Trump/Cohn/Salerno/Castellano team didn't last. Castellano was shot to death in 1985, at the behest of John Gotti. Cohn died of AIDS in 1986. Salerno was convicted of racketeering in 1986 and sent to Federal prison, where he died in 1992.

Once again we've wasted an unconscionable amount of space on a deplorable human being to whom we would pay no attention in a properly ordered world. We apologize to our readers. Before



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we drop this odious topic, though, we're going to let Woody Guthrie sing us out. Here's a little ditty he wrote in the early 1950s, when he was a tenant at the Beach Haven development in Brooklyn, built by Fred Trump, father of the presumptive Republican nominee for President.

*Beach Haven ain't my home!
I just can't pay this rent!
My money's down the drain!
And my soul is badly bent!*

*Beach Haven looks like heaven
Where no black ones come to roam!
No, no, no! Old Man Trump!
Old Beach Haven ain't my home!*

Sometime It Is Both Sides

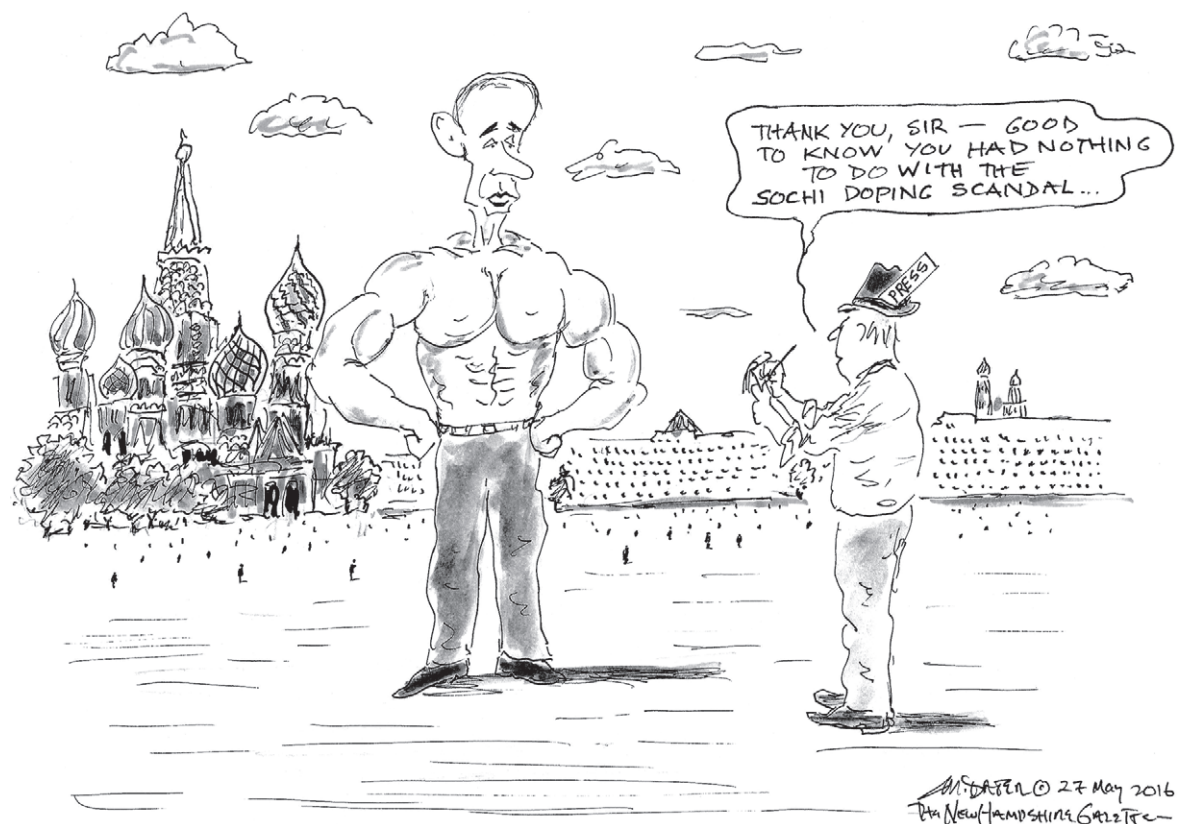
False equivalency is one of the great banes of politics today. To those who view the nation through this veil of illusion, Republicans have outsider Donald Trump [Dammit, there we go again. Sorry. — *The Ed.*], while the Democrats have the neatly counterbalancing outsider Ber-

nie Sanders. Never mind that the former is a serially-bankrupt egomaniac bereft of government experience, while the latter has served eight years as a mayor, 16 years in the House (where his effectiveness earned him the title of "the amendment king"), and nine years in the Senate. When Ted Cruz shut down the government in the fall of 2013, *Time Magazine* blamed it on "the hard right and the hard left." Really? If the Spawn of Henry Luce is going to blame a political trainwreck on a fiction, it could at least go all the way and cite Tinker Bell, Santa Claus, or the Tooth Fairy.

On the other hand, there are some things you *can* catch both sides doing, like sucking up to Henry Kissinger.

Earlier this month Defense Secretary Ash Carter awarded Kissinger the Distinguished Public Service Medal — the Pentagon's highest award for civilians.

Mother Jones reported in February that Bill and Hillary Clinton "have for years regularly



Some morally, aesthetically, and, likely intellectually-challenged individual recently splashed paint on My Mother the Wind, Cabot Lyford's sculpture on Four Tree Island. On Friday, May 20th, just a few weeks later, that defacement was being reversed. The last time we looked, a month or two ago, Basha Paeff's Sacrifices of War, in John Paul Jones Park in Kittery, was still disfigured. As we reported in April, 2015, at some time during the previous winter a still-unidentified party smeared the magnificent bronze bas relief with some unidentified goo, in an apparent attempt to highlight its more militaristic elements. We would welcome any more recent information that readers might be able to offer.

spent their winter holidays with Kissinger and his wife, Nancy, at the beachfront villa of fashion designer Oscar de la Renta, who died in 2014, and his wife, Annette, in the Dominican Republic." Some folks might balk at staying with a dead host, but with Kissinger on the guest list, being finicky would be hypocritical.

And just last week, a string of ostentatious SUVs pulled up at Kissinger's lair, disgorging [\$\$\$! There he is again! Arrrgh — *The Ed.*] the presumptive Republican nominee.

Kissinger met for an hour with El Trumpster, which is hardly enough time to impart a lifetime of evil wisdom. He single-handedly wreaked about as much havoc as the Dulles brothers did together when they ran both the State Department and the CIA. Never mind Chile, Bangladesh, Argentina, and southern Africa; in Southeast Asia alone, Kissinger killed millions. Presumably the former Secretary of State, who is not a stupid man, realized that the

job was hopeless.

It is our policy whenever Dr. Strangelove Kissinger makes an appearance, to recap a certain incident in his uniquely malevolent career. Return with us now to the thrilling year of 1968, when LBJ declined to run for re-election and backed his Vice President, Hubert Humphrey.

Kissinger was purportedly working for President Lyndon Johnson, serving as a liaison to the Paris peace talks. He learned shortly before the election that a truce was imminent. If announced, it would have given Humphrey a boost, possibly winning him the White House.

In an act of treachery worthy of Machiavelli, Kissinger warned Nixon's gang that peace might be at hand. Nixon, through Anna Chennault, contacted the South Vietnamese ambassador and promised South Vietnamese President (and global heroin trader) Nguyen Van Thieu a better deal later if he'd walk away from the peace talks. As a result of this

little act of treason, the slaughter in Southeast Asia continued for years.

After Nixon won, Kissinger, the former obscure functionary, became Nation Security Advisor, then Secretary of State. He later leveraged those taxpayer-funded positions into a lucrative career as an influence peddler. Now he's a 92-year-old multi-millionaire with the blood of millions on his hands. That's OK, though. He's still highly desirable company — for politicians on either side.

Welcome to Congre\$\$

Ever wonder how members of Congre\$\$ manage to get so filthy rich? So have we. Even the FBI seems intermittently curious. It's now investigating Sen. Bob Corker [R-Tenn.], who has made a bundle trading shopping mall stock. Worth nearly \$20 million, Corker is influential, too. Former New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg recently announced that if Corker is the Vice Presidential nominee, he'll vote for

[\$\$\$%. We quit. — *The Ed.*]

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Yet Another Inconvenient Truth

Down on Main Street, the Sanders revolution is rapidly turning ugly as growing legions of supporters realize the Democratic leadership has no interest whatsoever in acting on their behalf. In fact, Chairman Wasserman-Schultz seems to believe if she ignores Bernie-the-Grumpy-Cat long enough, he'll simply skulk his way back to the Senate and take a well-deserved nap.

Contrary to her wish, the Grumpy Cat says he's in it for the distance and has no intention of going anywhere. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like Bill Clinton will be going away quietly anytime soon either, now that Hillary has announced her intent to put him in charge of managing the U.S. economy. With that gauntlet thrown and a fresh shot of testosterone injected into the mix, abandon any hope for courtly compromise at the Convention.

In fact, the image of Bill Clinton ramming through the TPP on his wife's signature simply reaffirms what the Sanders campaign stands for. Beyond the fact that America's middle class has been shafted royally by folks at the top, there's the inconvenient truth that Bill and Hillary Clinton share considerable responsibility for allowing it to happen. Perhaps that's why Sanders supporters view a vote for them as (once again) putting the foxes in charge of the hen house.

Somehow, Westchester's dynamic duo must find a way to

scale the high hurdle of their pro-Wall-Street history if they hope to convince we-the-people to get out the vote. They might begin by admitting to some serious mistakes, albeit some with unintended consequences. If they don't, the Trump campaign will happily do it for them with a far less flattering spin. They might also humbly pledge not to repeat those mistakes again. They might also lay out specific plans to right past wrongs and implement meaningful remedies on behalf of the American people. Finally, Hillary might consult an audiologist to find out why she isn't hearing what a huge segment of the Democratic constituency is trying to tell her.

In summary, it looks like the Clintons — along with the imperious Ms. Wasserman-Schultz — have a ton of work ahead of them if they hope to gain anything more than a grunt and grudging low-five from the party base. Should they fail to unify the party and motivate Sanders supporters, a far more severe "inconvenient truth" awaits them (and us) in November.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.
Rick:
Amen.
The Editor

The Trump-et Wails for Thee

To the Editor:
You are innocent but not safe from your government. You have done nothing wrong yet you are jailed. Your family is suffering greatly from a government-induced and continued persecution. The powers of government are not controlled by restrictions of law but dictated by ambition or raw self interest or cover up of incompetence.

A small fiefdom of agents can destroy your life and beliefs you held for years — that we are protected by oppressive actions, from any source, by our Constitution.

Fools, not for a minute. Like all oppressive governments around the world, the United States and all their paid agents, have two separate and unequal rules of law.

No matter how obvious and intentional the abuse, government is not accountable to us anymore and has not been for some time. Once the Courts resolved and legalized two sets of standards of law enforcement, one for government rulers and one for the public citizen, we fell right back into the age of kings.

The agents of government have an alternate extension of protection from wrong doing by the court, which it grants continuously, and is unequal, repressively dangerous, and barely ever breached peacefully in court by us civilians.

Whether it is a minor assault of bureaucratic petty interaction such that you must bite your lip with a snotty public official, or if you spend tens of thousands against a personal witch hunt no longer suppressed by the old and discarded checks and balances of our Constitution, the lesson is the same — they are the unaccountable agents and rulers and no longer are we free or protected from their personal proclivities or dictates.

The lesson is the same — we are once again cowering under an omnipotent umbrella and being forced either to cower in fear of ruin after unjust actions or be bankrupt by a never ending assault in their display of force and unhappiness that you would dare defy their power over you.

[Deleted: An additional 404 words saying the same thing. — The Ed.]

You can vote to take back power from these sovereign agents, for Constitutional equality, and freedom from these established and protected kings.

Jeff Frost
Alexandria, N.H.
Jeff:
Thank you for sending this email.

Mash Notes, HATE MAIL

We have to ask, though — how did you get internet access? Your tone makes it sound as if you are chained to a wall in a dungeon somewhere. Hold on, please, while we do a little Googling.

Thanks for waiting. We went online and found your "Speak Up!" interview with Ken Avarad, the credulous chronicler of all things right wing. Congratulations on looking so dapper and well-fed. We were worried, there.

It seems you got into some kind of dispute over a real estate transaction. It sounds like the other party was a jerk, but we haven't heard his side of the story. The Attorney General stepped in, and you don't care for the results.

Sorry, doesn't sound like a Constitutional crisis to us.

As a tip for possible future correspondence, we would ask you to be more specific. Simply denouncing bad behavior is ... a little vague. How's about naming some names, and stating exactly what laws were broken?

The Editor
~~~~~  
Judd Gregg's Revisionism  
To the Editor:

Congratulations to former Sen. Gregg for accomplishing the near impossible in his "Trump and Clinton are two sides of one coin" piece in May 22nd's Seacoast Sunday. In one article he managed to completely revise the history of the past eight years, created a false equivalency between Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton, and blames the victim for the rise of the likes of a Donald Trump.

He states that Presidents are given a "first 100 days" grace period, that "will not be bestowed upon either a President Hillary Clinton or President Donald Trump. Either one will face voluminous, vocal and aggressive opposition from the very start." He goes on to say that "this is

not a good thing, for them or the country." This sounds very much like what happened as soon as President Obama was elected. The Republicans and the Tea party immediately provided "voluminous, vocal and aggressive opposition" to President Obama even before he took the oath of office. On Inauguration Day, Republicans met to plan how they could prevent President Obama from succeeding and to prevent his reelection. I do not recall Sen. Gregg claiming that this was "not a good thing for him or the country."

To state that Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton somehow are "two sides of one coin" is the epitome of a false equivalency. Donald Trump has expressed his support for continuing the same Republican economic policies that have created the largest wealth disparity in the history of the nation. He supports tax policies that increase the wealth of the wealthiest Americans, he supports eliminating "Obamacare" while offering no alternative and does nothing to increase the stagnant wages of the middle class. His views are totally opposite of Hillary Clinton with regard to providing a level playing field, supporting education, providing child care and expanding health care. With regard to experience, temperament and dignity, they are not of the same currency.

Of course, according to Sen. Gregg, the blame for the rise of a Donald Trump, lies at the feet of President Obama. The fact that Republicans have succeeded in opposing everything to help the middle class over the past seven plus years is not considered to have anything to do with the rise of "Trumpism." They have opposed providing health care, increasing the minimum wage, oppose unions, weakened workplace safety and environmental

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**Murph's Fortnightly Quote**  
"I cannot and will not cut my conscience to fit this year's fashions."  
— Lillian Hellman (1905-1984) playwright,  
from a letter to the House Un-American  
Activities Committee, May 19, 1952

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# And Other Correspondence

regulations, fail to support equal pay for equal work, opposed job creation and infrastructure support legislation and remain committed to lowering taxes on the wealthy while cutting the social safety net for the middle class, and support tax havens for the wealthy and corporation who ship jobs abroad. These are the Republican policies that are responsible for the decline of the middle class and the creation of a society “of a few winners and everyone else,” not President Obama.

The Republican Party totally owns Donald Trump and his rise to power. He is the logical outgrowth of the Tea Party and all the hate and obstruction by Republicans designed to destroy President Obama. Any attempt to deflect this reality from its true origins is a total distortion of reality.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.  
*Rich:*  
*It's a bit off-topic, but do you have any idea why Senator Gregg always looks as if he's been sucking on a per-simmon?*

The Editor

~~~~~

To Our Superdelegates

To the Editor:

An open letter to New Hampshire's Superdelegates to the upcoming Democratic National Convention:

I have been examining the pledged delegate math, based on all the Democratic nominating contests held thus far, and have determined if one does not include potential Superdelegate votes, which is frankly premature to be doing, then it is perfectly feasible that the upcoming Democratic convention in Philadelphia will be a contested convention as neither of the two remaining Democratic candidates, given the results of the previous 40+ con-

tests, stands a realistic chance of obtaining the 2,382 delegates required to clinch the nomination.

Currently, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, with 1,645 pledged delegates, leads Senator Bernie Sanders, who has accumulated 1,318 (not nearly the insurmountable lead we're being led to believe), which means that either of the candidates would require Superdelegates to put them over the top at the convention. We're, furthermore, being told about Hillary's dramatic lead in the Superdelegate count, currently 520-39; however, there are major issues with this claim as the count is not typically representational of the winner of the respective states and does not reflect the will of the majority of voters in many cases. Therefore, it will be incumbent at the convention for Superdelegates to put people and democracy over the Democratic Party by casting their vote in line with the wishes of the people in states, where either candidate won a landslide victory.

New Hampshire, my state, is one such place where this concept applies. On February 9, 2016, following nine long months of meticulous vetting of all the candidates and their positions, New Hampshire Democratic voters went to the polls in an open New Hampshire Primary, and overwhelmingly (60 percent of the vote) told the state and its eight Superdelegates that we have had more than enough of the status quo and establishment politics & economics and desire Bernie, who, incidentally polls much better against Trump than his opponent, to be the nation's next President.

I humbly request that you, my state's Superdelegates please take my thoughts into consideration when you cast your critical vote.

Updated message to New Hampshire's Democratic Party Superdele-

gates:

A lot has transpired since I wrote to you recently!

Donald Trump has clinched the Republican Party's nomination while thankfully destroying the GOP and giving away all the secrets of the party and Right Wing Conservative Media. His nomination has created the ideal opportunity for the Democratic Party to retain the Oval Office and possibly recapture both chambers of Congress so we can finally achieve the well-needed progressive agenda for America.

Meanwhile, Senator Bernie Sanders, during the interim, easily captured two more Democratic Presidential nominating contests, Indiana and West Virginia, and will reportedly do very well in the next two contests to be held in Kentucky and Oregon. He has now won 19 nominating contests and over 45 percent of the available pledged delegates which means chances are stronger than ever that neither of the two Democratic Party candidates will secure enough pledged delegates to obtain the nomination; hence, we can expect you and your counterparts from the other states to be required to cast your votes in a contested convention!

In my previous letter I appealed to you to respect the wishes of the Democratic voters of New Hampshire, who overwhelmingly favored Senator Sanders over his opponent. I have had several conversations, with normally like-minded friends, in response to the proposal in my letter and they have lectured me on the fact that reflecting the will of the people is not the reason that the Superdelegate concept was established and that you are required primarily to ensure that we send the most electable Democratic nominee to the General Election.

In either case, I feel compelled to respectfully inform the Superdelegates who represent me that Senator Bernie Sanders, who has

overcome almost insurmountable odds to have come this far, is considered, by far, according to all reputable national polls, taken among large groups of Democratic and Independent voters (many millions who were excluded from voting in closed Democratic Primaries), the most favorable, trustworthy and electable candidate who can defeat Trump (who must not be allowed anywhere near the nuclear codes!) in a landslide!

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

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## Capability or Incoherence?

To the Editor:

My Republican friends and family are in a quandary. They find Donald Trump's narcissism, racism, and misogyny abhorrent. They are concerned about his apparent ignorance of the complexity of international affairs and trade agreements and worry about him destabilizing the Western world and damaging the global economy. They aren't even sure if he is conservative enough.

And yet they cannot imagine voting for Hillary Clinton. Unfortunately, Hillary has gotten a bad rap by conservative media. Republicans have a history of pinning imagined crimes on Clinton, none of which have proven to be true — reference multiple Benghazi “investigations” that have come up empty. According to bipartisan fact checkers such as Politifact, she is one of the most honest and trustworthy of the candidates, while more than 75 percent of Trump's statements are False, Mostly False, or Pants-on-Fire.

Donald Trump's ideas lack coherence and are dangerously out of touch with reality. He is not qualified to be President of the United States. Most of us agree that Washington is dysfunctional and that change is needed. But be afraid of his kind of unpredictable change, be very afraid!

Hillary Clinton is probably the



most qualified candidate ever to run for President. She is knowledgeable, hard working and has a track record of public service. Whether they like her politics or not, conscientious voters will put the country first and vote for the person who is capable of doing the job of governing the country.

Cynthia Muse  
Rye, N.H.

~~~~~

Vote on Merrick Garland

To the Editor:

As I write this letter, 67 days have elapsed since the nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court. During this time, U.S. Senate Republicans, aided and abetted by Sen. Kelly Ayotte, have blocked any action on Garland's nomination. In the history of our republic, at least 116 Supreme Court nominees have been confirmed or rejected by the Senate in 67 days.

This failure by Senate Republicans, including Ayotte, to hold hearings and vote Merrick Garland up or down has left the Court with only eight justices, opening the possibility of a four to four split vote which would leave the legal question under consideration unanswered.

On May 16, the eight member Court issued a statement regarding *Zubik v. Burwell*, a case which dealt with the question of whether or not non-profit religious institutions should be re-

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Time

by William Marvel

Time is all we have, yet there is never enough to go around. We blame clocks for robbing us of it, but it seems to pass even without the ticking, the sweep of the second hand, or the flickering of the digital numerals. Or are we the ones who are traveling, rather than time itself? Perhaps time is really only standing still as we fly past, much as the clouds that seem to drift overhead are really stationary, while our troubled orb spins imperceptibly beneath them?

People fetched out of the wilderness after decades of isolation often betray odd reactions to time. If they lack Robinson Crusoe's habit of keeping a calendar, and lose track of the day and then the month, it's only a short step to forgetting what year it is. With only fading memories and no watershed moments, they come to know an eternal present that must have its own appeal. Stub-

born Japanese soldiers coaxed out of remote Pacific islands a quarter of a century after VJ Day seemed much less abused by the years than their contemporaries at home.

Around 1981 an illiterate Oklahoma native came out of the Ozarks after having been hiding in the hills since 1943, when military police visited his parents, alerting him that his absquatulation from the Army amounted to the capital crime of desertion. Through the advent of jets, television, and the space age he lived in makeshift shelters, finding abandoned barns or caves in the winter. With supplies left by his father he hunted and fished for food, and perhaps his quest for mere survival consumed enough time that it did not weigh heavily on his hands. What can a man do with leisure, after all, if he can't read and has no access to televised sports? Like a bear, he may have known no other time than "now." When he reemerged in society, after being assured he would not

be prosecuted, he had no idea of the year and was surprised to learn that he was 58.

"I knew I was old," I remember that gap-toothed hillbilly saying in an interview, "but I didn't know I was that old." The realization seemed to make him feel downright decrepit, although he must have been pretty rugged to survive the life he had been living until that point. Had no one calculated the additional years for him, he might have gone on the rest of his days like my old cat, whose daily diary entries all would have been dated "Today." He would simply have kept doing what he always did, showing all the vigor and agility of youth until the day he no longer could, and then he would have stopped eating and drinking. Time would not have crept up on him and overcome him, as it seems to do to most people; he would simply

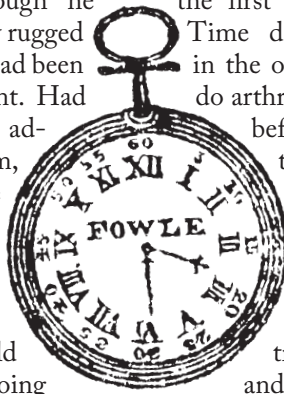
have moved on from one measure of time to another, as Emily Dickinson would have it for us.

It isn't that difficult to understand the surprise and dismay of that Ozark hermit as he learned what his real age was. The same thing often happens to me in the first moments of waking. Time disappears somewhere in the oblivion of sleep — as do arthritic aches — and even before my eyelids flutter open I frequently think of myself as much younger than I actually am. Approaching 30 may have been my most traumatic watershed, and as I awaken I sometimes feel a sharp pang to realize that I've already passed that age. Then I remember I'm beyond 40, too, and the years start adding up like a late-night bar tab.

Unlike my wife, who always has a full schedule, I also forget about time during the day. If not inter-

rupted I do the same work seven days a week, and I have many fewer people wanting something from me than she does, so most of the time I can't remember what day it is, either. Unless mid-morning comes and she doesn't start preparing to go to work, I usually can't even distinguish a Saturday or Sunday, but she has so many weekend obligations that I'm often fooled then, too. It drives her crazy when I ask her what day it is, especially as her schedule grows more hectic, so I try to avoid asking that at all now. She's my main contact with the outside world, however, and I've missed appointments because I thought Thursday was Tuesday.

I have a new enough computer now that I could check the date on that, if I could just remember to do it. I never got in the habit before because my old laptop always told me it was Friday — Friday, January 1, 1904. Come to think of it, that might be good enough.



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

quired to provide for their female employees health insurance which includes contraception. Instead of making a clear-cut ruling one way or the other, the high court vacated several cases dealing with the matter, sending them back to lower courts for more proceedings.

The New York Times wrote in an editorial on May 16th, "This is the second time since Justice Antonin Scalia's death in February that the court has failed to reach a decision in a high-profile case. In March, the court split 4 to 4 in a labor case involving the long-standing right of public-sector unions, which represent millions of American workers, to charge

collective bargaining fees to non-members."

Ironically, in both instances, the failure of the eight-member Supreme Court to act has worked to the detriment of Republicans who are blocking consideration of Merrick Garland's nomination.

The Times concludes in its editorial, "Every day that passes without a ninth justice undermines the Supreme Court's ability to function and leaves millions of Americans waiting for justice or clarity as major legal questions are unresolved."

I urge Sen. Ayotte and her Senate Republican colleagues to abandon their obstructionist tac-

tics and bring Merrick Garland's nomination to and up-or-down vote. The American people and our system of justice deserve no less.

Gary Patton
Hampton, N.H.

~*~

Ayotte and the Shipyard

To the Editor:

As reported in the Portsmouth Herald, Sen. Kelly Ayotte visited the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) last week to denounce any talk of activating the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC). While most of her rhetoric was about national defense, the real

motivation for her opposition to the BRAC is purely political. The PNSY employees thousands of civilian workers, who earn good pay and benefits, and continuously perform outstanding work on time and below budget. These are excellent government jobs that help support economically the entire Seacoast region and defend the nation.

What is so contradictory and hypocritical in Sen. Ayotte's position regarding the PNSY is her expressed position on job creation in America. Sen. Ayotte has said, "It is not the government that is going to create jobs in this country." When Sen. Ayotte visits the

PNSY does she tell the workers there that "it is not the government that is going to created jobs in this country?" Does Sen. Ayotte understand that the jobs at the PNSY are paid by the government from tax revenues collected by the government from the people? This also the same Sen. Ayotte who wants to slash government spending and cut taxes even more, because the government does not create jobs, only the rich job creators can.

Yes, Senator, the government does create jobs both in and out of the Defense Department. These jobs include Homeland Security, border patrol, health care, crimi-

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A News Media Betrayal of Journalism

by Jim Hightower

Hard experience teaches that biotech, chemical, and other agribusiness giants have no sense of respect for Mother Nature. But Rick Friday has learned that they have no sense of humor, either. Friday, a lifelong Iowa farmer, also happens to be a talented, self-taught cartoonist. For 21 years, he has supplemented his cattle-raising income with a dab of money

he gets paid for drawing cartoons each week in an Iowa publication named Farm News. Friday really enjoyed this side job — until April 30. The day before, the News had published his drawing of two hard-hit farmers chatting at a fence about the low prices they were getting for their products. “I wish there were more profits in farming,” mused one. “There is,” exclaimed the other. “In year

2015, the CEOs of Monsanto, Dupont, Pioneer, and John Deere combined made more money than 2,129 Iowa farmers.” It wasn’t exactly a harsh comment but — WHAP! — the next morning, Rick was slapped with an email from a Farm News editor announcing that, at the direction of the publisher, Friday was immediately being terminated. The drawing “had caused a storm here,” the editor wrote, adding

that one of the named corporate giants had pulled its advertising. “In the eyes of some,” the email confided, “big agriculture cannot be criticized or poked fun at.” And yet, Big Ag wonders why it is so loathed across America’s farm country! The petulant corporate bully that mugged Rick Friday won’t identify itself — but why won’t Farm News? Does its publisher and owners feel no journalistic re-

sponsibility to report actual news — in this case, news that farmers really could use? The publication’s pusillanimous sacrifice of its longtime cartoonist is a shameful betrayal of both its farmer readership and the ethics of journalism. They should rename it the Agribusiness Shill. Copyright 2016 by Jim Hightower & Associates. Contact Laura Ehrlich (laura@jimhightower.com).

nal justice, environmental protection, foreign service, intelligence, airline safety, and many other jobs that protect and maintain our nation. In the absence of these jobs we would not have a nation, or enjoy the quality of life we currently have. The jobs at the PNSY are important and need to be saved, but so do many other vital jobs that are created by government. Once again, Sen. Ayotte is speaking out of both sides of her mouth. From one side comes the we need to save the PNSY government jobs, and from the other, the government cannot create jobs. Which is it Senator? You can’t have it both ways. Rich DiPentima Portsmouth, N.H.

Let’s Remember It As It Was To the Editor: Thanks for printing that letter on the Vietnam Memorial that came from Doug Rawlings. Curtis and I both wrote letters in memory of men we knew who died in Vietnam that we had gone to high school with. Curtis found out by researching his friend’s name that his friend had given his life trying to save seven fellow Marines who tragically died with him. It gave us both goose bumps to read that about this event. Curtis’s friend was a true hero even though the difficult circumstances made it impossible for him to achieve his goal of saving the other men’s lives. Anyone who is interested can find friends and family and leave comments also at vvmf.org/Wall-

of-Faces. This is where we got more information on our classmates and found out how they were killed. [In a personal response to the official 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War, now being run by the Pentagon, Doug Rawlings, a member of Veterans For Peace living in Chesterville, Maine, delivered 151 letters and 32 postcards to the foot of The Wall on Memorial Day in 2015. Earlier this year we published a letter from Doug, inviting readers to participate. Their letters will be placed at the foot of The Wall at 10:30 a.m., Memorial Day, May 30th. — The Ed.] Jane Hoffman Dallas, Texas Jane and Curtis: Thanks for writing. We’re glad you found that letter useful. We’ll take this opportunity to say “Hi” to you both, on behalf of the Subscription Fulfillment Department, which misses you. If we neglected to do so, they would chastise us severely. The Editor

Beware the Massive Solar Flares To the Editor: A series of massive solar flares, extending over a period of several months to years, are predicted to start hitting the earth in 2016, according to a prediction recently broadcast on national radio. Due to the severity and number of flares, it is expected that the majority of the electrical grid will collapse globally for an extended period of time, resulting in grocery stores closing, gasoline pumps not

working, and unsafe drinking water (for a few examples). Massive social unrest and billions of deaths around the world would then follow. In short, the end of the world as we know it. Furthermore, it is predicted that martial law will be declared in the U.S., possibly resulting in no Presidential election taking place this November. Under a declaration of martial law, Constitutional liberties are legally suspended and civilians are no longer entitled to their civil rights. It would allow the U.S. government, or a tyrannical politician, to simply ignore the U.S. Constitution and impose an agenda through the coercive use of military force. This was predicted by Edward A. Dames, retired U.S. Army Major, decorated military intelligence officer, original member of the U.S. Army prototype remote viewing training program, and former training and operations officer for the Defense Intelligence Agency’s psychic intelligence (PSIINT) collection unit. His prediction could easily be dismissed as quackery, were it not for his impressive track record of accurate predictions, including (but not limited to) the ongoing Fukushima nuclear disaster. I don’t doubt the reality of the coming catastrophe. I take it seriously. But don’t take my word for it — investigate for yourself before judging. Check out TheKillsbot.com. Contempt prior to investigation leads to dismissiveness and perpetuates ignorance. Alex J. Boros

Rochester, N.H. Alex: Thank you for writing and providing us with these updated details on the impending end of the world as we know it. We’re going to refrain from hitting the panic button, though, because 210 Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, Okla., is still standing. We know, we just checked The Google. It’s huge, shiny, and perfectly vertical. Major Dames said it was going to be destroyed in 2011 — and he hinted the gummint was behind the dastardly plot! We know because TruthIsTreason.net, which is at least as authoritative as Dames’ site, quoted him saying, “for those of us who live in the U.S., [it] is gonna be about economic survival ... from 2012 to 2013, we’re talking physical survival.” Actually, the world as we knew it has already ended. A Republican is running for President as a Democrat, a New Deal Democrat is also running for the Democratic nomination, but as a Democratic Socialist, and a deranged orangutan in a man suit is running as a Republican. The Republican Party works for the top one percent, while the Democratic Party works for the next nine percent. The rest of us are lucky if we can find work at all, but we’re the only ones paying taxes. Roads and bridges are crumbling, wrecking automobile suspensions from coast to coast. If your kid wants a college education, that’ll cost as much as a house. Once they graduate, they can work at McDonalds. They’d better pay those loans off quick, though —

automation’s coming! If solar storms are going to kill us, there’s probably not much we can do. That orangutan, though — that’s another matter. Priorities, man. The Editor Another Mash Note — Finally! To the Editor: I am writing this note of appreciation with my subscription renewal and donation. We cowboys and girls continue to read your newspaper to laugh the trail dust from our boots and brains. I especially love the mash notes, hate mail, and other correspondence. As an American I can relate to the selective memories that “make” us great. Each editorial and Alleged News article gives breakfast a new meaning for (in) digestion and I wouldn’t have it any other way. In my current events class I deliver insight to guest speakers that have asked me time and again, “where do I get my insightful information?” And oh, how delightful to cite, “from the Nation’s Oldest Newspaper™.” I feel as if I hold history in my hands, when Thomas Paine wrote in Number IV (selections), Philadelphia, Sept. 12, 1777, “Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it.” I look kindly upon you, sir, for you do us all such a great service with The New Hampshire Gazette. With sincere gratitude, Nicole Powers Spring, Texas

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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, May 29	Monday, May 30	Tuesday, May 31	Wednesday, June 1	Thursday, June 2	Friday, June 3	Saturday, June 4
2011—In Orange County, Calif., Paramedic Chris Trokey saves Dr. Michael Shannon from a burning SUV. Shannon, a pediatrician, had saved Trokey’s life after his premature birth 26 years earlier. 2008—Sen. (and candidate) John McCain [R-Ariz.] says “Mosul is quiet” on a day when 30 die there. 2002—FBI head Robert Mueller admits his outfit might have been able to prevent 9/11. 2001—The Bush twins, charged with underage boozing, plead <i>nolo</i>. 1992—In Gibsonton, Fla., “Lobster Boy” Grady Stiles Jr. is murdered by a hit man hired by his family. 1987—Michael Jackson attempts to buy the Elephant Man’s bones. 1968—Charles deGaulle flees from Paris to Germany, where he consults with French generals about bringing troops back home to restore order. 1953—Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary top Everest. 1932—World War One “Bonus Marchers” begin arriving in Washington, D.C. 1922—The Supreme Court rules that baseball is not a business and is therefore exempt from anti-trust laws. 1912—For dancing the “Turkey Trot” on their lunch break, 15 young women are fired by the Curtis Publishing Company. 1856—Abraham Lincoln delivers his “Lost Speech” — said to be his best ever — in Bloomington, Ind. 5:108:1011:3011:58	2007—Dale Rippy, a 62 year-old Florida resident, is attacked by a rabid 25-pound bobcat. Rippy, a ’Nam vet, strangles the cat with his bare hands. 1979—A Downeast Airlines plane with 18 aboard crashes on approach to the Rockland, Me. airport; one survives. A similar crash in ’71 killed two. 1971—Hundreds of Vietnam veterans are arrested during an anti-war protest on Lexington Green. 1962—Missionary Archie E. Mitchell, sole survivor of a Bly, Ore. picnic devastated by a Japanese fire balloon, is captured, along with two others, by the Viet Cong. He’s never seen again. 1961—Caribbean despot Rafael Trujillo, aka <i>El Jefe</i>, succumbs to a bad case of CIA-supplied M-1 carbines. 1937—Police attack striking workers at Republic Steel in Chicago. Ten are shot dead, 55 are hospitalized, and 30 more are wounded. 1909—A National Conference on the Negro leads to the NAACP. 1883—Six days after the Brooklyn Bridge is opened, a panic leads to 12 people being trampled to death. 1806—Future President Andy Jackson kills a man in a duel. 1783—America’s 1st daily, <i>The Pennsylvania Evening Post</i>, begins; a “sorr-y-looking, poverty-stricken sheet,” it’s published by a “catchpenny Tory.” 1741—New York upholds slavery by burning 13 black men at the stake and hanging 21 men and women, black and white, who planned a slave revolt. 6:116:5012:27	2007—Gov. John Lynch signs New Hampshire’s “civil unions for gay couples” bill. 2005—Ex-FBI official Mark Felt admits he is “Deep Throat.” 1971—For the first time, the U.S. celebrates Memorial Day on a day other than May 30. 1958—Number of U.S. military and economic advisors on duty in Vietnam rises to 1,347. 1957—The French quit training Vietnamese troops. The U.S. assumes complete advisory role. 1943—In downtown L.A., a fighting starts between white sailors and young Latinos: the Zoot Suit Riots are on. 1942—The mistrial of Sacco and Vanzetti begins. 1917—The Battle of Jutland begins: history’s only major engagement of two fleets of battleships. Results are inconclusive, except for the 8,645 dead. 1889—A shoddy dam belonging to Andrew Carnegie, Andrew Mellon, and friends at the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club collapses upstream of Johnstown, PA. The resulting flood kills 2,200, but the owners are never successfully prosecuted. 7:147:4811:0011:25	2005—Paul Wolfowitz, his incompetence well-proven at the Pentagon, is put in charge of the World Bank. 2003—The Bush administration cans its plans for a large Iraqi assembly in favor of a smaller, easier to manipulate advisory council. 2002—George W.[MD] Bush announces at West Point that we’ll attack pre-emptively if we get nervous. 2001—Members of the Nepalese Royal Family are massacred in their Katmandu palace. Prince Dipendra, the suspected perpetrator, is proclaimed King but dies three days later. 1981—In Seattle, two longshoremen are assassinated on orders of the Marcos regime. 1967—Vietnam Veterans Against the War is founded. 1954—The AEC pulls the security clearance of Manhattan Project boss J. Robert Oppenheimer. 1926—Norma Jeane Mortenson, aka Marilyn Monroe, is born in a Los Angeles charity ward. 1923—Maine Governor Percival P. Baxter orders state flags lowered to half-staff to honor the death of his dog, Garry. 1921—Greenwood, Tulsa, Okla.’s prosperous black neighborhood, is destroyed by arson as hundreds of blacks are murdered. 1918—Advised by a retreating French officer at Belleau Woods to turn back, U.S.M.C. Capt. Lloyd Williams replies, “Retreat? Hell, we just got here.” 8:168:452:012:22	2003—The FCC further eases the rules against media monopoly, just to be fair to huge corporations. 2002—The CIA admits to Congress—in a classified document, to avoid undue alarm—it had tracked one 9/11 hijacker months earlier than it had previously admitted. 1999—The <i>Virginian-Pilot</i> reports that evangelist Pat Robertson has had “extensive dealings” with Liberian war criminal Charles Taylor. 1989—Stones guitarist Bill Wyman, 52, marries Mandy Smith, 19. 1983—As a result of a toilet fire aboard an Air Canada DC-9, 23 people die in Cincinnati, including singer Stan Rogers. 1972—Alfred W. McCoy testifies before Congress that top South Vietnamese officials, the CIA, and the Mafia are all in the heroin business. 1964—The Rolling Stones begin their first U.S. tour with a gig in Lynn, Mass. On the same bill: Bobby Goldsboro & Bobby Vee. 1943—The U.S. Navy determines that John Lewis “Jack” Kerouac, 21, is too “schizoid” to serve. 1919—Anarchists set off bombs in eight cities. In Washington, D.C., the home of Attorney General Mitchell Palmer is nearly destroyed; parts of the bomber’s body land across the street on FDR’s stoop. 1863—Black Union soldiers guided by Harriet Tubman raid Combahee Ferry, S.C. and free 750 slaves. 9:179:403:013:18	2002—Hosni Mubarak announces that Egypt warned the U.S., on or about 9/4/01, that al-Qaeda was about to strike the U.S. 1980—A failed 46-cent computer chip convinces the Pentagon that a Soviet attack on the U.S. is about to begin. 1974—Brown & Williamson Tobacco tests a cigarette blended to smell like pot. 1969—In the South China Sea, a navigational mistake takes the destroyer <i>U.S.S. Evans</i> under the bow of the carrier <i>HMAS Melbourne</i>. The forward quarter of the <i>Evans</i> sinks along with 73 of her crew. 1968—Radical lesbian Valerie Solanas plugs Andy Warhol. 1964—Longtime correspondents Groucho Marx and T.S. Eliot finally meet for dinner. 1961—Henry R. Marshall, an Agriculture Department official investigating LBJ’s friend Billy Sol Estes, is found dead with five slugs in him from a bolt-action .22-calibre rifle. The death is ruled a suicide. 1943—Fifty sailors attack Hispanics in L.A.; the “Zoot Suit Riots” escalate. 1851—The New York Knickerbockers introduce the first baseball uniforms: white shirts, long blue trousers, and straw hats. 1793—Charles Pierce establishes the <i>Oracle of the Day</i>, later the <i>Portsmouth Journal</i>. 10:1510:333:584:12	2006—A Ukranian man enters the lion cage at the Kiev zoo, saying “God will save me, if he exists.” Apparently he does not. 2004—In Granby, Colo., Marvin Heemeyer destroys the Town Hall, the mayor’s home, and 11 other buildings with his home-made armored bulldozer because “God ... asked [him] to do it.” 2003—To prove they’re not soft on corporate crime, federal prosecutors pick on Martha Stewart. 1989—The Chinese Army kills thousands at Tiananmen Square. 1974—Cleveland forfeits a home game to the Rangers when ten-cent beer night goes awry. 1966—James Meredith takes a bullet for voter registration. 1963—Allen Ginsberg visits Saigon to assess the political situation. 1962—The first U.S. attempt to test a nuke at high altitude fails when a Thor rocket malfunctions and is blown up minutes after liftoff over the South Pacific. 1944—For the first time a submarine—<i>U505</i>—is captured and boarded on the high seas. 1940—The last of 338,000 Allied troops are evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk. 1939—The <i>St. Louis</i>, carrying 915 Jewish refugees, is turned away from Florida. Approximately 254 of them later die in Hitler’s concentration camps. 4:535:0511:1011:25
Sunday, June 5	Monday, June 6	Tuesday, June 7	Wednesday, June 8	Thursday, June 9	Friday, June 10	Saturday, June 11
2003—Two top <i>New York Times</i> editors resign in disgrace. Oddly, many more do not. 1989—A lone Chinese man temporarily stops a line of tanks in Tiananmen Square. 1976—In Idaho, the federal Teton Dam fails, killing 11 and costing nearly \$1B. 1969—Taken three weeks earlier, at a cost of 72 American lives and 372 Purple Hearts, Ap Bia Mountain, aka Hamburger Hill, is abandoned. 1968—Robert Kennedy is fatally shot in Los Angeles. An LAPD investigation convinces the gullible that Sirhan Sirhan did it. 1967—Israel attacks Egypt and Syria, starting the Six Day War. 1965—The State Department admits that U.S. troops are engaged in combat in Vietnam. 1963—Britain’s Sec. of War John Profumo resigns after it’s revealed he and a Soviet naval officer had, at different times, shared the favors of the same prostitute. 1917—Draft registration begins in the U.S. 1885—The Know-Nothing Party holds its first convention. 1878—José Doroteo Arango Arám-bula, better known as “Pancho Villa,” is born in Durango. 1862—Following the principal that might is right, France gains sovereignty over three Vietnamese provinces under the Treaty of Saigon. 12:035:465:57	2002—Donald Rumsfeld tells the unknowing that unknown unknowns are “things we do not know we don’t know.” He should know. 2001—Florida man Vance Flosen-zier drags a seven-foot shark from shallow water; paramedics drag his nephew Jesse Arbogast’s arm from its mouth; doctors successfully re-attach the arm. 1989—Nuclear weapon manufacturing ends at Rocky Flats, Colo. when FBI and EPA agents raid the joint. 1989—Greenpeace reports there are 50 nuclear weapons and nine reactors on the ocean floor. 1989—Californians vote to shut down the Rancho Seco nuke plant. 1988—At a food irradiation plant in Georgia, “unbreakable” cesium capsules break, nuking ten workers. 1980—Nuke-armed B-52s go on alert for the 2nd time in three days after a computer glitch signals a Soviet attack on the U.S. 1975—Governor Mel Thomson calls for the N.H. National Guard to be armed with nuclear weapons. 1970—Generals gathered at Charleston Air Force Base to observe the first operational C-5A landing see a wheel fall off after a tire blows out. 1944—GIs experience an unusually long day in Normandy. 1933—The first drive-in movie theatre opens, in Camden, N.J. 1930—William Beebe and Otis Barton go 803 feet below the ocean’s surface in a bathysphere. 12:1612:556:386:49	1997—Activists are arrested for passing out the Bill of Rights outside the pro-nuclear Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos. 1969—In Vietnam, Marine PFC Dan Bullock, 15, becomes the youngest American soldier to die in combat since the First World War. 1960—An A-bomb is incinerated in an anti-aircraft missile fire 20 miles from Trenton, N.J. 1943—In L.A., 5,000 soldiers, sailors, and civilians strip and beat zoot-suited Hispanics. 1924—George Mallory disappears near the summit of Mt. Everest. 1920—KKK Imperial Wizard William J. Simmons hires two PR experts: membership explodes. 1917—Ten thousand Germans and the town of Messines are destroyed as British engineers detonate 19 huge mines whose explosion can be heard in Dublin. 1915—Alfred Muhler falls 8,000 feet from a damaged Zeppelin, crashes through the roof of a Belgian convent, and lives. 1862—Under orders from N.H.-born Gen. Benjamin “The Beast” Butler, disabled Mexican War vet Wm. B. Mumford is hanged in New Orleans for desecrating the U.S. flag. 1692—Port Royal, Jamaica—“the wickedest city in the world”—is destroyed by an earthquake and subsequent tsunami. Thousands of whores and pirates perish. 1:071:477:297:40	2003—Condoleeza Rice admits Pres. George W.[MD] Bush’s State of the Union claim that Saddam tried to buy uranium from Niger was “wrong.” 1998—General Sani Abacha, 54, <i>de facto</i> President of Nigeria, dies in the company of two prostitutes. 1971—Being interviewed on tape for “The Dick Cavett Show,” health expert J.I. Rodale says “I never felt better in my life!” Minutes later he’s dead of a heart attack. 1967—Israeli planes and boats attack the unarmed spy ship <i>U.S.S. Liberty</i> with rockets, machine guns, and napalm. Thirty-four sailors are killed and 171 wounded. 1966—At NYU, 270 walk out on Robert Strange McNamara’s commencement speech. 1959—John Penton leaves New York City for Los Angeles on a BMW R69S motorcycle. He arrives there 52 hours later. 1956—Technical Sergeant Richard B. Fitzgibbon, Jr. becomes the first American serviceman to die in the Vietnam War. He’s murdered by a fellow American airman. 1952—“I would never send troops [to Vietnam],” says Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower. 1949—The FBI calls Helen Keller a Commie. 1944—FDR signs the GI Bill. The president of the U. of Chicago warns that “colleges would become educational hobo jungles.” 1:582:398:208:32	1989—Ronald Reagan’s Interior Secretary James Watt admits to a House committee that he was paid \$400,000 for making a few phone calls on a topic about which he knew nothing. 1978—The Mormon Church drops its policy of excluding black men from the priesthood. 1963—Under orders from Winona, Miss. cops, jail inmates beat civil rights pioneer Fannie Lou Hamer, 45, nearly to death. 1958—Atop an armored car in Cyprus, British writer Auberon Waugh shakes the barrel of a malfunctioning machine gun, accidentally shooting himself in the chest several times. 1958—Jerry Lee Lewis takes out a full page ad in <i>Billboard</i> to explain his 2nd divorce and 3rd marriage, this one to his 14-year-old-cousin Myra. 1954—Joseph Welch asks Joseph McCarthy, “Have you no sense of decency, sir?” 1953—In Worcester, Mass., a tornado kills 94 and injures 1,306. 1946—Manager Mel Ott is ejected from both games of a double header. 1946—Ted Williams hits a ball that lands in the 37th row of Fenway’s bleachers, over 500 feet away. 1893—As Edwin Booth, John Wilkes’ brother, is being buried in Boston, the floors collapse at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C., killing 22 people. 1909—Alice Huyler Ramsay departs New York for San Francisco in a Maxwell automobile. 2:503:329:119:26	1990—British Airways Capt. Tim Lancaster is sucked half-way out of Flight 5390 when his windshield blows out over Oxfordshire. The plane lands safely. Lancaster recovers and later resumes flying. 1988—A bicycle messenger is denied entrance to the Justice Department because he’s wearing a T-shirt that says, “Experts agree: Meese is a pig.” 1975—Rockefeller Commission says the CIA’s Operation CHAOS spied on 300,000 Americans and infiltrated political movements. 1964—The U.S. Senate votes to end the filibuster of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. 1958—A House subcommittee hears that Boston industrialist Bernard Goldfine gave Ike’s Chief of Staff (and ex-N.H. Governor) Sherman Adams a vicuña coat in exchange for favors from the SEC. 1944—Pitching in the ninth for the Cincinnati Reds, Joe Nuxhall gives up five runs. He’s 15. 1940—Black nationalist Marcus Garvey dies of a stroke after reading a mistaken obituary of himself in the <i>Chicago Defender</i>. 1871—U.S. Marines avenge the 1866 loss of the <i>U.S.S. General Sherman</i> by taking three Korean forts. Three months later they withdraw. 1772—Rhode Islanders burn the British revenue cutter <i>Gaspé</i>. 1692—Bridget Bishop is hanged for witchcraft in Salem, Mass. 3:444:2710:0310:23	1995—In Claremont, N.H., Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich shake hands and pledge to reform lobbying and campaign financing. Yeah, right. 1991—Mount Pinatubo erupts, becoming the first act of nature to close a U.S. military base. 1984—The Supreme Court says illegally obtained evidence is OK if prosecutors can prove that it would have been discovered legally. 1981—Issei Sagawa, a Japanese student at the Sorbonne, kills fellow student Renée Hartevelt and eats parts of her body. Found too insane for trial by French authorities, he is deported to Japan for institutionalization. Fifteen months later he is allowed to go free. 1971—The nineteen-month Native American occupation of Alcatraz Island ends. 1963—Thich Quang Duc immolates himself in front of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. 1963—George Wallace stands in the schoolhouse door to prevent desegregation in Alabama. 1962—Frank Morris, John Anglin, and John’s brother Clarence escape from Alcatraz but are presumed drowned. 1854—The First San Francisco Vigilance Committee tries, convicts, and hangs John Jenks; elapsed time, four hours. 1837—Thousands of nativists brawl with Irishmen in Boston’s Broad Street riot. 4:405:2310:5611:22

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