

The New Hampshire Gazette

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PO Box 756, Portsmouth, NH 03802 • editors@nhgazette.com • www.nhgazette.com

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The Fortnightly Rant

Taxation With Misrepresentation

Republicans recently took a whack at health care reform. It went about as one might expect, considering their opinion of governing. Nothing changed; but it was entertaining, watching all those pompous men in nice suits walking the halls of Congress and stepping on rakes.

Up until a few days ago, the same crew had been talking about tackling our tax system. The AP reported Monday, though, that the President has “scrapped the tax plan he campaigned on and is going back to the drawing board in a search for Republican consensus behind legislation to overhaul the U.S. tax system.”

First with health care, now with taxes: after years of promises, Republicans have suddenly gone shy — gun shy, you might say. Whatever they propose seems to provoke an angry response, and despite their bold talk, they seem to have little appetite for being yelled at by enraged constituents.

The root problem seems to be that Republicans have only ever had one idea: cut taxes for the rich. That was supposed to fix health care, then it was supposed to fix the tax system. If you asked, they'd probably tell you that yes, tax breaks for the rich will relieve the heartbreak of psoriasis, too.

If that sounds far-fetched, try this proposal, being circulated by “a GOP lobbyist with close ties to the Trump administration,” according to the AP: eliminate the 12.4 percent payroll tax, cut corporate tax rates, and replace them with a value-added tax.

“This approach would give a worker earning \$60,000 a year an additional \$3,720 in take-home pay, a possible win that lawmakers could highlight back in their districts even though it would involve changing the funding

mechanism for Social Security, according to the lobbyist, who asked for anonymity to discuss the proposal without disrupting early negotiations.”

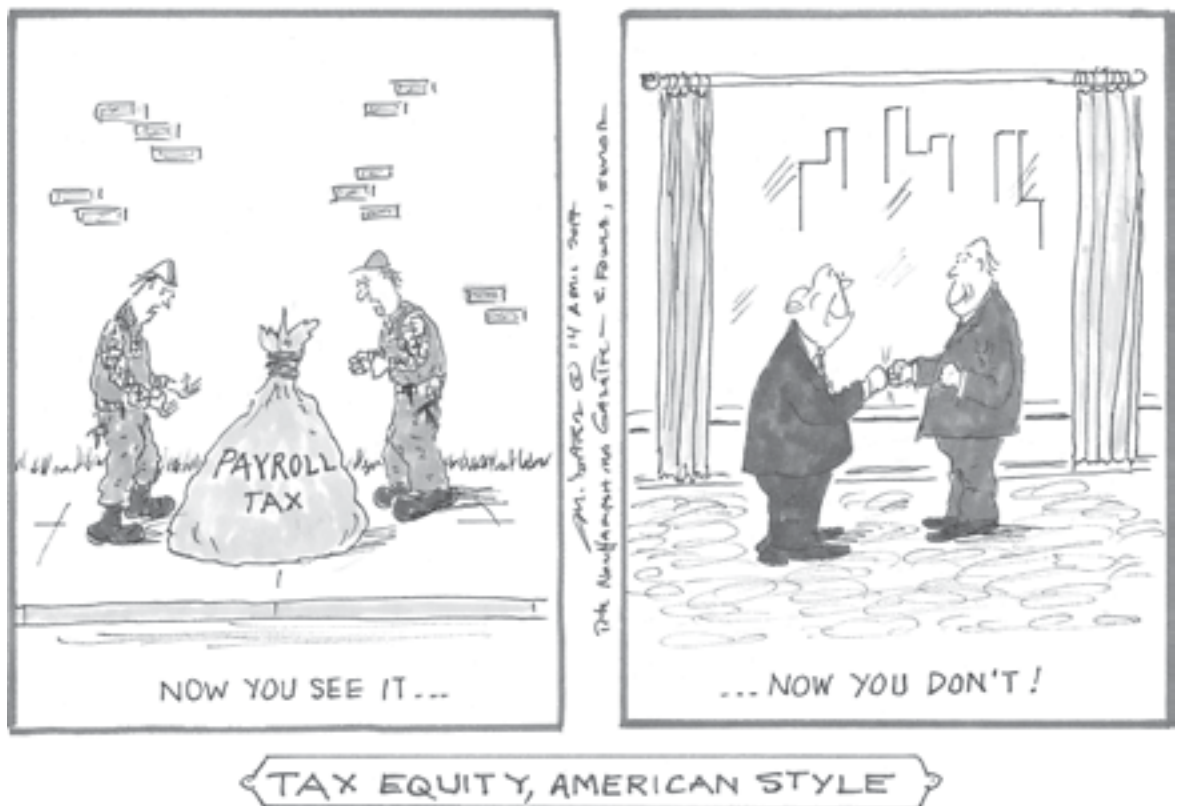
Yeah, that'll fly — ask people to give up their Social Security in exchange for an extra \$71.54 a week, which will be promptly swallowed up by that new value-added tax. No wonder that lobbyist asked for anonymity. If his name gets out he'll need witness protection.

Republicans have wanted to blow up Social Security since the day it was enacted. Doing so would help realize their dream of sending America back to the good old days, when to be old was to be poor.

Oddly enough, there is one part of Social Security which ought to be blown up — the payroll tax cap, or “tax max.” Doing that would accomplish many things. Republicans' destructive urges would be gratified, Social Security's solvency would be significantly extended, and constituents might even put down those pitchforks. It's a practical, perfectly reasonable proposal, which is probably why it rarely gets mentioned in today's political climate: it's just not outlandish enough.

What, you may ask, is a tax max?

For some ancient and mysterious reason, the vast majority of working people have to pay Federal Insurance Contribution Act, or FICA, taxes on every nickel they make. For those lucky folks whose incomes go beyond a certain stratospheric level, though — currently it's \$118,500 — every dollar after that is magically tax-exempt. That level is the tax max. It's an arbitrary number, originally set by Congress on an *ad hoc* basis. In the 1970s it was indexed to rise with inflation. Whatever justification it may



once have had has eroded ever since. A little context will explain why.

For many years following the Second World War worker productivity and wages grew steadily at about the same rate. Families with one wage-earner could buy a house and a car and send kids to college. Curiously, this was during the heyday of organized labor.

In the early 1970s, though, that trend changed. Productivity and wages became decoupled. Productivity continued climbing at about the same rate, but median wages went flat. In real, inflation-adjusted terms, the majority of Americans haven't had a raise since. Of course, all that additional money from the productivity increase had to go somewhere — it went to those at the top.

The rising income inequality produced by that decoupling had a curious effect on FICA tax receipts. As inequality increased, so did that portion of the nation's aggregate income that escaped

FICA taxation. Instead of going into the Social Security trust fund, it went instead into the pockets of those who needed it the least.

Curiously, the decoupling occurred at just about the time an assortment of wealthy industrialists began following some advice Lewis Powell (then a lobbyist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, later a Supreme Court Justice) put in a certain memo. He advised, among other things, that capitalists begin to subsidize an array of Right Wing propaganda mills whose primary function would be to explain to the gullible masses why organized labor was the work of the devil.

If the tax max were to be scrapped altogether, just six percent of people in the highest income brackets would see their taxes go up.*

* This is according to Nicole Woo, director of domestic policy at the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, D.C., who published a paper on the topic in January of 2015.

Vanishing too would be all those excuses we've been hearing for decades in favor of jacking up the retirement age, whittling down monthly payments, and screwing the elderly out of Cost of Living increases. The viability of the trust fund would be extended by decades. It might even be possible to shave the rate slightly — a change that would have its greatest impact on those who make the least.

Again, though, we're confronted with the problem of Republican motivation. They're not interested in making minor changes in FICA taxes, even if that does assuage the anxieties and improve the living conditions of a hundred million average Americans. They want to serve their true constituents by lowering the top federal income tax rates, to benefit those who can afford in every election cycle, to max out their political contributions — in part with money that, in a more just world, would have gone to the Social Security trust fund.

The Alleged News®

National Global Insecurity

“North Korea is looking for trouble,” the President of the United States of America tweeted first thing Tuesday morning. “If China decides to help, that would be great. If not, we will solve the problem without them! U.S.A.”

Lest we forget, North Korea has nuclear weapons, the world's fourth-largest army, and is run by a 32-year old Supreme Leader who maintains law and order using firing squads armed with anti-aircraft guns. Meanwhile Seoul, the capitol of our ally South Korea, with a population of over 10 million, is just 35 miles south of the Demilitarized zone.

Just over a week ago, the destroyers *U.S.S. Ross* and *U.S.S. Porter* launched 59 Raytheon

(“Customer Success is our mission”) Tomahawk™ cruise missiles at the Shayrat airfield in Syria. The attack was ordered up by our aforementioned Chief Executive, who is not just a successful customer — “I'm President, and you're not” — but a shareholder as well. Raytheon stock opened 2.5 percent higher the next morning, adding \$1 billion to the defense contractor's market capitalization. Despite the attack, Shayrat was operational the next day.

Trump appears to have adopted a strategy he once derided. On October 9, 2012, he tweeted, “Now that Obama's poll numbers are in tailspin — watch for him to launch a strike in Libya or Iran. He is desperate.”

Eric Trump says the \$100 mil-

lion decision by the President was based in part on advice from his sister Ivanka. “Ivanka is a mother of three kids and she has influence,” he said. “I'm sure she said ‘listen, this is horrible stuff.’ My father will act in times like that.”

Eric Trump also blurted out that the strike would “validate the fact that there is no Russia tie” to the Trump administration — an unforced error, since the Syrian attack had successfully overshadowed news reports about the FBI investigation into possible connections between the Trump campaign, Russian hackers, and Vladimir Putin. Speaking of Russia, where oil provides half of all federal revenues, oil prices are up due to perceived global instability.

The situation in Syria is confus-

ing. To clarify things, Press Secretary Sean Spicer said Monday, “the goal for the United States is twofold. One, is to destabilize Syria, destabilize the conflict there” When that statement failed to clear things up, Spicer went on to say, on Tuesday — during Passover — “Hitler ... didn't even sink to using chemical weapons.”

A showdown between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un would probably be best avoided. How, though? The United Nations has never been particularly effective when it comes to reining in loose-cannon despots. Besides, even mild-mannered, centrist Americans would be unlikely to welcome a peacekeeping force of blue helmets into our nation's Capitol — never mind how the

Alex Jones/Cliven Bundy crowd might react. Apparently it will be up to us ordinary U.S. citizens to bring our President to heel.

Good Guy v. Self

A man was shot at the NRA's National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Va. on April 6th. The 46-year-old took a pistol bullet in “the lower body,” according to NBC News.

Given the location one might think that the unnamed gunshot victim might be a bad guy shot by a good guy. According to police, though, it was an NRA employee who “accidentally shot himself while doing firearms training at the organization's headquarters.”

The Alleged News®

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The Alleged News®

from page one

"Bill" Binnie vs. The People

Readers may be as tired of reading about the legal wrangle over Sanders Poynt as we are of writing about it. However, having gone to some trouble, many years ago, to wrest the Nation's Oldest Newspaper™ from the world's ninth richest man, we are obliged to report the latest escalation in this blatant case of class warfare.

A recap is required here, because the essence of the aggressor's strategy is unnecessary delay.

Some decades ago the Town of Rye built a small public parking area at the western end of the ever so la-de-dah Wentworth By the Sea Country Club. The town went to that expense so that the public might have convenient access to the shoreline, which, according to the New Hampshire Constitution, they own.

In October of 2012 that parking area was destroyed, and a triple barricade of fencing, rocks, and bushes was erected, at the behest of William H. "Bill" Binnie, proprietor of the Wentworth. Robert Jesurum, a Rye resident living in

the immediate vicinity, asked the state's Attorney General to step in and defend the rights of the public. That official, to his eternal shame, declined to do his job.

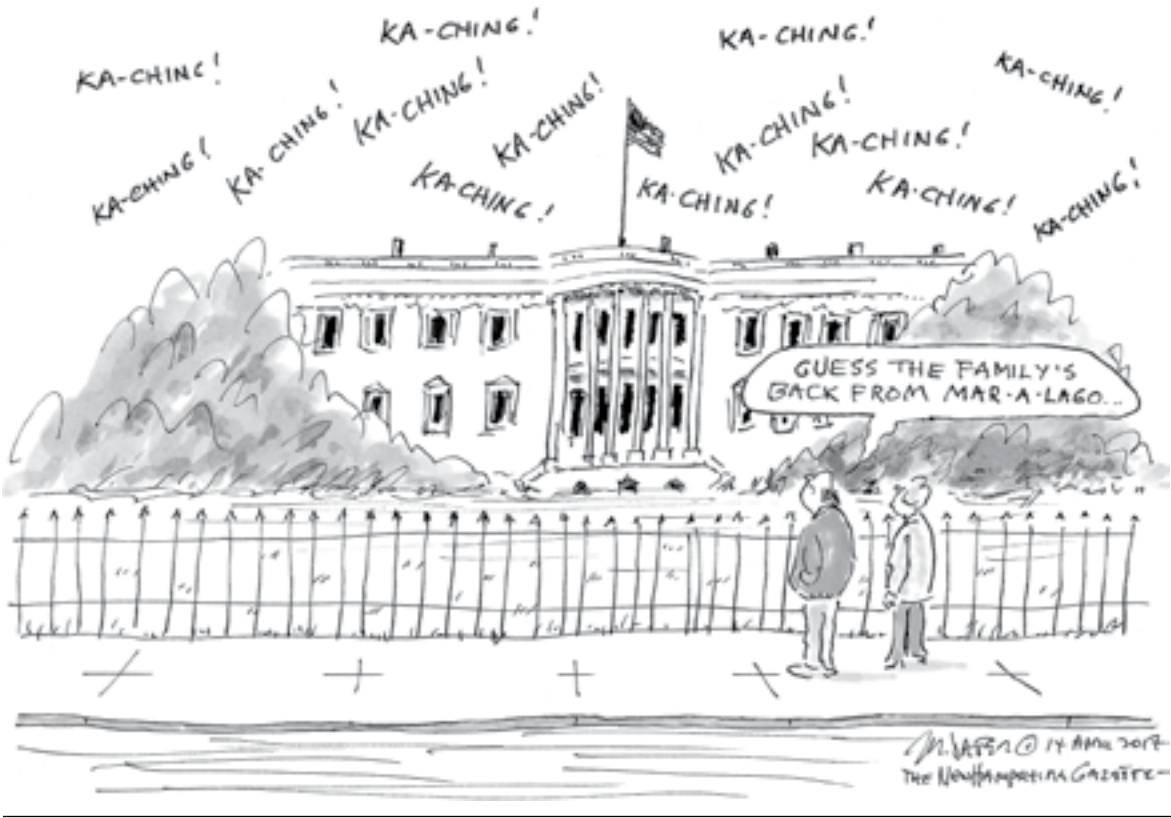
Confronted by this official nonfeasance, Jesurum did what any upstanding citizen living in the Marvel universe would do: he appointed himself as an *ad hoc*, volunteer, lower-case, acting attorney general. Not having a law degree (or so we assume), he hired Attorney Robert "Fightin' Bob" McEachern to be his and The Peoples' champion. McEachern filed suit in January, 2013.

For the next few years this saga was all about Binnie's dilatory tactics. Having made approximately umpteen million dollars in lightly-taxed income as the owner of a plastic coathanger factory, he could afford to pay whatever fees his lawyers charged for cranking out endless reams of legal fiction. Strive as he might, though, the law was always clear and never in his favor.

The Superior Court issued a summary judgment upholding Jesurum's case and ordering Binnie to restore Sanders Poynt to the *status quo ante*. Binnie appealed,



For a town with a reputation for strict building requirements, it's surprising what sometimes gets past the various Boards. Judging from appearances, it seems this imposing structure includes a quaint feature not seen downtown for a century or more: outdoor plumbing — and not much of it.



of course, because he could afford to. Eventually, in August of 2015, Binnie lost that appeal. By that time he had enjoyed several years without suffering the annoyance of random plebians exercising their Constitutional rights.

Sanders Poynt could easily have been restored by the third anniversary of its destruction: October of 2015. But nooo — as a member of the privileged class, it was within Binnie's power to waste the time of the Supreme Court. And a waste of time it was — he lost. Again.

Binnie seemed to have run out of dodges — or so we had thought. We were more than ready to join the Leftist Marching Band in a triumphant parade down to Little Harbor. But apparently we have been underestimating Binnie's contempt for the legal process, the courts, and the people whom they represent.

So much for the recap. One week ago we received yet another legal document filed by Jesurum. Its deceptively dry head-

ing, which reads, "Petitioner's Reply to Defendant's Objection to Motion to Reconsider," is refreshingly offset by its first section's frank subhead: "The Defendant's Recalcitrance."

Here Jesurum notes that, although Binnie's lawyers had asserted in February that the Wentworth had "promptly began undertaking the necessary work to comply with this Court's order," in fact just the opposite was true.

On April 3rd, Binnie's lawyers asserted that they had delivered an application to the Town of Rye to remediate Sanders Poynt. They apparently intend to wait until Rye approves that application, however, before making a wetlands application to the Department of Environmental Services. In a footnote, Jesurum adds that Rye's building inspector had contradicted "the Defendant's claimed sequencing of applications."

Jesurum argues, though, that this is all persiflage — Binnie need not need no stinkin' permits.

"The Court did not order the

Defendants to obtain permission from executive authorities before remodeling Sanders Poynt. The Court did not make its order contingent upon approvals from the executive branch or the Town. The Supreme Court affirmed this Court's Order compelling the restoration of Sanders Poynt, confirming that this Court has the authority to require the remediation. The Town and the State have no legitimate role in deciding whether the remediation work may occur."

The next paragraphs introduce another apparent motive of Binnie's, beyond merely postponing the inevitable: he wants to render Sanders Poynt unusable.

"The Court should not allow the Defendants to shop the remediation to other authorities. This is particularly so when the Town of Rye and State of New Hampshire were parties to this litigation and subject to this Court's jurisdiction. The Town and State declined to voice any concerns about remediation. Neither the Town nor the

State has the authority or jurisdiction to overturn this Court's order.

"The Defendant's plan, Exhibit 1, demonstrates why this Court should not allow a losing party to forum shop." Does it ever.

"The Defendants intend to drastically reduce the size of Sanders Poynt and make it unusable by the public," according to Jesurum's filing. A graphic representation of Binnie's ludicrous proposal would make that point simply and clearly. Sadly it must await the approval of work-release status for our Cartographic Division. Fortunately the text of Jesurum's filing is lucid:

According to the plan "presumably submitted by the Defendants to the Department of Environmental Services," Binnie would "significantly reduce the footprint

and contours of Sanders Poynt ... leaving "much of the split rail fence," and installing an additional fence "bordering two silo-type parking spaces that require stacked parking and no turning radius to enter or exit it."

Furthermore, "The Defendants propose to install cedar, junipers, and other vegetation in much of the gravel area, with fencing separating it from the parking silos. Such an installation would severely limit the public's ability to park in and use the area. The Defendants intend to install shrubs across the water-side of the gravel area, except for the path to the water, blocking the view of the water from the road. The Defendants propose to install a swinging gate across the path to the water.

"The Defendant's plan is a pat-



This flag flies over a Bow Street penthouse which once belonged to Dick Bosa, who, if he were alive today, would no doubt give the current owner a memorable lesson in flag etiquette. The son of a paper mill worker, Dick served as an officer in the U.S. Army on the DMZ in Korea, worked his way through college, and was Mayor of his hometown of Berlin, N.H. from 1995 to 1998. He ran as a Republican in the 2004 First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election,® paying his \$1,000 filing fee in coins due to his antipathy towards the Federal Reserve system. He came in second, after George W.[MD] Bush. His platform promoted stronger enforcement of anti-trust laws, the revision of corporate charters to include social responsibilities and citizens' rights, the reduction or elimination of corporate welfare, the renegotiation of trade treaties to favor citizens over corporations, and the promotion of employee cooperatives as a defense against multinational corporations. He died in 2005 at the age of 62. In his lamented absence the Flag Police, constrained by their strict adherence to the Flag Code, and lacking Bosa's singular gift for uninhibited self-expression, will settle for saying merely, "you're busted."



ent, fundamental deviation from this Court's Order 'to restore Sanders Poynt to the condition it was in prior to October 2012.' ... In light of this Court's order, proposing such a plan is contemptuous. ... The Court did not, and should not, allow the Defendants to modify the historic nature, characteristics, and size of Sanders Poynt. The Court should find the Defendants in direct contempt of its orders and sanction the Defendants for flagrantly violating its orders."

[Note for posterity: As this is written, every ink-stained wretch in the newsroom is standing atop his or her desk, swinging a mug of Old Brown Dog, and tearfully but defiantly bellying La Marseillaise at a volume which mocks OSHA workplace standards. — The Ed.]

Binnie was also ordered by the Superior Court to pay Jesurum's attorney's fees. Naturally he's fighting that decision, too.

Jesurum's legal tab was estimated at \$100,000, but that was months ago. The Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire [CCANH] is acting

as a pass-through account to accept tax-deductible contributions.

When last we heard from CCANH President Don Swanson, \$8,375 had been raised. Those wishing to do the right thing may contribute online at ccanh.org/sanders-poynt, or mail their personal check to CCA NH, PO Box 4372, Portsmouth, N.H. 03802-4372. Checks should be payable to the "Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire," with the notation line on the lower left of the check stating "Sander's Poynt Legal Fund" so that CCA NH can direct donations accordingly. All funds raised go directly to Jesurum.

If the Alleged Editor may be allowed just a glimmer of personal pique, it's a shame that sheer gall can't be used to fuel cars or heat homes or something — think how much money could be saved by driving a spigot into Binnie.

On Local Losses

They say that bad things come in threes. Let's hope not. Or, let's hope that some other candidate for extinction comes along, rather than the one on everyone's mind.

On the mercifully mild evening of Sunday, April 9th, at Caffè Killim, friends of the late Michael Moore — not the slovenly corpulent film maker, but the svelte local enigma also known as Uncle Nightmare — gathered to give and receive what comfort they could in the wake of his passing.

A few hours later, one of the worst fires in living memory stole away the State Street Saloon. In addition to being one of this town's last old-fashioned, unapologetic public spaces virtually unchanged in thirty years, its ancient wood-framed buildings had housed, upstairs, the people who make this town work. From the blackened rubble will rise some tasteful, tasteless corporate replacement, topped by more affordable housing for deserving millionaires.

Meanwhile, a few blocks over on Daniel Street, the fate of the Press Room hangs in the balance. While the overall trend suggests doom — because it *always* suggests doom, and it's invariably right in the long term — the scutbutt holds out hope.

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Cosmic Eggs

To the Editor:

There is no better proof at hand that religion is driven by time and culture than a helicopter egg drop for Easter. A quick review of “the egg” places it far back beyond all three of our present major religions as an image of birth and abundance or nature’s indifferent and relentless cycle — each generation dying for the benefit of its offspring. Brahma gave us the world as a single cosmic egg, the Greeks gave us Chronos devouring his children, and of course the Babylonians were kind enough to give us Tamuz as the first god of death and resurrection and start that Semite egg rolling, so to speak. Passover, that once Vernal ritual, provided the “Breitza,” an egg for rebirth from slavery and “hard boiled” to represent endurance. The iconography of Italian Renaissance Art added the bunny. The Aztecs gave us chocolate and one more creator of the world who harrowed Hell. Remember, without history, we would not know what to believe today.

Just think what Jacob could have done with a helicopter to Heaven instead of a ladder. What if that flying horse had been replaced by an Apache gunship to Heaven? What does it mean to bite the ears off a chocolate bunny or that the eggs themselves are hollow? Probably not a lot.

Happy Cultural Appropriations everyone!

Larry Brown
Milton, N.H.

Our So-Called President

The so-called POTUS has turned the GOP’s freakish electoral “win” into a roaring scandalous farce! As the lowest ever in approval ratings nationwide, the rookie so-called POTUS continues to twit and twitter in the nastiest possible way by calling the media the enemy — when it is the life-line of our freedom and resistance against corruption.

The Billionaire Cabinet along with the “advisory” slicksters have ridden high and mighty on the back of the most ridiculous, pompous ass that has ever defiled the Oval Office.

We are seeing in plain sight and in our faces, Machiavelli Bannon working his magic corkscrew semantics into the big orange head of so-called POTUS. Vladimir Putin has had the same “magic” awaiting the election of our so-called POTUS. Bannon said he wants to tear down the basic United States and rebuild a new one — which suggests exactly the same goal and process that Naoimi Klein wrote about in her ook, *The Shock Doctrine*. The teachings of Milton Friedman and his Chicago School entourage spread far and wide — ripping the soul and sustenance out of South and Central America and beyond — exclusively for the benefit of corrupt corporate barons eager to claim the spoils of man-made or natural disasters.

The Ayn Rand-Friedman brand of statutory obliteration has lately been re-packaged and re-decorated to reach the anti-government, anti-intellectual, anti-liberal bigots — for they cannot afford to lose those “special” voters.

I don’t know if Steve Bennon studied the works of Friedman and Rand, but he obviously has the same endgame all set in his stone heart. Some folks might benefit from this doctrine of destruction — but it won’t be the middle class and poverty class.

Bannon wonders at the white-hot anger of the Democrats, who are a

growing majority. We are rightfully furious and indignant. People who know history know for sure just what rogue nationalist capitalism can lead to — especially with the stench of ignorance and fear to drive it.

Helen McKinney
Sapphire, N.H.

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Healing Our Health Care System

To the Editor:

The latest edition of the *New Hampshire Gazette* was refreshing in that at least part of it addressed a real issue such as health care, and not whether Donald Trump had a glass of vodka or used Russian salad dressing.

With regard to health care America has three systems: the Veterans Administration health care system, which is a disaster, the Affordable Care Act which Bill Clinton perfectly characterized as crazy in an address given at a Michigan campaign rally: “... all of a sudden 25 million more people have health care and then the people who are out there busting it, sometimes six-in her ook, *The Shock Doctrine*. The teachings of Milton Friedman and his Chicago School entourage spread far and wide — ripping the soul and sustenance out of South and Central America and beyond — exclusively for the benefit of corrupt corporate barons eager to claim the spoils of man-made or natural disasters.

Then there is Medicare, an overwhelmingly successful program which, unlike the VA health care system, is efficiently administered with regard to payment while leaving the private hospitals and physicians to provide the medical care. I believe it is this model that should be expanded, with people younger than 65 being permitted to buy into Medicare. This will leave private insurers to compete with Medicare, which will bring prices down in that sector.

Now, the most difficult part: getting people to be active in maintaining their own health with programs aimed at educating and periodically evaluating the success, while at the same time raising the premiums for those who exhibit self destructive behavior such as alcohol, drug, tobacco, and dietary abuse. And it is

Mash Notes, **HATE MAIL,** And Other Correspondence

time that these behaviors no longer be viewed as diseases. Nothing with a voluntary component is a disease. If only we could wish away, or decide not to have, cancer or any of the other diseases that plague mankind. It’s a shame that people who are 200 pounds overweight are given knee replacements when proper diet might in some cases be the way to go. And why is there the expensive and highly lucrative specialty of bariatric surgery when a well supervised diet will be just as effective? It seems that given the choice most Americans will take what they see as the easy way out. Furthermore, they appear to be happy with episodic care rather than an ongoing process of health maintenance.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.

Jobn:

We do what we can to provide a low-Trump news diet. After the recent catastrophic failure of our political system to select a new Chief Executive, though, there is only so much one can do.

It’s a pleasant surprise to find ourselves dangerously close to agreement with you on the merits of Medicare for all. We’ll fight to the death, though, your draconian proposal to replace health insurance cultures with a corps of diet police.

The Editor

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Let’s Grasp This Opportunity

To the Editor:

With the topic of healthcare finally being in the spotlight the way it deserves and being of utmost importance to us, as it should be for all of our fellow Americans, we recently gathered with several members of a progressive book club in Dover to watch *Fix It: Healthcare At The Tipping Point*, a captivating one-hour film which makes an extremely powerful argument on behalf of Single Payer Healthcare in the United States.

Some of our takeaways from this

in-depth documentary film, which busts the numerous myths that are frequently being told about Single Payer Healthcare, were: America currently has a dysfunctional health care system which is causing great damage to our economy (comprises somewhere between one-fifth to one-sixth of the world’s largest Gross Domestic Product while producing terrible waste and outcomes), stifling our businesses, demoralizing our medical professionals (doctors and nurses) and negatively affecting our nation’s health. Meanwhile, approximately one-third of our citizens (over 100 million people) can’t afford healthcare in the world’s most prosperous nation, which we should all view as highly unacceptable as healthcare truly is a human right.

With the recent failure of the 45th President of the United States and the Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives to come up with and pass a plan to repeal and replace the current system with something better, the timing has never been better for both parties — the 45th President did invite Democrats to the table — to start working on a plan for Medicare for All.

As for our end of the bargain, we strongly encourage you to arrange gatherings with family, friends and neighbors in your neck of the woods to watch this film and get the message out on the countless virtues of Single Payer Universal Healthcare.

After you watch *Fix It: Healthcare At The Tipping Point* at fixithealthcare.com, we urge you to engage in civic activities which will promote Single Payer Universal Healthcare such as contacting, via phone or written correspondence, your representatives in Congress, who will welcome your input on this hugely critical matter.

Sincerely,
Beatrice P. Randall
James D. Randall
Dover, N.H.

Let Them Eat Cake Elsewhere

To the Editor:

Our refugee policies seem more intended to provide Americans with good feelings and reward special interests than to help the world’s threatened/struggling people.

If an American warship finds a sinking cruise ship, we expect the warship to help as many passengers as possible even if they have to share cramped, primitive quarters and limited food.

But that’s not what our nation’s refugee program does. It greatly benefits a few while leaving millions more threatened and/or struggling.

It costs about \$70,000 to re-settle each refugee in our country. That same \$70,000 could re-settle 12 to 13 refugees in safe spaces in their own or nearby countries with people who share their language and culture. Or, for \$70,000 we could feed about 200 starving people for a year. (On March 19, 2017, *60 Minutes* reported that South Sudan has millions of starving people.)

Some pressure to bring refugees here comes from the organizations that help the refugees; the more refugees, the more funding. Other Americans feel good seeing or knowing about the refugees we bring here.

But, out of sight and therefore out of mind are the millions more suffering people who could be, but aren’t being helped with the same amount of money. We should maximize the number of people we help with the available resources.

And, while many refugees who come here may feel they won the lottery, many encounter hardships living where few people speak their language or share their culture, where their skills aren’t useful in generating a prosperous life, where assimilation is difficult, &c. Refugees would more quickly assimilate if they re-settled with people who share their language, culture, and means of life; and it would be easier

to return home or visit friends or family members when possible.

After a refugee is re-settled here, there are continuing costs to Americans: various forms of welfare, and impact on American workers and American children’s education, etc. Many refugees have low level skills and compete for jobs with Americans who have the most difficult time making a living. Non-English speaking and often uneducated refugee children increase education costs and/or take resources needed by American children.

It’s long past time to change our policies related to refugees. We need to give up what makes us feel good, i.e., saving the few refugees who come here, and use our limited resources to maximize the number of struggling/threatened people that can be fed and/or moved to safe areas among people who share their language and culture. That’s better for us and better for them.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

You can always count on the American Right Wing to provide proposals couching cowardice as compassion, rendering racism as rationality, and imputing low motives to people attempting to relieve suffering.

The Editor

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Oaths, Laws, and Consequences

To the Editor:

What consequences does a person face if he/she lies during sworn testimony to the Senate? Do the consequences for perjury apply to government officials, including the chief law enforcement officer, Attorney General Jeff Sessions? During his confirmation hearing, under oath, he said he had no contact with Russian officials during Trump’s campaign, to which he was an advisor. That was untrue. Subsequently, Sessions tried to minimize his perjury by saying he hadn’t met with Russians as Trump’s represen-

tative. Does subsequent redefining of untrue statements absolve the perjurer from culpability? If not, what is the Senate doing to seek just consequences? If Sessions can lie to the Senate under oath without consequence, then anyone’s oath to tell the truth becomes a meaningless gesture.

Similarly, ex-National Security Advisor Michael Flynn broke the law when he failed to disclose his lobbyist arrangement for the Government of Turkey while also serving in an official U.S. Government position. After this violation was uncovered, he belatedly submitted a disclosure form. Does post-factual disclosure absolve Flynn of criminal culpability? If so, then no one would be required to follow the law unless they were caught. If not, what is being done to bring Flynn to justice and consequence?

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

This country needs a Perjurers Hall of Fame. Sessions and Flynn could be immortalized along with Elliott Abrams, Bill Clinton, John Ehrlichman, Bob Haldeman, “Scooter” Libby, Robert McFarlane, Edward “Meese is a Pig” Meese, Oliver North, John Poindexter, Caspar Weinberger, &c. &c.

The Editor

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The Fox And The Cover Up

To the Editor:

The Senate is getting serious about investigating the Trump campaign’s numerous and dubious connections to Russia and its election hacking. The Administration and ally Fox News have gone into high gear in their distraction efforts. One bogus claim after another is being rolled out. And Fox News listeners believe them!

The latest: Susan Rice, U.S. National Security Advisor from 2013 to 2017, illegally investigated/unmasked/leaked names of Trump team members and their dealings with Russia. So far there is zero evidence to back up this claim — but

Fox takes it as proven.

Fox is the most popular cable news network. Unfortunately, Fox repeats Trump’s lies as if they were proven and defends them. Fox listeners believe without bothering to check with more reliable and in-depth coverage from the regular print media or, say, Public Radio. Both provide what is lacking on Fox: in-depth analysis and both sides of the story.

For a list of Trump’s lies, in his own words and tweets, Google “Running list of Trump’s lies.” This provides an analysis of what he said and where it differs from the facts. I think you will be surprised. It is a broader perspective on what’s going on than is provided by Fox.

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

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Cutting EPA Won’t Save Jobs

To the Editor:

Donald Trump claims he will bring back thousands of coal mining jobs by allowing the companies to poison the land and water. This really will not produce many new jobs. Coal mining jobs decreased because the oil industry perfected hydraulic fracturing or fracking. This caused the price of natural gas to drop by more than 60 percent, making it cheaper than coal. Electricity producers switched from coal to natural gas, costing the miners their jobs.

Letting the coal companies pollute nearby streams will not lower the cost of coal enough to bring those jobs back. It simply means they will need fewer employees to prevent their operations from polluting. The coal miners in Appalachia have another problem. Their coal costs \$45-50 a ton while the coal in the Powder River basin of Wyoming costs \$11 a ton. Wyoming coal is less efficient so a comparable price is about \$16 a ton.

Finally the coal miners have another strike against them. President Trump is also letting the gas producers pollute the air, thus lowering their costs as well.



Trump’s gutting of the clean air and water acts will not produce many jobs. However, we the tax payers will get stuck with poisoned air and streams and the cost to clean them.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:

Your argument is simple, straightforward, and sound. Unfortunately those qualities are not enough to carry the day. Polluters are able to defile our physical environment because our news environment is polluted as well.

This could all change, of course, but only if ordinary people find a way to combine their strength and stand up to concentrated power and money.

The Editor

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Our Privacy Has Been Stolen

To the Editor:

When you make a phone call, your phone company knows the phone number you are calling. Legally considered “utilities,” phone companies are required to protect the privacy of your call information. Similarly, in order to connect to a webpage, your internet provider knows every website address you view, and every keystroke you enter on that website. Until now, that private information was similarly protected.

No longer. On March 28, the Republican-majority Congress passed a “joint resolution of congressional disapproval that repeals the FCC’s

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Remembering E.F. Schumacher

by William Marvel

My college years began with a summer session that included a strange English course taught by a grisly old hippie who had belatedly transformed himself from a physicist into a poet. At least he wrote what he called poems, which he pronounced “poyms.” He lived in an old farmhouse with only cold running water, and one of the first things he told us was that he kept his razor under a cardboard pyramid, which he swore helped to keep it sharp. He never used it, so I’m not sure how he knew, but maybe that was why it stayed sharp.

He considered himself an economist, too, and I retain a distinct recollection that he economized particularly on soap. Perhaps he had inadvertently left it under the pyramid with that neglected razor. For textbooks he required a comic book that attempted to explain quantum physics, and a paperback copy of *Small is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered*, by E. F. Schumacher. This for an English class, mind you.

Had it not been for Schumacher I might have demanded a tuition refund and gone looking for a job. As usual, it was not the instructor who provided my education, but the books. Schumacher was the first serious thinker I found who recognized that resources were finite while people weren’t. His advocacy of smaller communities and systems and his skeptical attitude toward technology and overabundant leisure without meaningful occupation articulated ideas I had envisioned only vaguely, in presumed isolation. His disdain for illusory economy-of-scale efficiencies influenced much of my subsequent political thinking, beginning with anti-nuclear activism in the ’70s. He had even more to do with my past and present opposition to accepting sending-town students at Kennett High School, the mythical savings of which evaporated when we had to build a new, impersonal high school because of them.

Schumacher may have had an indirect influence on my favorite millennial, who recently de-

veloped an interest in the notion of tiny houses and borrowed my book on the subject. As is her wont, she took the idea further, and conceived of a tiny-house complex for her and her housemates. The home her mother and I have is about as tiny as we can manage, with a grand piano and thousands of books, but Miss Miniature would be just the one to make it work.

The news that Kennett High building-trade students were taking part in a tiny house competition therefore caught my eye. I was not too interested in the competition except as promotion for the concept, which I hope will catch on in a generation that is likely to see the first serious resource shortages of the population explosion. Unfortunately, the whole project was marred by apparent confusion over the rules of the contest, an unpleasant degree of excuse-making for the “loss,” and a distribution of proceeds that seemed patently unfair.

Three other schools sent four tiny houses to Manchester for judging. The two from Alvirne

High School and the one from Exeter were not finished, so there were really only two to judge: Kennett’s, and one from Laconia. When the Laconia house won, Kennett spokesmen complained that some of the work on the winning entry had been done by professionals. No mention of the contest since then has failed to include defensive reference to that detail, as though all that mattered was winning the contest.

If the Laconia participants were trying to cheat, they were pretty open about it. Instructor Matt Towle said before Thanksgiving that he had no electrical program, and a licensed electrician would install that system as students observed, while the construction, plumbing, and heating would be done by students. He also admitted before the judging that local builders and tradesmen had shared “their experience and skills.” When I asked him just how much they had contributed he declined to say, but one of his students won a building-trades prize and another won the plumbing competition.

Kennett’s vocational director lamented that Laconia used a professional architect, but the Kennett team thanked White Mountain Home Builders for contributing “plans, ideas, and support,” so how much outside help was permitted? Apparently no one at Kennett asked for rules. Perhaps there were none.

Except in relation to distribution of the monetary proceeds of the contest, which sounds inequitable regardless of who won, all the post-competition complaining was a little unseemly. At our sports-crazy high school, taking the trophy too often passes for the principle measure of worth or achievement, and students absorb that attitude. It was a relief to hear a couple of school board members advise focusing on pride in the project instead of whining about not winning. The students offered a lesson for their elders with the motto they lettered on one of the collar ties in their tiny house: “Collect moments, not things.”

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How can we stop banksters from robbing us?

by Jim Hightower

In an insightful song about out-laws, Woody Guthrie wrote this verse: “As through this world I travel/ I see lots of funny men/ Some’ll rob you with a 6-gun/ Some with a fountain pen.”

The fountain pens are doing the serious stealing these days. For example, while you would get hard time in prison for robbing a bank at gunpoint, bankers who

rob customers with a flick of their fountain pens (or a click of their computer mouse) get multimillion-dollar payouts. They usually escape their crimes unpunished ... but not unscathed. After all, it’s their constant, egregious, glut-tonous thievery that has made “banker” a four-letter word in America, synonymous with immoral, self-serving behavior.

For example, Wells Fargo, our country’s biggest consumer bank,

has gotten away with paying some fines for stealing millions of dollars from customers in its notorious “fake accounts” scheme — but it has not escaped the wrath of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. This feisty order of nuns, which holds a block of Wells Fargo stock, has been embarrassed and infuriated by the rank immorality of their bank’s executives. They are pushing a shareholders’ proposal demanding a full ac-

counting of the “root causes” of the malicious fraud perpetuated on vulnerable depositors. Unsurprisingly, the bank’s aloof and arrogant board of directors, which had silently presided over the fraud for years, opposes any such meaningful probe.

Such recalcitrance only intensifies the public’s outrage and cynicism toward out-of-control banksters. But the giant worries less about its public image than

it does about the reality an in-depth investigation would expose — namely that our nation’s dominant banks have not only become too big to fail and too big to jail, but too big to manage and control. To stop that thievery, they must be broken up.

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explosions, and under President Obama, recently embarked on a 30-year, at least \$1 trillion scheme to upgrade our entire nuclear weapons arsenal (unsurprisingly, every other nuclear state is now doing the same, sparking a new arms race)? Or that the U.S. military is the biggest consumer of fossil fuels on the planet?

Ignorance or denial about these facts is dangerous, to our society falling behind in nearly every indicator of social and environmental health as we continue to invest in the war machine, and to the people on the receiving end of our bombs. How many countries are we bombing right now?

At least seven we know of: Syria, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. And as King claimed the bombs we dropped on Vietnam also exploded in American cities, the blowback to the U.S. from all the anger we sow and enemies we reap in these countries and around the world, will surely harm our country.

So what is it about the United States? Are we in the grip of what President Eisenhower warned us, the military-industrial complex (that he did a lot to empower before decrying it)? Weapons contractors make a killing, but they don’t really help the economy. Military spending is about the

worst way to create jobs and stimulate the economy. Education is the best, creating 2.5 times more jobs than military spending, according to economists at the University of Massachusetts.

We doubt anyone has any satisfactory answers to why our country is so uniquely militaristic, yet seemingly oblivious to the consequences. Perhaps peace and social justice activists and political leaders have for too long failed to integrate the struggles to overcome the giant triplets.

If that is the case, Martin Luther King, Jr. still points the way toward a solution, 50 years after he first called out to us. Is it too late to hear his wisdom and change course?

As the impressive grassroots resistance to Trumpism continues to show up for racial, economic, social and environmental justice, we must also show up for peace and disarmament if we hope to one day realize King’s beloved community.

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Kevin Martin is President of Peace Action (peace-action.org), the country’s largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization with more than 200,000 supporters nationwide. The Rev. Dr. Herbert Daughtry is the National Presiding Minister of the House of the Lord Churches.

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

broadband privacy rules. The measure is at the White House for Trump’s signature.

While promoted as a way for advertisers to better target you with products you might want to purchase, this loss of internet privacy creates serious dangers. Companies that analyze “Big Data” can create political profiles of voters to micro-target manipulative propaganda messages. Russia used this disinformation technique during the presidential campaign.

With Congressional repeal of

FCC rules, internet providers can release much more private information including your health history, financial information, your Social Security number, your browsing history, app usage, and the content of your messages, emails and other communications. Everyone is now vulnerable to intimidation or blackmail by those who will compile a “Database of Ruin” containing facts about each of us that we wouldn’t want anyone else to know.

FCC rules must remain in place to protect our privacy. Contact

your Congress Representative today. Protest, and support lawsuits to challenge this action before your data is released.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, CA

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Let’s Get Some Facts Straight
To the Editor:

Let’s get some facts straight about the process for replacing and “improving” the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare.

First, other than naming a local Post Office in honor of a fine, upstanding citizen, members of

Congress rarely write laws. They farm that task out to corporate America, the primary purpose of which is to maximize profits. The recently released and misguided attempt to “improve” the ACA was written by health industry representatives and their K-Street lobbyists, and no one else.

Need proof? In 2016 alone, the health industry contributed an estimated \$250 million to Presidential and Congressional election campaigns. An additional \$509 million was spent on lobbying Members of Congress to do the

will of the healthcare industry. All that money is forked over in order to insure that the “new and improved” healthcare program makes the health industry richer than it already is, at the expense of the working folks who pay the healthcare bills. Fact: the American pharmaceutical industry returns the highest profit margins of any economic activity in the world.

Over the years, the enlistment of Members of Congress as a bought-and-paid-for contrivance of the healthcare industry

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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 16	MONDAY, APRIL 17	TUESDAY, APRIL 18	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19	THURSDAY, APRIL 20	FRIDAY, APRIL 21	SATURDAY, APRIL 22
2005—Jozef Galica, of Poronin, Poland is quoted in <i>Gazeta Wyborcza</i> saying the death of John Paul II, the Polish Pope, has inspired him to close his brothel. First miracle? 1992—The House Ethics Committee — no laughing, please — releases the names of 303 check-kiting Reps. 1992—Afghanistan's President Najibullah, a Commie, resigns, making way for a more enlightened government. 1969—Billy Graham advises Richard Nixon to bomb North Vietnam's dikes — estimated casualties: 1 million. 1963—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., writes "Letter From Birmingham Jail," defending the civil rights movement. 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." 1951—The Boston Marathon is won by Shigeki Tanaka, who had been 20 miles from Hiroshima when The Bomb dropped. 1947—In Texas City, Texas, a load of fertilizer aboard the French vessel <i>SS Grandcamp</i> explodes, killing 581 in a 3-kiloton explosion. 1848—In Washington, D.C., 77 enslaved blacks board a ship, the <i>Pearl</i>, to flee north to freedom, but weather confounds the largest escape attempt in U.S. history. An anti-abolition riot ensues. 3:08 3:43 9:26 9:36	2013—A fertilizer plant uninspected since 1985, located next to a middle school in West, Texas, blows up killing 15, mostly volunteer firemen, and injuring 250 others. 2002—G.W.[MD] Bush flip-flops again, vowing to rebuild Afghanistan. 1986—Peace is declared between the Netherlands and the Isles of Scilly, ending a bloodless 335-year war. 1981—The Supreme Court decides banning the use of peyote as a religious sacrament doesn't violate the First Amendment. 1975—Cambodia slips into the abyss. 1970—<i>Apollo 13</i> makes it home. 1967—"[T]he defeat of the Communists forces in South Vietnam is inevitable," says ex-Veep Richard Nixon. "The only question is, how soon?" 1966—Timothy Leary is busted for pot possession by G. Gordon Liddy. 1965—In New York City, 25,000 march against the Vietnam War. 1961—Transports chartered by the CIA deliver 1,511 Cuban exiles to the Bay of Pigs. 1959—In Times Square, 22 weirdos are arrested for declining to participate in an air-raid drill. 1954—Affable old Ike threatens to nuke Red China. 1935—Sun Myung Moon has a revelation: Jesus Christ asks him to complete His mission. 1850—In the U.S. Senate, Henry S. Foote (D-Miss.) pulls a pistol on Thomas Hart Benton (D-Mo.). 3:51 4:30 11:11 10:23	2006—"I'm the decider," says George W.[MD] Bush. "What's best is for Don Rumsfeld to remain as the Secretary of Defense." 2002—Four Canadian soldiers are KIA and eight are WIA after a U.S. F-16 pilot on "go pills" drops a 500-pounder on Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry regiment. 1977—The federal frame-up of Leon and Peltier succeeds. 1974—As Professor Irwin Corey accepts Thomas Pynchon's National Book Award for <i>Gravity's Rainbow</i>, a streaker runs across the stage. 1968—The Army admits nerve gas from Dugway Proving Grounds killed 6,400 Idaho sheep. 1942—Eighty men in 16 B-25s, led by Jimmy Doolittle, take off from the <i>U.S.S. Hornet</i>, bomb Tokyo, and ditch their planes in China; 90 percent survive. 1930—The BBC's newscast reports that "there is no news," then plays pi-music. 1906—An earthquake and fire destroy much of San Francisco, killing 500 to 700 people. 1891—A fast mail train and the Toledo Express collide in Kipton, Ohio. Eight people die because of a four-minute watch error. 1844—Believers in William Miller's Doomsday prediction are disappointed — for the second time. 1689—A mob of Bostonians overthrow Sir Edmund Andros, Governor of the Dominion of New England. 4:39 5:22 11:01 11:15	2004—A government spokesman reveals that NORAD had run a training exercise based on a hijacked airliner crashing into a building. 1995—A Right Wing "militiaman" murders 168 souls in Oklahoma City. 1993—For the good of the children, who end up among the 80 dead, the FBI attacks David Koresh's compound at Waco, Texas. 1971—Officials at Arlington National Cemetery turn away Gold Star Mothers and Vietnam veterans participating in Operation Dewey Canyon III. 1951—In a grandiose fit of mock humility, Gen. Douglas "Dugout Doug" MacArthur tells Congress, "Old soldiers never die," leaving unspoken the obvious corollary, "that's what the young ones are for." 1948—Costa Rica disbands its army. 1943—A Nazi attack on the Warsaw Ghetto meets ferocious resistance. 1939—After some study, Connecticut OKs the Bill of Rights. 1877—Birth of Ole Evinrude, inventor of the outboard motor. 1861—The Union Army loses its first soldiers to hostile action; four are stoned to death by a Baltimore mob. 1775—Minutemen and British soldiers battle in Lexington and Concord. Two days later a report is published in the <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i>. The probable writer: eyewitness Isaiah Thomas, former apprentice of Daniel Fowle's peculiar brother Zechariah. 5:33 6:18 11:56	2010—<i>Deepwater Horizon</i> explodes and burns; 11 die, the world's largest oil spill ensues, and wrists are slapped. 2008—<i>The New York Times</i> reveals that many "independent military analysts" appearing on TV are really Pentagon puppets. 2001—The Peruvian Air Force, with some help from CIA "contract workers," fires on a plane they think is full of dope. Nope. It's full of proselytizing American Baptists. Two die. 1989—A Robinson R22 crashes into a Stockton, Calif., building at 5:00 a.m. The pilot (blood alcohol 0.17 pct., enhanced with a little cocaine) and his passenger die in the flames. 1979—While canoeing near Plains, Ga., Pres. Jimmy Carter successfully defends himself from a deranged swamp rabbit. 1973—The U.S. Supreme Court says New Hampshireites can cover up "Live Free or Die" on their license plates. 1971—Mistaking the National Mall for their lawn, Supreme Court Justices tell Vietnam Veterans Against the War to get off it. 1971—Maryland building contractor Lester Matz pays a \$2,500 bribe to Vice President and freelance media critic Spiro "Ted" Agnew. 1914—Miners striking in Ludlow, Colo. are machine gunned by National Guardsmen employed by John D. Rockefeller; later their tent camp is burned. At least 19 die, including 11 children burned to death. 6:31 7:15 12:13 12:52	1999—To honor those killed at Col-umbine the day before, NRA president Charlton Heston says the gun lobby will cut short its Denver convention by one day. 1992—At about 3:00 a.m., Robert Alton Harris is strapped into San Quentin's gas chamber. Twelve minutes later amid legal wrangling, he's taken back out. At 6:00 a.m., he's put back in and successfully gassed. 1989—Chinese students demonstrate in Tiananmen Square. 1986—On live TV, Geraldo Rivera opens Al Capone's vault, discovering naught but his own credentials. 1980—<i>Newsweek</i> quotes R. Reagan inaccurately saying that Vietnam vets aren't eligible for the GI Bill because their war wasn't declared. 1975—Nguyen Van Thieu, last president of South Vietnam, resigns after ten years of misrule and bugs out of Saigon. 1972—In El Paso, Texas, former commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam General William Westmoreland is pelted with tomatoes. 1971—In Washington, D.C., Vietnam Veterans Against the War defy the Supreme Court and stay on the National Mall. Park police decline to arrest. Tomorrow's headline: "Vets Overrule Supreme Court." 1918—After shooting down 80 Allied planes, Manfred von Richthofen, aka The Red Baron, is shot down—by an Australian on the ground. 7:30 8:09 1:11 1:47	2004—In Afghanistan, U.S. soldiers shoot former NFL football player Specialist Pat Tillman. 2002—Dick "Dick" Cheney, fundraising in Florida, says "The Taliban is out of business permanently." 2000—Federal agents snatch political pawn Elian Gonzalez from his colorful Miami relatives. 1992—A Robinson R22 helicopter falls 400 feet and lands on a multi-family home in Atlanta. The pilot says he lost control due to a gust of wind. His passenger dies. 1990—Guilford Co., N.C. postpones Earth Day to April 28th so as not to interfere with the K-Mart Greater Greensboro Open Golf Tournament. 1983—After two jolts in Alabama's electric chair John Louis Evans caught fire, but his heart was still beating. Third time was the charm. 1971—Capitol police arrest 110 Vietnam veterans for serenading the Supreme Court with <i>God Bless America</i>. 1971—Former Navy Lieutenant John Kerry asks Congress, "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?" 1970—Cops shoot and kill Huey Newton, Black Panther. 2004—South Vietnam is "steadily moving toward a constitutional system resting upon popular consent," says Secretary of State Dean Rusk. 1954—TV coverage of the Army-McCarthy hearings begins; the end of McCarthyism looms. 8:27 9:00 2:09 2:40
SUNDAY, APRIL 23	MONDAY, APRIL 24	TUESDAY, APRIL 25	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26	THURSDAY, APRIL 27	FRIDAY, APRIL 28	SATURDAY, APRIL 29
1993—RIP Cesar Chavez. 1971—National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, on the phone with Allen Ginsberg, agrees to a personal meeting, but draws the line at doing so naked on television. 1971—In D.C., Vietnam Veterans Against the War return their medals to Congress by heaving them over a fence in front of the Capitol, as Operation Dewey Canyon III concludes. 1968—Anti-war students, including 'Nam vets, occupy Columbia. 1956—The USSR announces it's got an H-bomb. 1904—Congress flimflams Flatheads out of half their Montana reservation. 1880—Charles De Young, Editor of the <i>San Francisco Chronicle</i>, is shot dead by the son of the city's mayor. 1868—"I don't have to forgive my enemies," says the dying Duke of Valencia Ramon Maria Narvaez y Campos, "I had them all shot." 1860—Birth of Charles H. Kerr, founder of a radical publishing cooperative that's still going. 1734—The King's Surveyor General visits Exeter with a team of men, looking for misappropriated timber. Locals beat them mercilessly. 1693—Birth of William Caslon, English typefounder [This is Caslon]. 1014—Vikings are defeated at the Battle of Clontarf. High King Brian Boru is slain by Brodir, but Brodir is soon disembowelled by Brian's brother Wolf the Quarrelsome. 9:20 9:48 3:03 3:30	1980—In Operation Eagle Claw, eight Americans die and five are wounded trying to get American hostages out of Teheran. 1967—"The military situation [in South Vietnam] is favorable," says Gen. Wm. C. Westmoreland, but protests at home might lose the war. 1967—Completing a troubled orbital mission, <i>Soyuz 1</i> lands at 200 mph, killing Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov. 1959—Michigan native Capt. John S. Lappo, piloting a six-engine RB-47, flies under the Mackinac Bridge at 425 mph; clearance: 155 feet. 1943—The <i>El Estero</i>, loaded with high explosives, catches fire in New York Harbor. To put out the fire, Coast Guardsmen board the ship. 1916—The Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood proclaim the Irish Republic, and the Easter Rising begins. 1915—The Ottoman Empire begins the Armenian Genocide by arresting 250 intellectuals in Constantinople. 1877—Federal troops leave Louisiana; Reconstruction's over. Good luck, black folks. 1778—<i>Ranger</i>, under John Paul Jones, captures <i>HMS Drake</i>—the first U.S. naval victory over a British ship in British waters. 1704—<i>The Boston News-Letter</i>, first successful British paper in North America, begins. Editor John Campbell's "print everything" policy means that by 1718 its "news" is a year old. 10:11 10:35 3:55 4:17	2005—Charles Duelfer, the CIA's man in charge of finding WMDs in Iraq, says there are none. 2003—Secretary of the Army Thomas White gets fired for saying we need more troops in Iraq. 2002—At his Texas "ranch," George W.[MD] Bush plays kissy-face with Saudi Prince Abdullah. 1984—Asked if he's ever been to a communist country, James A. Baker III replies, "Well, I've been to Massachusetts." 1964—The "Little Mermaid" in Copenhagen harbor is decapitated. 1962—Test-ban negotiations having failed, the U.S. says it will resume atmospheric nuke tests. 1959—A mob, assisted by a deputy sheriff, drags Mack Charles Parker, accused of raping a white woman, out of the Pearl River County Courthouse in Mississippi and lynches him. 1944—RIP George Herriman. 1915—Australian and New Zealand troops under British command attack Turks at Gallipoli and die in droves. 1898—The U.S. obliges W.R. Hearst by declaring war on Spain. 1847—The remnants of the Donner Party make it out of the wilderness. 1846—Obliging Mexican troops attack a U.S. "scouting party;" Congress has an excuse to declare war. 1523—Henry VIII of England forbids private ownership of guns by anyone with an income of less than 100 pounds a year. 11:00 11:21 4:45 5:04	2000—As an instructor and a student discuss who's in control, a Robinson R22 rolls over and crashes. Only the student survives the ensuing inferno. 1986—A meltdown at Chernobyl lowers Ukrainian real estate values, contaminates much of the northern hemisphere to some degree, and condemns thousands to death. 1953—Radioactive rain falls on Troy and Albany, N.Y. 1952—The captain of the <i>U.S.S. Hobson</i>, disregarding an underling's advice, takes his destroyer across the bow of the <i>U.S.S. Wasp</i>. Cut in half, the <i>Hobson</i> sinks with more than half its crew, captain included. 1946—Edna Rose Ritchings, 21, a Caucasian-Canadian, marries Father Divine, 65, an African-American religious figure. 1944—The U.S. takes over Montgomery-Ward after it defies the National Labor Relations Board. 1937—German and Italian planes destroy Guernica, Spain. 1931—Lou Gehrig hits a home run but is called out for passing another runner on the basepath. 1901—"I'll be in Hell before you start breakfast!" says train-robber Tom "Black Jack" Ketchum, whose head flies off after the hangman drops him. 1865—Boston Corbett, a hater-turned-cavalryman who had earlier castrated himself with scissors to better resist prostitutes, shoots and kills John Wilkes Booth. 11:49 5:34 5:51	2011—On the worst day of the largest tornado outbreak in history, 324 people are killed from Texas to Ontario. 1994—In South Africa, ex-prisoner Nelson Mandela is elected President. 1986—An HBO transmission is interrupted by a TV pirate calling himself "Captain Midnight." 1978—A scaffold fails inside a nuke plant under construction in West Virginia; 51 workers die. 1974—Ten thousand people march in Washington, D.C. for the impeachment of Richard Nixon. 1956—Heavyweight boxing champ Rocky Marciano retires undefeated. 1937—The first Social Security check is mailed to Ida May Fuller: \$22.54. 1932—Saying "Goodbye, everybody," Hart Crane leaps from the <i>Orizaba</i> into the Gulf of Mexico. His body is never found. 1930—A boy and girl burn to death within sight of their mothers after a sightseeing plane crashes in Greenland, N.H. Burned in futile attempts to save them was pilot Clyde Robinson. 1865—About 1,450 recently freed Union POW's are among 1,800 who die in the explosion of the steamboat <i>Sultana</i> on the Mississippi River. 1773—The British Parliament passes the Tea Act. Oops. 1861—Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of <i>habeas corpus</i>. 1605—Leo XI, "The Lightning Pope," dies at 69 after a 26-day Papacy, exhausted by ceremonial duties. 12:07 12:38 6:23 6:38	2016—Ex-Speaker John Boehner calls Sen. Ted Cruz "Lucifer in the flesh," and says he "never worked with a more miserable son of a bitch in my life." 2011—During a speech in Las Vegas, Donald Trump drops about seven f-bombs, promising to tell the Chinese, "listen you mother_____s, we're going to tax you 25 percent." 2008—A Robinson R44 helicopter, just two feet off the ground in Bartlett, Texas, catches fire. The pilot escapes, his passenger perishes in the inferno. 2006—Rush Limbaugh's lawyers announce that their fine work will keep their dope-addled client out of prison. 2004—The SEC votes to let banks risk more money and keep less on hand. 2004—Frank Lautenberg [D-N.J.] says on the floor of the Senate, "We know who the chickenhawks are. They talk tough on national defense and military issues ... but when it was their turn to serve, they were AWOL." 1988—Aloha Airlines 737 develops a 20 foot hole in its fuselage; stewardess Clarabelle Lansing falls to her death. 1987—Contras in Nicaragua, "moral equivalent of our Founding fathers" according to President Reagan, murder American volunteer Ben Lindner. 1973—Hot brakes start a fire in the Roseville, Calif. railway, and a trainload of bombs explodes; 5,500 buildings are damaged, the town of Antelope disappears, but no one dies. 1970—Richard Nixon authorizes U.S. troops to fight in Cambodia. 12:54 1:29 7:12 7:27	2015—The Orioles beat the White Sox 8-2 in Baltimore, before an empty stadium. It was closed due to riots. 2006—At the White House Correspondents Association Dinner, in front of the alleged president, Stephen Colbert shows how it's done. 2004—George W.[MD] Bush and Dick "Dick" Cheney "testify" together, without taking an oath, before the 9/11 Commission™. 1992—A mostly-white jury in Simi Valley finds LA police not guilty of assaulting Rodney King. Four days later soldiers and Marines quell the rioting. 1975—As helicopters begin evacuating Saigon, Marines Charles McMahon and Darwin Judge become the last two Americans to die in Vietnam. 1945—Americans liberate Dachau. 1916—In Dublin, Irish nationalists surrender. 1899—Striking miners blow up the Bunker Hill Company mill at Wardner, Idaho. 1895—U.S. warships are sent to Nicaragua to "protect American interests." 1886—As the Boston Beaneaters pose for a team photo on Opening Day, Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourne gives the finger to a rival New York Giant; it is the first documented use of that gesture by an American. 1429—Female "cheese-eating surrender monkey" Joan of Arc arrives at the besieged city of Orleans, France. Nine days later the English run away. 1:43 2:21 8:04 8:18



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