

# The New Hampshire Gazette

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## The Fortnightly Rant

### Dying Industry Tries to Kill Planet

During his first foreign trip, President Trump, aka The Grand Yam,\* rode in a golf cart to preserve his waning energy, endured public rejection not once but twice from his third trophy wife, shoved the Prime Minister of Montenegro aside to feature himself more prominently during a photo session, and, in another photo session, joined two Middle Eastern despots grasping an illuminated globe, thus making himself look like the least-competent member of a trio of James Bond villains. On his return to the nation he had thus disgraced, he announced that the United States† would withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord.

As he set the planet on a path leading to eventual destruction, *El Batata Grande* cited the supposed damage that would be done to the U.S. economy by the Paris Accord: “as much [sic] as 2.7 million lost jobs by 2025, according to the National Economic Research Associates [NERA]. This includes 440,000 fewer manufacturing jobs. ... By 2040, the cost to the economy ... would be close to \$3 trillion in lost

GDP and 6.5 million industrial jobs, while households would have \$7,000 less income, and in many cases much worse than that.”

George Bernard Shaw was quoted in 1933 saying, “If all economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion.” That, though, was before American plutocrats learned that the two greatest investment opportunities on Earth were propaganda mills and Congressmen. The manufacture of custom-made, authoritative-sounding, utterly bogus economic forecasts are now available on demand, fitting the buyer's policy needs like bespoke suits fit the body.

These forecasts do not come cheap, but due to their ability to disable the critical faculties of most journalists they generate huge profits.

#### The Usual Suspects

NERA, the tailors who cut and stitched Emperor Trump's new suit of fake facts, was founded by Irwin Stelzer, once described by *The Guardian's* David Smith as “a right-wing author and columnist” who is the “right-hand man of Rupert Murdoch.”

The tab for this stunningly transparent ensemble of hokum was submitted by NERA to the American Council for Capital Formation [ACCF] and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The U.S. Chamber's rap sheet is too long to summarize here. Fortunately Bill McKibben's *Chamber.350.org* summarizes its position succinctly: “What does the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have to do with Climate Change? The U.S. Chamber is controlled by a handful of dirty energy companies and opposes every single effort to curb climate pollution.”

The ACCF is funded by the infamous Koch brothers — of course: greedy, entitled, amoral libertarians who built their empire on a fortune inherited from the man who built oil refineries for that murderous, mustachio'd Bolshevik, Joe Stalin.



#### Adding Insult to Injury

It gets even better — provided that you find it funny to watch the powerful exercise malicious cruelty against the defenseless. The people who will ultimately pick up the tab for the lies that may eventually choke them are the ones who make their living driving trucks and waiting tables. That's because capitalists are allowed to deduct from their taxes the money they spend buying lies.

#### Lies Squared, Then Cubed

Scientists across the globe have reached a nearly universal consensus that greenhouse gases released as a consequence of human activity are heating the atmosphere and causing the climate to change.

On the other hand, the Grand Yam is reported to have said on Sunday, during his 22nd golf game in the 19 weeks since he took office, “they can't even get the weather report right, so how come they think they can get that right?”

The remark was overheard at the Trump National Golf Club, which boasts a sign claiming, “Many great American soldiers, both of the North and South, died at this spot. The casualties were so great that

the water would turn red and thus became known as ‘The River of Blood.’”

The sign doesn't just equate men who fought to end slavery and protect the Union with men who committed treason in defense of the right to own humans as chattel, it refers to a battle that never took place.

#### All is Vanity — and Insanity

Taking the U.S. out of the Paris Accord is “one of the most shameful acts in our history,” said David Gergen — and he knows about shameful. He used to work with Pat Buchanan and Ben Stein, writing speeches for Richard Nixon.

Why did Trump do it?

To bring back coal jobs, he says — but that's just another lie.

Ditching the Paris Climate Accord is not about coal jobs, it's about a snow job.

After Trump's speech explaining his alleged reasoning, the *Washington Post* wrote that he “often ignored the benefits that could come from tackling climate change, including potential green jobs.” This is an example of the *Post's* commitment to Stage Four capitalism getting in the way of its analysis. Trump was not

ignoring the potential of new U.S. jobs in photovoltaics, conservation, wind, tide, and other renewables — he was exporting those jobs to China.

The Grand Yam doesn't give a damn about building a new, sustainable energy industry. He is making a futile attempt to protect a mountain of capital that is currently sunk into an industry that's killing us. The *New York Times* reported May 30th that “the Energy Department is scrambling to complete an internal study in the next month that could lead to an upending of the policies that fostered the rapid spread of solar and wind.”

“In ordering the study, Energy Secretary [and Texan] Rick Perry directed his department to determine whether federal subsidies that encourage wind and solar energy — and the way wholesale markets value different energy sources — are putting conventional power plants at a disadvantage and threatening the stability of the grid.”

The oiligarchs can't take it with them, but they're determined to leave massive fortunes behind on a ruined planet.

\* President Donald J. Trump's name appears in the news — even our own — far too often for our liking. To avoid monotony and nausea, we need as many substitutes as possible. Trump's shape and coloration suggested the term Grand Yam. (We refer, of course, to the yellow-orange tuber *Ipomoea batatas*, which the rest of the world calls the “sweet potato,” as opposed to the various cultivars of the genus *Dioscorea cayenensis*, or true yam, less often seen in these parts. What good is American Exceptionalism™ if you can't use it to cut through the occasional Gordian Knot?) Thanks to curiosity and the infallible *Wikipedia*, we learned of a deeper congruence within the proposed cognomen: “Yam ... is the god of the sea in the Canaanite pantheon. ... his palace is in the abyss ... Yam is the deity of the primordial chaos and represents the power of the sea, untamed and raging; he is seen as ruling storms and the disasters they wreak ... The gods cast out Yam from the heavenly mountain Sappan ...”

† If this planet had an enforceable truth-in-advertising law, this nation would be forced to change its name.

## The Alleged News®

### Counterintuitive “Support” for the (Former) Troops

President Donald Trump claims to love “the veterans” — he has said so himself, many times over the course of his campaign. Some say, though, that he can't always be trusted.

The AP, for instance, wrote on Tuesday, “President Donald Trump can't be counted on to give accurate information to Americans when violent acts are unfolding abroad.”

“The latest deadly London attacks, like one in the Philippines last week, prompted visceral reactions from Trump instead of statements shaped by the findings of the U.S. intelligence and diplomatic apparatus. He got ahead of the facts emerging in Britain's chaos Saturday and got it wrong in the Philippines case,

calling the episode there a ‘terrorist attack’ when it was not.” Without seeming to raise a perceptible sweat, the AP then backed up its damning assessment with a dozen examples.

It is no more difficult to find examples of Trump abusing veterans. In 2011 Trump had a combat-disabled veteran evicted from Trump Village in Brooklyn because he kept a support dog. In 2007 he fired a Senior Master Sergeant in the Air Force Reserve because he deployed to Afghanistan. An Army Staff Sergeant got the same treatment the same year.

In 1991, Trump began a campaign to have disabled veterans with street vendor licenses kicked off the Fifth #&% Avenue sidewalk.

He was still at it as recently as 2004, writing to Mayor Mike Bloomberg, “The image of New York City will suffer ... I hope you can stop *this deplorable situation* before it is too late.” [Emphasis added.]

Trump has said that he will “take care of our vets like you've never been taken care of before.” In light of his history, perhaps we should ask: would that be a good thing, or a bad thing?

Trump is not the first draft dodger to become President, but David Shulkin, Trump's pick to lead the Department of Veteran Affairs, is the first non-veteran to head the VA.

Shulkin has proposed adding money to the VA budget. Normally that would be a good thing. Maybe

not, though, in this case. He wants to add \$2.9 billion in fiscal year 2018, and another \$3.5 billion per year thereafter, to fund Veterans Choice cards, which allow qualifying veterans to get health care from non-VA providers.

Veterans Choice was created a few years ago, in response to the overhyped wait-time crisis. Few veterans actually suffered ill effects from long waits for appointments at the VA, but scary stories about that possibility made for great TV on a certain network. Unlike the dark days of the late '60s and '70s, VA hospitals now provide pretty good health care — very good, considering their limited resources. The underlying problem was that Congress, having given

the Bush Administration the OK to fight two wars, apparently forgot that the VA, which was already under-funded, would soon be responsible for several hundred thousand new veterans.

Most of the long-established Veterans Service Organizations [VSOs], such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars [VFW], and Disabled American Veterans [DAV], have warned that, while the Veterans Choice Program may help some veterans under some circumstances, it could cannibalize VA health care if taken too far.

Jon Stoltz, of *VoteVets.org*, summed

**The Alleged News®**  
*from page one*

up succinctly why his organization opposes moves toward privatization: “it would bleed the system dry, forcing mass closures of VA hospitals and care centers. Those centers are specially qualified to handle the needs of veterans that many hospitals and doctors are not qualified to handle — from prosthetics to traumatic brain injuries to exposure to Agent Orange and burning oil fields. Not every neighborhood hospital is able to handle those unique needs. And so, veterans would be left with a voucher and a message of ‘good luck finding someone who can care for your brain injury,’ from Donald Trump.”

There is, though, one new VSO that does support Veterans Choice: Concerned Veterans for America [CVA]. The older VSOs are led by Commanders who have worked their way up through their organization’s ranks. CVA has a CEO: Peter Hegseth.

Hegseth earned his CEO position by doing the bidding of his

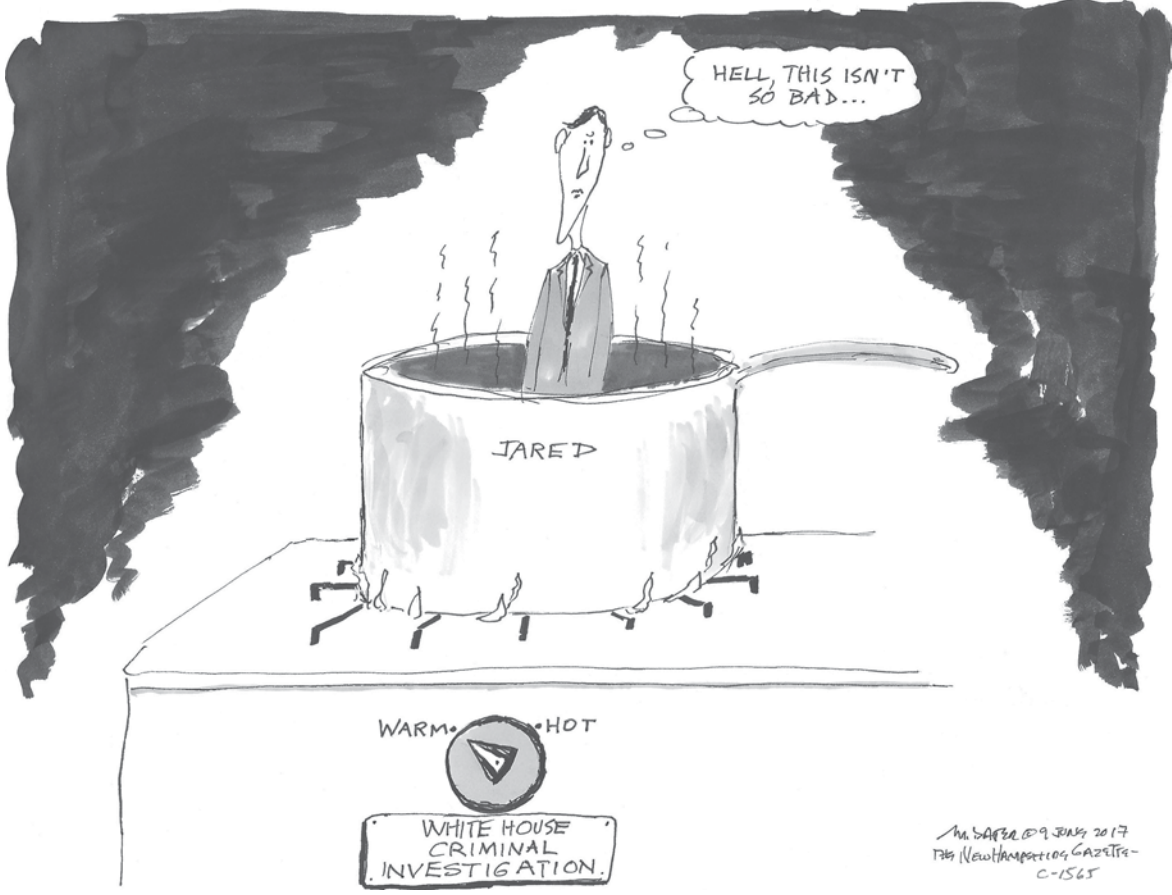
backers. From 2007 through 2010, Hegseth worked for Veterans for Freedom [VFF], which had close ties to Sheldon Adelson, the Republican Party, and the Bush White House. From 2012 through 2015, the Koch brothers supported his efforts at CVA.

Hegseth has also been a frequent contributor at Fox News, where he played a major role in overstating the severity of the wait time problem. Fox News owner Rupert Murdoch, like all Hegseth’s other backers, hates unions and wants to see them destroyed. Many VA workers are union members.

Veterans Choice and school vouchers are two sides of the same coin: plutocratic schemes to privatize public institutions and thereby reap more profits.

Are we disgusted yet? Hang onto your hat — that is just the beginning of the Trump Administration’s anti-veteran skulduggery. Shulkin proposes to offset the cost of destroying veterans health care by severely cutting disability compensation to hundreds of thousands of veterans.

In order to fully savor the cruelty



The latest information on the “What’s New” page of Maine DOT’s rather taciturn website for the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge Replacement project was ten days old when we checked it on Monday. It said that construction “is ongoing at Tower Pier #10, Tower Pier #9, Abut #1V, and Abuts #2V&R,” and “vehicle bridge is being installed at Pier 5 on the Portsmouth side of the project.” Quibbles about communication will no doubt be forgotten when the science-fictionary span opens in a mere four months.

of this proposal, it’s necessary first to understand the VA’s unique, two-pronged approach to math.

Here’s a primer on VA *disability* math from two experts:

Carol Ponton: “VA math says, if you have a 60 percent [disability] rating, only 40 percent of your body is left, so the next time you get a rating, say it’s 20 percent, instead of adding 20 to 60, you say it’s 20 percent of the 40 percent left, which is eight percent, which gives you a ten percent additional rating, not 20 percent.”

Matthew Hill: “Essentially, the closer you get to 100 percent, the harder it is to get 100 percent.”

Ponton: “If you have 90 percent, you have to get another 50 percent rating to get 100 percent.”

Under a system in which 90 + 50 = 100, it’s no surprise that some veterans who are unable to work are also unable to get rated at 100 percent. That’s why the VA has Individual Unemployability [IU], without

which there would be a lot more homeless veterans on the street. If they qualify, those veterans may also receive a IU rating, which bumps their compensation up to 100 percent. Currently about 225,000 veterans over the age of 62 are in that category. Guess where they served.

Now let’s take a look at the VA’s *compensation* math. Veterans who are rated 100 percent disabled receive \$2,915.55 per month. Veterans who are rated 70 percent disabled receive \$1,338.71 per month. Wait a minute, you may well say, 70 percent of \$2,915.55 is \$2,040.89, not \$1,338.71 — what happened to the other \$702.18? We don’t know. Perhaps it goes to buy food for Schrödinger’s cat.

This means that if a veteran’s rating should happen to be lowered from 100 percent to 70 percent his disability compensation is reduced by \$1,576.84 — which is 54 percent, in the real world — and he’s cadging food from Schrödinger’s cat.

Now, where were we before these surreal math lessons? Oh, yes. We were destroying VA health care at a cost of roughly \$3 billion a year.

Where will Shulkin get that money? Will he ask Donald Trump to raise taxes?

Heaven forfend, no!

Shulkin plans to save \$3 billion a year by throwing 225,000 disabled Vietnam veterans off the IU rolls, thus slashing their monthly disability compensation by 54 percent, on the grounds that, having defied their demons long enough to reach to the ripe old age of 62, they have become eligible for Social Security.

It seems not to have occurred to Shulkin that their Social Security benefits are based on their earnings over the past 50 years — which were somewhat hampered by their #&% disability.

**A Rare Peek at Hidden History**

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monstrous criminal act of the 20th century — assuming that Peter Janney is correct in saying that it derailed efforts by Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev to put an end to the Cold War. Had they succeeded, we would be living in an entirely different world.

Janney will speak at RiverRun Bookstore on Sunday, June 11th about Mary Pinchot Meyer, and why he believes her murder in October, 1964 was an integral part of the cover-up of the Kennedy assassination: having read the recently-released Warren Report, Meyer was ready to say publicly that she didn't believe it. That would have been something of a problem, since Meyer was not just JFK's lover, but the ex-wife of Cord Meyer, head of the CIA's Covert Action Staff.

As one would expect of the author of such a book, Janney has devoted years to research and conducted many interviews. He also brings a unique personal perspective to these matters, though. His father, Frederick Wistar Morris Janney, was a high-ranking CIA official who may have had a role in Meyer's murder.

And his childhood friend Michael was Mary Meyer's son.

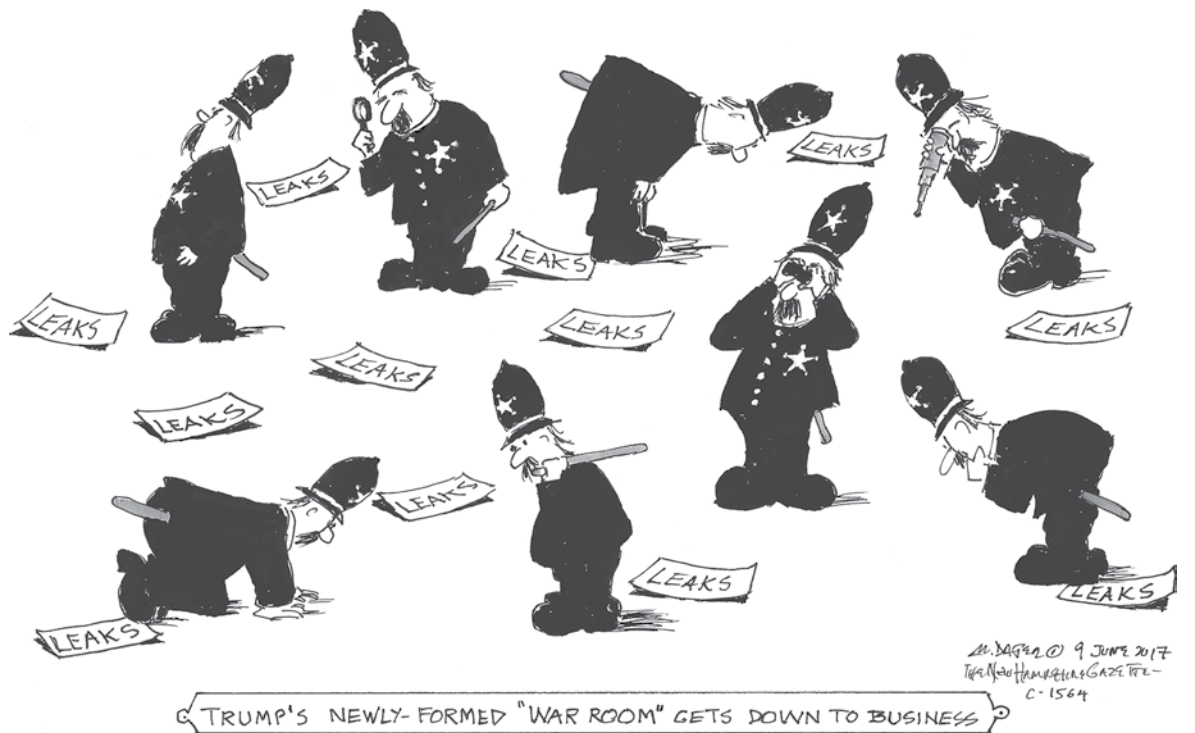
Janney will discuss his book, *Mary's Mosaic*, and sign copies. The event is free and open to the public. RiverRun Bookstore is located at 142 Fleet Street in Portsmouth, NH. The event will begin at 5:00. For more information call 603-431-2100 or e-mail [info@riverrunbookstore.com](mailto:info@riverrunbookstore.com).

#### U.S.S. Liberty Follow-Up

We tried in our last paper to do belated justice to history and the crew of the *U.S.S. Liberty*, attacked and nearly sunk fifty years ago yesterday by the Israeli Defence Force. It is one of those stories, like the Kennedy assassination, that seems to jam the gears of the more profitable franchises within the broader news racket.

It seems to flummox even the house organs of veterans' organizations. A reader in North Carolina emailed, "I am appalled that the [American] Legion and VFW [Veterans of Foreign Wars] didn't mention the *Liberty* in their June magazines."

NPR's annoyingly-named call-in



Shockingly, the forlorn flag featured in these pages a fortnight ago remained in place on Memorial Day. That was just too much for Deputy Pickford of the Flag Police. After a somewhat contentious discussion, the custodians of the flagpole in question accepted the loan of the flag shown here, which came from Pickford's own inventory. He received it as a gift a few years ago. A friend purchased it for him in 2014, at the opening of the Bastogne War Museum in Belgium. Bastogne was liberated by the 101st Airborne; Pickford served with the 101st in Vietnam.

show "1A" devoted an hour on June 5th to the 50th anniversary of the start of the Six Day War — without once mentioning the *Liberty*.

Our publishing schedule does not allow us to report in this issue whether any news outlets thought to remember yesterday the 34 Americans killed and the 208 wounded fifty years ago. We'll be watching, and will report in a fortnight.

#### Memorial Day, 2017

During an informal consultation on Monday with a member of our informal, *ad hoc* legal team who has been watching the local weather for three decades, we found ourselves in agreement: normal local weather patterns of long standing have, of late, become derailed. We now have toggle switch weather. It's either cooler than normal, or warmer than normal. It's never just normal, not anymore.

We were emboldened to publish this theory on temperature, which is ours, upon hearing *Concord Monitor* columnist David "Granite Geek" Brooks being interviewed May 30th on NHPR. Speaking with David Biello, Brooks described a similar change in precipitation patterns, which was discussed in a 2014 report called the National Climate

Assessment.

That report found that "extreme precipitation events had increased in most of the country and had increased more in the northeast than elsewhere," with most of that increase coming since the mid-1990s.

We're not getting more rain, it's just coming in deluges, interspersed with longer dry spells. "[I]t's definitely extreme weather that all the models indicate is likely to increase," Brooks said.

"It doesn't change for a while and then it suddenly leaps, for some reason, because there's an interaction in the background that we don't understand. So, the more information we get, the more we can predict this weird, jumping-up-and-down, changing system that is the climate, and which is going to make life interesting in decades to come."

This spring, except for a near heat wave three weeks ago, the weather has predominantly been dreary, dank and dismal. This sad state of affairs was underscored eleven days ago when, for the first time in at least a decade, perhaps two, Portsmouth's Memorial Day parade was cancelled on account of rain. A memorial service was held at the American Legion's Frank E. Booma Post 6 on

Islington Street, instead.

Those services reached only a limited audience, of course. Attentive ears all over town, though, could hear a 21-gun salute from the Saluting Battery of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard: one round per minute, beginning at Noon. Danna Eddy, the Shipyard's Public Affairs Officer, informs us that the Flag of the United States remained at half-staff during the salute and was restored to full height at the conclusion of the salute.

#### Three Deaths Narrowly Averted

Two people on a sightseeing tour of Santa Barbara, Calif., and the pilot of a Robinson R44 helicopter, narrowly escaped death last month.

The pilot attempted to make an emergency landing by auto-rotation after the machine's engine lost power. Its rotor blades hit a building, though, causing the R44 to land hard enough to seriously injure the occupants and to start a small fire. Within minutes it had spread, consuming the machine.

Bystanders reported seeing parts fall from the aircraft shortly before the incident. According to a preliminary investigation by the NTSB of the May 5th crash, the part they saw had been the No. 3 cylinder head.

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**Dispatch From The President of the Harry J. Anslinger Fan Club**  
To the Editor:

Aren't New Hampshire's drug/addiction problems bad enough? How does decriminalizing small amounts of marijuana reduce the number of addicts and associated costs? Decriminalization isn't the answer to reducing our addiction problem.

Lacking personal experience, I refer to a December 13, 2015 interview on "60 Minutes" of President Obama's director of National Drug Control Policy's, Michael Botticelli. Botticelli, a recovering alcoholic, is "not a fan of legalization" of marijuana. He says marijuana is linked to lower academic performance and lower IQs, that it exacerbates mental health problems, and that one in nine marijuana users become addicted to it.

Does New Hampshire want more mentally impaired citizens? New Hampshire's mental health system and rehab facilities are already inadequate. Law enforcement says most people in jail have addiction problems and addiction often leads to incarceration. Our Division of Children, Youth, and Services is already overwhelmed trying to find foster parents for children with addicted parents. Reports are that children as young as twelve years old are abusing illegal substances. Decriminalizing marijuana will likely exacerbate these problems.

I agree that people should be allowed to do anything they like that doesn't hurt someone else, meaning they alone are responsible for the consequences. But addicts typically hurt family, friends, employers, perhaps strangers, and taxpayers who pay for their care, for problems most addicts created for themselves.

After decades of propaganda marijuana decriminalization is popular, but marijuana isn't harmless. Unless users grow their own marijuana, they don't know what's in it that may turn them into a monster like the one that drove his car into a crowd in Times Square killing and injuring people. Some users will have or cause accidents, others will become addicted.

Botticelli wants addicts to learn that

there is hope, that there is a "huge, incredible life on the other side of addiction."

For a "high," people need to learn to do something constructive like helping someone, making a new friend, taking a walk, learning something, playing with your children or watching them perform, meditating/praying, or planning their future and working their plan.

There is hope and a huge, incredible life available to every American, but it can be delayed or destroyed by stupid mistakes like committing crimes, not getting an education or a skill and a good job, having children before marriage and having a good job, or taking drugs, alcohol, or marijuana.

Botticelli's comment reveals the critical message missing from our family discussions, our schools, churches, media, and anti-drug and anti-addiction efforts. We take it for granted so we forget to point it out: Life is wonderful, you don't get a do-over, don't screw it up!

Don Ewing

Meredith, N.H.

Don:

*We might have taken your screed with better humor were we not 7/8ths of the way through Misha Glenny's McMafia: A Journey Through the Global Criminal Underworld. Here's how he sums up the failed War on Drugs:*

*"[A]fter almost four decades of the war on drugs, dependency levels and usage are higher than ever before; ... the prices of all major recreational drugs have been declining resolutely over that period; ... the state has wasted hundreds of billions of dollars in a criminal justice system that delivers a lot of crime but very little justice. The funds used to sustain bureaucracies such as the DEA that prosecute the war on drugs are a drop in the ocean when compared with the gazillions that organized crime syndicates have earned because Washington is determined to drive the market underground."*

*Glenny quotes Lev Tomofeev, who wrote "one of the most comprehensive studies of the drug market," and concluded, "Prohibiting a market does not mean destroying it. Prohibiting a market means placing a prohibited but dynamically de-*



*veloping market under the total control of criminal corporations. Moreover, prohibiting a market means enriching the criminal world with hundreds of billions of dollars ...."*

*If this state and this country used their collective power democratically to defend workers rather than the wealthy, fewer people would use drugs to self-medicate against despair, and nearly all the profit would drain away from the illicit trade in narcotics.*

*By the way, Harry J. Anslinger, your apparent hero, considered marijuana harmless — until he was appointed Commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics in 1930. Then he ginned up a marijuana panic to bolster his budget.*

*A thorough-going hypocrite, towards the end of his career Anslinger coerced a Washington, D.C. pharmacist into illegally supplying an addicted U.S. Senator, self-righteous Commie-buster Joseph McCarthy, with morphine.*

*The Editor*

~

**What We Know For Sure**

To the Editor:

What do we know for sure?

We know that tax cuts for the wealthy don't help the economy, workers, or the middle class. We know that regulations on banks and investment firms help average citizens and protect against another recession. We know that the "War on Drugs" is an abject failure. We know that mandatory sentencing is costly, unfair and lets drug "kingpins" escape justice. We know that under the House Republican health insurance plan millions of families will lose their health insurance because of cost increases, millions of others will lose coverage because of pre-existing conditions. We know that nutrition provided by school lunch programs helps kids learn. We know that CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) and protection of the environmental save thousands of children's lives.

Now lets look at the Republican agenda:

Cut taxes on the wealthiest; gut Dodd Frank and deregulate the banks; expand the "War on Drugs;" increase use of mandatory sentencing; repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act with a program that throws 23 million people off their insurance (oh, and it lets Members of Congress and their staffs keep their Obama care!); defund and redefine the school nutrition program so that it is less healthy; cut funding to CHIP and weaken environmental protections in every conceivable way!

The Republican Agenda is a disaster for the average citizen; it is a war on the poor and the middle class!

Did I even mention clean air to breath, climate change, or protection of our National Parks?

Michael Frandzel

Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

*An excellent compendium of specifics which utterly refutes the purported "benefits" of the Republican agenda.*

*All that's lacking is a critique of the corporate media's cautious and cowardly refusal to connect these dots.*

*The Editor*

~

**New Standards for Journalism**

To the Editor:

Back in the '60's when I was in college, most folks in "J" school seemed to be intelligent, bookish, idealistic, and a bit rebellious. Sharing a passion for social justice, rhetorical precision, cigarettes and cheap wine, they considered the pen mightier than the sword at a time when the nation was awash in unpopular warfare and racial violence. I didn't know anybody in the program who was there on athletic scholarship.

In more recent times, qualifications seemed to shift from the cerebral to

the visually alluring. For an investigative print-media sleuth, you really needed a trust fund or financially successful partner to keep food on the table. However, for those seeking high-paying network and cable work, a personal trainer, voice lessons, implants, and a great pair of legs seemed to work pretty well. But, alas, in the Trumpian era of *Gianforte vs. Jacobs*, it appears the game of journalism is about to shift again — this time to a contact sport. Four eyes bad, two black eyes good!

Yes, Kelly, Ailes and O'Reilly are finally fading into the archives of journalistic history. But, who should replace them?

Personally, I'm encouraging *The Guardian* to send in the likes of Rob Gronkowski or Michael Jordan to fill the void. Failing that, how about boxer Floyd Mayweather or weight-lifting strong-man Eddy Hall? "Answer the question, Mr. Gianforte, because I'm only gonna ask you once!"

Intellectual competence and academic excellence will always come first in the profession of journalism, but a deployment with Seal Team 6 or a stint in the NFL could represent the added spark needed to turn back Donald Trump's war on the press. Meanwhile, we urge everyone currently working in the Fourth Estate to shed their horn-rims for contacts and head on down to Planet Fitness for a career upgrade. Moreover, we urge Sig Sauer Academy to step up and support our hard-working reporters by offering the latest training and tools-of-the-trade to ensure safe passage while in pursuit of truth and the American way!

Rick Littlefield

Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

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- "Calvin and Hobbes" by Bill Watterson

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precisely the sort of innovative thinking that made this country great the first time around (a process which began 20 years after the founding of this newspaper).

Your letter could not have been more timely. Just today McClatchy reported, “GOP strategists plot anti-media strategy for 2018 elections.”

At the risk of sounding like Betsy DeVos, though, we wonder if we might make a small request. Since Sig Sauer is currently being sued for allegedly providing the State of New Jersey with faulty handguns that could have put its State Troopers’ lives in danger, how about taxpayer-funded vouchers for the journalists’ weapon of choice?

The Editor

### Throw the Authoritarian Bum Out

To the Editor,  
Donald Trump shows a particular affinity for strongmen who rule their countries with iron fists. Philip Rucker nicely summarizes this tendency in a May 2nd *Washington Post* column.

“It’s no longer just Vladimir Putin. As he settles into office, President Trump’s affection for totalitarian leaders has grown beyond Russia’s president to include strongmen around the globe.

“Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sissi has had his opponents gunned down, but Trump praised him for doing ‘a fantastic job.’ Thailand’s prime minister, Prayuth Chan-ocha, is a junta chief whose military jailed dissidents after taking power in a coup, yet Trump offered to meet with him at the White House. Turkish President Recep Tayip Erdogan has eroded basic freedoms, but after a recent political victory, he got a congratulatory call from Trump.

“Then there’s the case of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. He is

accused of presiding over the extrajudicial killings of thousands of drug dealers and users. . . . Yet on Sunday, in what the White House characterized as a ‘very friendly conversation,’ Trump invited Duterte to Washington for an official visit.”

Why is Trump so chummy with these men? Because he would like to be like them — to be the unchallenged autocratic ruler of the United States. Accordingly, Trump tries to bully into submission any competing source of power in our country. The media is an “enemy of the people” and spreads “fake news.” Trump sees the CIA and the intelligence community as a foe (see *The New Republic*, December 15, 2016). Trump’s attacks on the judiciary (“so-called judges”) are well known (CBS News, February 11, 2017). Anyone who thwarts Trump’s desire to consolidate his power comes under his attack.

Of course, Trump’s autocratic ambitions would mean nothing if they didn’t strike a chord with some people. Every dictator must have a loyal base of support to help him carry out his schemes.

The “authoritarian personality” is seen in some people both here in the United States and throughout the world. Authoritarians perfectly fit Trump’s needs. They are defined as “characterized by extreme obedience to, and dependence on, a powerful leader or father figure. These traits are accompanied by prejudicial, rigid, and tyrannical behavior against others, especially those who are inferior in rank, or vulnerable or weaker.” (*BusinessDictionary.com*).

Accordingly, we see unswerving allegiance to Trump by authoritarians in his base despite his disastrous first months in office. We see Trump making jaw-dropping statements such as

“I could publicly shoot someone on 5th Avenue in New York and nothing would happen to me.”

In addition, we see an increase since Trump has been in office in violence and hateful behavior directed against minorities, including Muslims, Jews, the LGBTQ community, and African-Americans.

What is the remedy? The removal of Donald Trump from the Presidency. When their strongman leader is no longer encouraging them by his behavior, the authoritarians will grow quiet and recede from the public stage, allowing the return of tolerance, mutual respect, and the balance of power among the legislative, judicial, and administrative branches of American government.

Gary Patton  
Hampton, N.H.

Gary:  
*He’s gotta go, one way or the other. He may even save us the trouble of throwing him out, since even doing a bad job seems to be far too taxing for him. As for the authoritarian sector of the public quietly fading away, though, we’re not so optimistic.*

*We don’t see that happening until the government starts exercising its power on behalf of the 99 percent, rather than against it. Too much economic pressure gives everyone the heebie-jeebies, if you’ll pardon the academic jargon. That stirs up the demons.*

*In a more evenly prosperous society, people are having too much much peaceful fun to waste their time listening to angry, deranged cranks.*

The Editor

### Investment Advice

To the Editor:  
Just checked out the Trump Budget. Now I know what to invest in.

I’m buying Fairy Dust (Symbol FD) big time. There’s only so much fairy dust available worldwide, and after looking at the assumptions in this

budget, the magical thinking there is going to require tons of the stuff.

Just one example. Reduce the budget by \$330 billion by eliminating the inheritance tax (that \$330 billion goes to the richest two-tenths of one percent). Then include that same \$330 billion as tax revenue — even though it doesn’t exist! Yep, Fairy Dust is the way to go.

Last time I was bullish on Fairy Dust was after Bush’s famed “Mission Accomplished.” Made a bundle.

Michael Frandzel  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:  
*Be careful — if you keep on using insider information to get rich you might turn into a Congressman!*

The Editor

### Courting Global Catastrophe

To the Editor:  
In pulling the U.S. out of the Paris Accord on Global Climate Change, and even by threatening to do so, the current President is creating damage somewhere between a disaster and a catastrophe. Obviously, refusal to curb its greenhouse gases by the world’s second biggest polluter (us) will accelerate global warming’s impacts — sea level rise, severe storms, droughts, floods, and extinctions of endangered species.

But that’s not all. The environmental denier is also ceding America’s leadership in the world. No more, will other countries follow our lead, or even agree to cooperate with us, having seen that at any time our serial bankruptee can pull out, rescind, and cancel our agreed-upon responsibilities.

But wait, there’s more. We are losing the competition to lead the next technological revolution, that of sustainable energy production. China now leads in solar, Denmark in wind, Netherlands in tides. America leads in turning backward and inward.

As our planet’s temperature increases, we will suffer more destruction from hurricanes, flooding, drought and fires. The productive jobs not created by committing to sustainable energy will require jobs to clean up debris, fight fires, build seawalls and

bury victims.

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:  
*It truly is perplexing: how is it possible that a man so apparently stupid can so reliably make exactly the wrong choices?*

The Editor

### Voter Suppression

To the Editor:  
Thanks for mentioning Greg Palast and the Crosscheck voter suppression system in your last issue.

It was indeed “childish” and crude, but the goal was simply to eliminate *en masse* as many Democratic voters as possible, and it doesn’t take sophisticated software to tell you how Darnell Jackson, Juan Garcia and Yin Chan are likely to vote.

For the last six months the corporate media have been feeding us a lot of stories about what went wrong in the election: Russian hacking, Clinton’s mistakes, FBI backstabbing, &c.

All true, but a suspicious mind might wonder if the media are operating under a gag rule, forbidden to mention the elephant in the room: Hillary lost because a lot of people who wanted to vote for her weren’t allowed to vote.

John Irvine  
South Berwick, Maine

John:  
*We think it’s not so much a gag rule as it is plain old fear: fear of getting out ahead of the pack, fear of having the Right Wing come after them with torches and pitchforks — fear of getting caught in some twisted mess, like Dan Rather and George W. Bush’s Air National Guard records. When you report on something that’s inherently disruptive to the status quo on a very fundamental level, the penalties for minor infractions can be severe.*

The Editor

### A Dire Legacy

To the Editor:  
A number of years ago I was given a t-shirt from New Hampshire Healthy Kids, which I wore proudly. On the

### Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Remembrance

by William Marvel

June 6th marked the 73rd anniversary of D-Day. That week also fell 75 years after the Battle of Midway, which turned the tide in the Pacific naval war just six months after Pearl Harbor, and newspapers that ignored those events invited letters to the editor objecting to the omission. Such complaints used to be common when, back in the 1980s and '90s, American dailies started ignoring WW II anniversaries that did not fall on some multiple of a decade or quarter-century. Those were the principal episodes that tied everyone together who was alive at the time, and for most people born between the Cleveland administration and the Depression they were the only such events.

Political and geographic isolation and relatively primitive communications systems ordained that such universally shared memories would be a phenomenon of the fourth decade of the 20th century. The assassination of Abraham Lincoln came close to that breadth of impact, thanks to the telegraph and the timing of his death at the moment

of apparent victory, but partisan differences lent some variety to the response. The news of the armistice in 1918 spread faster, and initiated a delirious reception, but it seemed to dissipate more quickly — perhaps because it brought relief rather than anxiety. Not until the attack on Pearl Harbor did the report of any historic incident cause nearly everyone in the United States to simultaneously stop whatever they were doing and pause, reflecting on what they would eventually recognize as the landmark moment of their lives.

Americans were not the first to undergo such an experience. French and British citizens had already had that same moment a year and a half previously. For my generation, the Kennedy assassination provides the mnemonic equivalent, but for the vast majority of those now alive the watershed memory came in September of 2001.

The once-reflexive criticism for neglecting to cover the passage of another Pearl Harbor Day or D-Day is no longer as predictable as it once was because so few people are still alive who retain the original memories. I'm unusually disposed to notice those anniversaries because of

my own preoccupation with dates, but also because my parents never failed to comment on them when they came up on the calendar. Pearl Harbor Day marked their wedding anniversary, as well as the event that forced my father to report back for duty with the Navy. They remembered D-Day because it became the signature operation of a war they once feared we would lose. August 6th and 9th bore significance for them not because the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki heralded the nuclear age but because they ended my father's portion of the war, and because he trod the rubble of Nagasaki a few weeks later. I was in my late teens before they ceased reminding me on every birthday that I was born on V-J Day.

History, and especially American history, has captivated me for as long as I can remember. I've also always been fascinated with the passage of pivotal events from living memory into an unremembered past — which is not to say a forgotten past. I was no more than five when my mother introduced me to an old woman in a coastal Georgia town who told me that as a child she had watched the Confederate



army evacuate Savannah, and then watched the Yankees march in. She was the only witness to the Civil War I ever met, and by her very presence at such an epochal event she seemed to possess — and perhaps convey — an unusual authority on the subject. If her recollection of the scenes she saw at the age of five were as indistinct as my recollections of her when I was the same age, her authority would have been extremely limited, but she did retain a personal image, however distorted by time. So long as she lived, that moment would not be forgotten.

The forgetting is the painful part, and is what prompts the letters of lamentation when the purveyors of news from one generation ignore the major milestones of another. It

isn't that the failure to commemorate implies historical indifference or inadequate patriotism, as critics often claim, but that the worst tragedies and greatest accomplishments of the writer's era should fall from public consciousness. As far as the rest of the world knows, people's lives consist of the events they and their contemporaries observe and experience. To forget such epic days as June 6, 1944 (or June 4, 5, 6, and 7, 1942) reminds those who still remember D-Day or Midway that their epoch is nearly over. All they knew will soon recede into the shadows, along with the memories of Carthage and the Custer massacre. Our own world follows, not far behind.

≈

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

back of the shirt was written, "A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I live in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be a different because I was important in the life of a child."

In a hundred years, but most likely much sooner, children will find out that the world they live in is quite different from that of their ancestors, unfortunately, not in a positive way. The actions and policies of Donald Trump's Administration, supported by their accomplices in Congress,

will negatively impact the lives of today's children, and their children for generations to come.

In the short term, children will be greatly harmed by the health care, educational, nutritional, environmental, economic, anti-science, gun violence and diplomatic policies of Mr. Trump and the Republicans. In almost every department of the Federal government, policies have been initiated that will negatively impact the health and safety of children, as well as their economic futures. Policies that limit nutritional

support, reduces control of toxins in our environment, cutting scientific research, cutting health care coverage, promoting more guns, even in schools, and cutting drug addiction treatment services, to name some of the most obvious. Trump's proposed budget reflects a philosophy that is anti-child and only serves the interest of the very wealthy.

However, the most dangerous act of Mr. Trump was his decision to withdraw the United States from the landmark Paris Climate Accord. This action will place us in a class

with the likes of Syria and Nicaragua, the only other non-participants in the Paris Climate Accord. Trump and Republicans have long totally denied or have greatly minimized the reality and extent that human behavior is responsible for the warming of the planet, despite the overwhelming consensus of the world's scientific community that human behavior is causing climate change and immediate action is needed to slow the process. As one of the largest polluters in the world, the U.S. is doing huge harm to the

planet by withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accord. The message Trump is sending to our people and the world is that we do not believe in science, and we are willing to gamble the future of our children and our planet for ideological political and destructive economic gains.

Obviously, Trump and his fellow Republicans care much more about the size of their bank accounts, the size of the house they live in and the type of car they drive, than what is important to the health and security of our children and future

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## Where does inequality come from?

by Jim Hightower

The vast inequality that's rending our society is not a natural, inevitable, or accidental phenomenon — it's caused intentionally by policy-decisions that corporate and political officials make.

Every now and then, we commoners even get a glimpse of inequality-in-the-making, as we did recently when the GOP Boss of the

House, Rep. Paul Ryan, rammed the awful Trumpcare bill through that chamber. Without allowing any public testimony or even getting an analysis of its cost, Ryan browbeat and cajoled the Republican majority to hold their noses and pass this gob of plutocratic wretchedness. Their bill was so bad that a mere 17 percent of Americans support it.

Trumpcare certainly deserves the public's disgust, for it's a monstrous

inequality machine: it strips health coverage from at least 23 million Americans; it lets insurance corporations either refuse to cover people with pre-existing conditions or to gouge them with extreme price increases; and it lets states eliminate the requirement that insurance policies must at least cover such essential health needs as cancer treatment and maternity care.

And, in a flagrant example of di-

rectly widening inequality in America, the Republicans' bill slashes \$880 billion out of the Medicaid budget, which provides health care for the poor, the elderly, and the disabled. That's not just a cut in dollars, but in people — 14 million needy families would lose their access to healthcare.

But that's only the half of it. Ryan's Trumpcare nastiness also gives a massive new tax cut to health care corporations and wealthy investors.

How massive is the cut? Precisely \$880 billion.

By taking from the needy and giving to the rich, this one deliberate act by Congress would further widen economic disparity in our country by nearly \$1.8 trillion. That is how inequality happens.

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generations. Their short-term, immediate gratification self interest, "greed is good" mentality will have long-term destructive consequences for generations to follow. Shakespeare wrote, "The evil that men do oft lives after them, the good is interred with their bones." In Trump's and his allies case, their bones will be accompanied by little good, but the world's children will long suffer from the consequences of their evil actions that will live long after them. Their scornful place in history will be appropriately recorded.

Rich DiPentima  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

You could feel this idiotic decision coming, but even so, it was a shock. Let's hope we survive this crisis and actually have a future — we need to have one so that this vile buffoon and his greedy accomplices can be properly reviled.

The Editor

~

### Congratulations — Job Well Done

To the Editor:

Congratulations to Families First and Goodwin Community Health on their recently announced merger! The process will be completed in the fall and will formalize a collaboration the two agencies have cultivated for many years while allowing them to maintain their names and separate identities. It is encouraging to see two strong, healthy agencies combine resources as a way to continue responding to the needs of the

communities they serve, rather than out of financial necessity.

As the two health centers move forward and continue to grow under the able guidance of Janet Laatsch, Helen Taft, Families First executive director since 1989, will retire. As a longtime volunteer and former board member I have watched Families First grow under her leadership from a prenatal clinic providing services for pregnant, low-income women and teens to include a full-service community health center, mobile health services for vulnerable populations, dental care, mental health services and treatment for addiction — a job well-done!

Cynthia Muse  
Rye, N.H.

Cynthia:

But ... but ... but ... isn't there something missing, here? You make no mention of shareholders, job creators, return on investment, or the benefits of access to the resources of a global conglomerate.

We don't mean to criticize, but this seems at odds with the national trend.

The Editor

~

### Perfectly Innocent, We're Sure

To the Editor:

As news erupted of Trump's son-in-law seeking a secret communication channel through the Russian embassy, Trump's national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, said he "would not be concerned about"

back-channel communications. When initiated by our government, with approval by the President, they can be useful. When initiated by a private citizen, they may be seditious. As advisors to the President-elect six weeks before inauguration, Jared Kushner and Michael Flynn were violating the law. They were undermining the authority of our one and only legal President at that time. If he knew about this, and condoned it, Trump would be equally culpable for this treasonous action.

It's obvious that back-channel communications must be secret, or at least confidential, but that doesn't mean being withheld from appropriate governmental authorities. By trying to set up a secret channel, and then by not reporting his contacts with Russian government representatives. Kushner was intending to hide something.

Was he trying to arrange secret payoffs from Russian oligarchs to his father-in-law? Or was he simply a "useful fool" naively enabling Putin's people to influence the American presidency? We don't know, yet. But this attack on our national security requires severe consequences for all its perpetrators.

Bruce Joffe  
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

Shame on you for having such a suspicious mind!

Seriously, though — imagine it's June, 2009, and President Obama has

been up to his eyeballs in secret communications with Mwai Kibaki, and half of his Cabinet got rich importing tea from Nairobi.

The Editor

~

### Trump's War On Science

To the Editor:

In the midst of an opioid addiction epidemic, President Trump is considering a plan to gut the Office of National Drug Control Policy by 95 percent. In his dystopian world, the money is better spent on his larger-than-life military budget. Truth be known, Mr. Trump has launched a war on science. He's not just indifferent to it but overtly hostile to scientific scholarship and its evidence in general. This reflects his lack of understanding and/or caring about science's role in the human endeavor: national and domestic security, protecting air and water and other resources, biochemical research and preventing disease. This contradicts his lofty promises in his budget blueprint. Top government science positions, including that of presidential science adviser, remain vacant.

Myron Ebell, who headed the Trump transition team in the Environmental Protection Agency, literally denies the veracity and methodology of science itself.

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, lacking a degree in Education, and a Fundamental Christian, has a long history of opposition to

science.

Endowed with kids and grand kids, it's unfathomable that 70-year-old Mr. Trump is so antagonistic to climate change science that 97 percent of scientists support! Integrity was high on President Obama's agenda. He vowed to restore science to its rightful place and took steps to do so.

Mr. Trump, retaining power by disputed means, is adroitly destroying many things that are good about America, all in the name of making it "great" again.

Michael Kulla  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

~

"Agitators are a set of interfering, meddling people, who come down to some perfectly contented class of the community, and sow the seeds of discontent amongst them. That is the reason why agitators are so absolutely necessary. Without them, in our incomplete state, there would be no advance towards civilisation. Slavery was put down in America, not in consequence of any action on the part of the slaves, or even any express desire on their part that they should be free. It was put down entirely through the grossly illegal conduct of certain agitators in Boston and elsewhere, who were not slaves themselves, nor owners of slaves, nor had anything to do with the question really."

— Oscar Wilde,

*The Soul of Man Under Socialism*

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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, JUNE 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        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| <p><b>1995</b>—In Claremont, N.H., Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich shake hands and pledge to reform lobbying and campaign financing. Yeah, right.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—Mount Pinatubo erupts, becoming the first act of nature to close a U.S. military base.</p> <p><b>1984</b>—The Supreme Court says illegally obtained evidence is OK if prosecutors can prove that it would have been discovered legally.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—The nineteen-month Native American occupation of Alcatraz Island ends.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Thich Quang Duc immolates himself in front of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—George Wallace stands in the schoolhouse door to prevent desegregation in Alabama.</p> <p><b>1962</b>—John and Clarence Anglin, with Frank Morris, escape from Alcatraz but probably drown.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Republicans meeting in the original “smoke-filled room” select, to their discredit, Warren G. Harding.</p> <p><b>1851</b>—Having, in four hours, caught, tried, convicted, and sentenced John Jenkins, the First San Francisco Vigilance Committee hangs him.</p> <p><b>1837</b>—Drunkivist firefighters encounter Irishmen at a funeral: Boston’s Broad Street riot ensues.</p> <p><b>1345</b>—Alexios Apokaukos, Chief Minister of the Byzantine Empire, inspects a new prison without his bodyguards. Political prisoners cut off his head and impale it on a pole.</p> <p>1:00 1:37</p> <p>7:19 7:21</p> | <p><b>2016</b>—A Jonesboro, Ark. man dies when his Robinson R44 helicopter crashes and burns. Two witnesses allege he was intoxicated.</p> <p><b>2011</b>—Stabbed in a bar fight, Sean “Eddard Stark” Bean declines an ambulance in favor of another drink.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—George W.[MD] Bush finds a way to fall off of a Segway.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The Energy Department admits that two hard drives holding top-secret data on disarming and dismantling nuclear weapons have been missing for over a month.</p> <p><b>1999</b>—G.W.[MD] Bush announces.</p> <p><b>1981</b>—President Reagan, failing to recognize the only black person in his Cabinet, calls Housing Secretary Samuel Pierce “Mr. Mayor.”</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Radical labor organizer Saul Alinsky dies in California.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Pittsburgh Pirate Dock Ellis, tripping balls, pitches a no-hitter.</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Interracial marriage becomes legal in the U.S., thanks to the Supreme Court.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—Medgar Evers is shot and killed in Mississippi; his murderer is convicted 31 years later.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—“We have exactly 342 men,” says General Samuel T. Williams, head of the U.S. MAAG, Vietnam, “the number allowed by the Geneva Armistice Conference. It would be a breeze if we had more.”</p> <p><b>1920</b>—Serge Voronoff performs the first transplant of simian testicular tissue into a human.</p> <p>1:35 2:12</p> <p>7:55 7:59</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—Congress apologizes for having failed to pass 200 anti-lynching bills between 1882 and 1968.</p> <p><b>2003</b>—“His [Joe Wilson’s] wife is in the [CIA] and is a WMD analyst,” Dep. Sec. of State Richard Armitage tells Bob Woodward. “How about that s__t?”</p> <p><b>1989</b>—President George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush vetoes a raise in the minimum wage.</p> <p><b>1985</b>—Thomas L. Slade and son William are among passengers hijacked on a flight from Beirut, their second such experience in three days.</p> <p><b>1983</b>—<i>Pioneer 10</i> exits the solar system.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—<i>Pentagon Papers</i> are published.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—A U.S. helicopter crew blasts a Vietnamese command post, killing Saigon’s Police Chief. It’s an accident.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—The Supreme Court issues its <i>Miranda</i> decision.</p> <p><b>1960</b>—As SDS meets in Port Huron and the civil rights movement heats up, <i>Newsweek</i> reports that students are “apathetic.”</p> <p><b>1944</b>—News reports say Rep. Francis E. Walter (D-Penn.) gave FDR a letter-opener made from the arm bone of a dead Japanese soldier.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—German V-1 “buzz-bomb” attacks on England start.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—The German sub <i>U-202</i> lands eight Nazi saboteurs at Amagansett on Long Island.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—The U.S. Post Office rules children may no longer be shipped by Parcel Post.</p> <p>2:12 2:50</p> <p>8:32 8:39</p> | <p><b>2001</b>—Dennis Koslowski throws his wife Karen a \$2.1 million 40th birthday party on Sardinia, half the cost covered by Tyco International.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Argentina surrenders the Falklands to Britain.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—Dwight D. Eisenhower signs a bill adding “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—Sen. Joe McCarthy (R-Bourbon) accuses Pres. Eisenhower and Gen. George Marshall of serving the policies of the Kremlin.</p> <p><b>1951</b>—UNIVAC, the first commercial computer, is unveiled.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—The U.S. sends Albert II, a rhesus monkey, into space.</p> <p><b>1943</b>—The Supreme Court rules that children cannot be forced to salute the flag if it offends their religious beliefs.</p> <p><b>1928</b>—Ernesto “Che” Guevara is born in Argentina.</p> <p><b>1924</b>—In San Pedro, Calif., the IWW labor hall is raided; children are scalded and the hall demolished.</p> <p><b>1922</b>—In Washington, D.C., 5,000 African Americans march silently for an anti-lynching bill which has passed the House. Senate Democrats kill it with a filibuster, though.</p> <p><b>1919</b>—Alcock and Brown leave Newfoundland for the first successful flight across the Atlantic.</p> <p><b>1905</b>—Russian sailors aboard the battleship <i>Potemkin</i> mutiny.</p> <p><b>1662</b>—Henry Vane, Former Governor of Massachusetts [1636-37], is beheaded in the Tower of London.</p> <p>2:51 3:30</p> <p>9:13 9:23</p> | <p><b>2002</b>—Accounting firm Arthur Anderson is convicted of obstructing justice by impeding an investigation into G.W.[MD] Bush’s top financial contributor, Enron.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—The main rotor and tailboom fall off a Robinson R22 helicopter over Julia Creek, Australia. It crashes and burns, killing the pilot.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Vice President Dan Quayle earns a place in history by giving advice on how to spell ‘potato.’</p> <p><b>1967</b>—Gov. Reagan (R-Calif.) signs a bill liberalizing abortion laws.</p> <p><b>1920</b>—A mob of thousands drags three black circus workers from the Duluth, Minn. jail; arrested for a rape that didn’t happen, they’re lynched.</p> <p><b>1917</b>—Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman are charged with conspiring to “induce persons not to register” for the draft.</p> <p><b>1913</b>—At Bud Bagsak in the Philippines, designer John Browning tests his new .45 pistol on Moro rebels.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—The side-wheeler <i>General Slocum</i> burns during an excursion on New York City’s East River. Of the 1,300 aboard, more than 1,000 die.</p> <p><b>1859</b>—Near Vancouver, American Lyman Cutlar shoots a pig belonging to Charles Griffin, an Irishman, causing a U.S./British military standoff lasting 12 years.</p> <p><b>1648</b>—Having been found guilty by John Winthrop and other Boston worthies, Margaret Jones of Charlestown is hanged for witchcraft.</p> <p>3:34 4:14</p> <p>9:56 10:12</p> | <p><b>2015</b>—Donald Trump announces his preposterous candidacy for President.</p> <p><b>2002</b>—Bill Maher’s TV show “Politically Incorrect” is cancelled for truth in advertising.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—The Energy Department finds missing top-secret computer hard drives in a location which had already been searched twice.</p> <p><b>1992</b>—Ronald Regan’s Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger is indicted for lying to Congress.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Peace activists encircle the Pentagon.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—George “Superman” Reeves dies of a gunshot to the head.</p> <p><b>1954</b>—The first Bloomsday goes somewhat awry due to drunkenness.</p> <p><b>1944</b>—South Carolina electrocutes George J. Stinney Jr. for a double murder. He is 14 and weighs 90 lbs. [and had to sit on phone books for the electrodes to reach]</p> <p><b>1943</b>—Charlie Chaplin, 54, marries Oona O’Neill, 18.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—In an early demonstration of its self-destructive tendencies, the GOP nominates Herbert Hoover for a second term as President.</p> <p><b>1918</b>—In Canton, Ohio, Eugene V. Debs delivers an anti-draft speech so effective he is later charged with ten counts of sedition.</p> <p><b>1904</b>—In Dublin, James Joyce and Nora Barnacle go for a walk which he finds particularly memorable.</p> <p><b>1745</b>—Forces led by Sir William Pepperrell of Kittery take Louisburg.</p> <p>4:22 5:02</p> <p>10:43 11:05</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—Dennis Koslowski is convicted of looting N.H.-based Tyco.</p> <p><b>1988</b>—Texas Democrats hold a party at a Texas hotel suite listed by Veep “Poppy” Bush as his residence.</p> <p><b>1982</b>—Found hanging under a London bridge: R. Calvi, “God’s banker.”</p> <p><b>1972</b>—Nixon goons hit Democratic HQ at the Watergate, but a black Vietnam vet discovers them.</p> <p><b>1958</b>—N.H.’s Sherman Adams, Ike’s Chief of Staff, admits he accepted a vicuña coat from Boston industrialist Bernard Goldfine.</p> <p><b>1948</b>—A false alarm prompts a DC-6 flight crew to activate a fire extinguisher. They leave a relief valve open, though. CO<sub>2</sub> escapes, knocking them out; 43 die as the plane crashes in eastern Pennsylvania.</p> <p><b>1939</b>—In Paris, Eugene Weidmann becomes the last public victim of France’s guillotine. Watching from a nearby window is future horror movie star Christopher Lee.</p> <p><b>1933</b>—Four G-men and one hood die in the Kansas City Massacre, three of shotgun wounds; lawmen carried the only shotguns present.</p> <p><b>1932</b>—Thousands of disgruntled Great War vets mass in front of the U.S. Capitol as the Senate votes not to pay their bonuses.</p> <p><b>1775</b>—The Battle of Bunker Hill is fought on Breed’s Hill with New Hampshire men under Gen. John Stark using powder pilfered from Portsmouth’s Fort William and Mary.</p> <p>5:16 5:54</p> <p>11:33</p> |
| SUNDAY, JUNE 18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | MONDAY, JUNE 19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            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                                                                                                      | FRIDAY, JUNE 23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  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**2016**—In Las Vegas, Michael Steven Sandford, 20, a mentally-ill British man on an expired visa, attempts to grab a cop’s Glock to kill Donald Trump, who’s 30 feet away. He fails.

**2009**—Manchester Mayor Frank Guinta steps over a man with a leg broken in a brawl to exit the Fish & Game Social Club before EMTs arrive.

**1989**—RIP I.F. Stone, who said “Every government is run by liars and nothing they say should be believed.”

**1967**—On stage at Monterey, Calif., Jimi Hendrix sets his guitar afire.

**1965**—Operation Arc Light begins: 27 B-5s fly from Guam to bomb the ‘Nam. Two collide and crash due to navigational errors.

**1961**—Eddie Gaedel, only dwarf to get on-base in the majors [on balls], dies at 36 of a heart attack after a mugging.

**1959**—Louisiana Gov. Earl Long, though committed to a mental hospital, continues to govern.

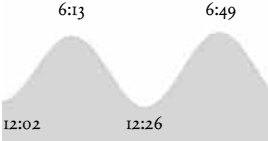
**1954**—In Alabama, Albert Fuller murders Alfred Patterson. Patterson, Democratic candidate for State Attorney, had vowed to rid Phoenix City of vice, apparently alarming Fuller, a former sheriff.

**1948**—Truman OKs plausibly-deniable propaganda, sabotage, demolition, & economic warfare by the CIA.

**1916**—In Australia, 6,000 rally against conscription.

**1869**—*New York Times* founder Henry J. Raymond dies of a stroke at 49 while entertaining his mistress.

6:13 6:49



**2010**—In Alaska, a Robinson R44 helicopter crashes when its pilot tries to use its skid to disentangle a bull wrapped in plastic. The pilot dies.

**2006**—Publisher and Bush appointee Phillip Merrill is discovered shot and weighted down in Chesapeake Bay, where the CIA’s Bill Colby and John Paisley ended up; all suicides, though.

**1969**—Tobar, Nev.—named for a sign pointing to a saloon—is dealt a death blow by an exploding railroad car full of bombs en route to Vietnam.

**1967**—Muhammad Ali is convicted of refusing to be drafted.

**1954**—Warned by Sen. Styles Bridges (R-N.H.) that his son’s homosexuality would be exposed if he did not resign, Sen. Lester C. Hunt (D-Wyo.) shoots himself dead in his Senate office.

**1953**—Julius and Ethel Rosenberg become the first native-born Americans executed for espionage.

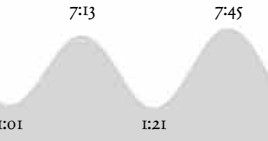
**1898**—The *U.S.S. Charleston* shells Guam. The Spanish governor, unaware there’s a war, apologizes for not having powder to return the salute.

**1879**—Gen. Wm. T. Sherman, at the Michigan Military Academy, tells his audience, “There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but, boys, it is all hell.”

**1864**—The Portsmouth-built ship *Kearsarge* sinks the Confederate raider *Alabama* off Cherbourg.

**1865**—Slaves in Texas learn they’re free, on a date now celebrated as “June-teenth.”

7:13 7:45



**2005**—Veep Dick “Dick” Cheney tells Larry King the insurgency in Iraq is “in the last throes.”

**2003**—An instructor and student die in New South Wales after the main rotor flies off a Robinson R22.

**1970**—The sub *U.S.S. Taugot* acquires a permanent 2-degree bend in its sail and a big chunk of Soviet propeller during a “Crazy Ivan” by *K-108*.

**1965**—Navy Lts. Clinton B. Johnson and Charles Hartman, flying prop-driven Douglas A-1 Skyraiders, down a MiG jet fighter over Vietnam.

**1963**—The White House-Kremlin “Hot Line” is installed.

**1962**—For the second time in less than a fortnight, a Thor rocket malfunctions and drops an A-bomb into the South Pacific.

**1953**—Lt. Gen. John W. “Iron Mike” O’Daniel arrives in Saigon to confer with French General Henri Navarre on how to bring peace to Vietnam.

**1943**—KKK and pals attack striking African-American auto workers in Detroit; 34 die, 1,300 are arrested.

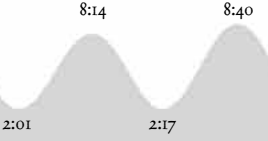
**1942**—Four prisoners in Nazi uniforms drive out Auschwitz’s main gate in the commandant’s car.

**1941**—The sub *U.S.S. O-9* sinks east of the Isles of Shoals with 33 aboard.

**1940**—NAACP official Elbert Williams becomes the organization’s first martyr, in Brownsville, Tenn.

**1923**—Pancho Villa dies, saying, “Don’t let it end like this. Tell them I said something.”

8:14 8:40



**2006**—Fox News, citing Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), reports that WMD have been found in Iraq.

**2005**—Edgar Ray Killen, 80, is found guilty of manslaughter in the case of Schwerner, Goodman, and Chaney.

**2004**—Mike Melvill becomes the world’s first non-governmental astronaut by piloting *SpaceShipOne* to an altitude of 100 kilometers.

**1994**—As Jose Martin and his wife drive near Madrid, a 3-lb. meteorite crashes through their windshield, bends the steering wheel, and lands in the back seat. She is unscathed, he gets a broken finger.

**1989**—The U.S. Supreme Court rules flag-burning is legal.

**1964**—Civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney are murdered by the KKK in Mississippi.

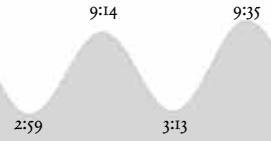
**1942**—The Japanese sub *I-25* fires 17 shells at Fort Stevens, Ore., damaging a phone cable.

**1877**—The Molly Maguires, 14 miners arrested by private detectives and prosecuted by private attorneys for the coal companies, are hanged by Pennsylvania officials, private executioners apparently being unavailable. Pardons for two arrive minutes too late.

**1919**—Germans scuttle their captive fleet at Scapa Flow. Brits shoot nine Germans in lifeboats.

**1788**—New Hampshire becomes the 9th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. You’re welcome.

9:14 9:35



**2009**—Republican Governor Mark Sanford’s spokesman says South Carolina’s Chief Executive is hiking the Appalachian Trail.

**2004**—On the floor of the Senate, Veep Dick “Dick” Cheney tells Sen. Pat Leahy, “Go f\_\_k yourself.”

**2002**—Enron execs admit they hid \$1.5 billion in illegal profits gouged from California ratepayers.

**1977**—Nixon’s ex-AG John Mitchell begins 19 months in prison.

**1970**—The 24th Amendment gives 18-year-olds the vote.

**1969**—In Ohio, the Cuyahoga River burns for 20 minutes.

**1964**—The U.S. Supreme Court rules the Post Office can’t ban Henry Miller’s *Tropic of Cancer*.

**1950**—Retired FBI agents help a paranoid fabric importer publish *Red Channels*, a pamphlet claiming radio and TV are full of Communies.

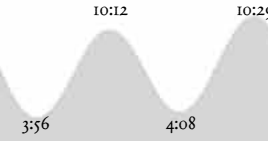
**1942**—Congress adopts the Flag Code,® thus replacing the embarrassingly Nazi-like “Flag Salute” with FDR’s hand-on-heart gesture.

**1918**—After 24 hours awake a railroad engineer nods off; his locomotive crushes the wooden cars of a stopped circus train; oil lamps do the rest: 86 die and 200 are injured in Hammond, Ind.

**1898**—The U.S. Army’s V Corps, commanded by gout-ridden, 300-lb. Major General William Shafter, lands chaotically in Cuba.

**1893**—*HMS Victoria* accidentally sinks *HMS Camperdown*; 358 die.

10:12 10:29



**2016**—During W.Va.’s worst flooding in 100 years, a burning house is filmed floating down a creek.

**2016**—After shedding parts, a Robinson R66 helicopter crashes in Arizona, killing a pilot and passenger.

**2014**—The Market Basket board fires CEO Arthur T. Demoulas and brings in two inepts to take his place.

**2008**—NASA’s James Hansen nags Congress about the threat of global warming — again.

**2005**—Roller coaster safety expert Richard H. Brown, 64, dies of injuries received in a fall in his own driveway.

**1995**—During a soundcheck, Dan Rather joins R.E.M. in “What’s the Frequency, Ken?”

**1988**—NASA’s James Hansen warns Congress of the seriousness of the threat of global warming.

**1976**—Edwin Walker, former Army General and Lee Harvey Oswald target, is arrested for fondling an undercover cop in a Dallas men’s room.

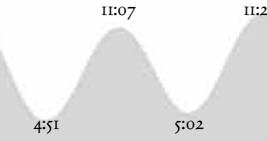
**1972**—Nixon’s own tape recorder catches him telling H.R. Haldeman to order the CIA to block an FBI investigation of Watergate.

**1950**—A Douglas DC-4 and all 58 aboard disappear without a trace over Lake Michigan.

**1947**—The U.S. Senate overrides Truman’s veto of the anti-labor Taft-Hartley Act.

**1937**—George Orwell, wounded, flees Spain with his wife after Communists suppress anarchists.

11:07 11:22



**1994**—Air Force Lt. Col Arthur Holland, hot-dogging during air-show practice maneuvers, crashes a B-52 at Fairchild AFB in Washington State.

**1982**—All engines fail on a British Airways 747 en route to Australia after flying through a cloud of volcanic ash; 14 minutes later, pilots re-start the engines and land successfully.

**1971**—Nixon’s Special Counsel Charles Colson circulates the first White House “Enemies List.”

**1970**—Staging fails on the Kittery side of the Piscataqua River Bridge project. Four men fall 75 feet to their deaths, seven others are injured.

**1968**—Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, tells a Long Island audience, “The enemy has lost whatever chance he had of taking South Vietnam by military force.”

**1968**—Cops and the Guard shut down “Resurrection City U.S.A.” in D.C. with dogs and smoke grenades.

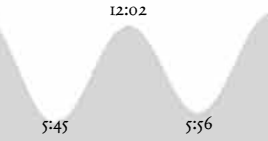
**1947**—Private pilot Kenneth Arnold reports “flying saucers” over Washington state.

**1924**—The Democratic National Convention begins. It ends 17 days later, having voted down an anti-Klan plank.

**1902**—Deadline looming, Joseph Conrad upsets an oil lamp and accidentally burns the second installment of *The End of the Tether*.

**1524**—Countess Helena von Lupfen orders Stühlingen peasants to collect snail shells for her maids, triggering the German Peasants War.

12:02



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