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The Fortnightly Rant

Adventures in Cruelty

In a protracted moment of weakness, seemingly a lifetime ago, the mightiest nation on Earth cobbled together the weakest excuse for a national health care program that the world had ever seen.

Its basic framework had been designed years earlier by pedigreed conservatives.* It had been implemented by a Mormon conservative and road-tested in a liberal state — a process strict federalists profess to revere. On its way through the Congress it was festooned with bells and whistles, the better to cater to conservative tastes.

Before the ink of the President's signature dried, though, conservatives swore to kill it — a pledge they've repeated daily for the last ninety months.

Toward that end, not long ago, the House wrote and passed its proposed version of Obamacare's death sentence, a bill so vicious that President Trump called it, perhaps admiringly, a mean, cold-hearted son of a bitch.†

At the time, many of the talking heads on the flat-screen propaganda dispensers which have colonized the nation uttered some variant of the following statement: "Don't despair, things may not be as bad as they appear. This bill will get fixed in the Senate."

That chorus of conventional wis-

dom revealed once again why the same set of heads keeps appearing on television: their bearers have demonstrated an uncanny ability to talk *ad infinitum* about current events without straying close enough to the truth to make their corporate overseers uncomfortable or threaten their bottom line.

In fact, what happened when stewardship of their health care passed from the House to the Senate, was that millions of Americans went from the frying pan into the fire.

Strangely enough, that is how things were intended to work. The much-revered slavemasters who wrote our hallowed Constitution intended that the House be the branch of government to most closely follow the wishes of ordinary people. The Senate's purpose is, of course, to serve the whims and desires of the elites, grandees, and panjandrums who have demonstrated their probity by obtaining substantial amounts of property.

With Republicans controlling both chambers of Congress, "fixing Obamacare" has become a slow-rolling pogrom: an ugly new version of the old good-cop, bad-cop scenario in which two bad cops act out a screenplay written by Stephen King.

By its likely condemnation of some millions of constituents to early graves, the House had set the bar pretty high. With its primacy thus challenged, the Senate was compelled to reassert its superior status over the lesser House. How do you top, though, taking health care away from 24 million people?

This being America, a bounteous land purchased from its former owners with liberal applications of black powder and smallpox, the obvious way would be to summarily shoot them. Even in America, though, Senatorial privilege has its



limitations. Besides, after a recent event in Arlington, Va., the approval ratings for 2nd Amendment solutions have lost a little bit of their luster.

It was a challenge of some enormity, but Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, thanks to his unique reptilian heritage, was just the turtle to meet it. His solution: re-assert the Senate's excruciating hauteur by conducting the people's business in utter secrecy.

Fifteen patient-advocacy organizations including the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, and the March of Dimes, representing millions of wheezing, palpitating patients, were summarily told to roll their wheelchairs elsewhere.

Annoying members of the Fourth Estate who dared to sully the Senate's halls were prohibited from exercising their 1st Amendment

rights. (A precaution that may have been superfluous, judging from the daily succession of Tweets carrying some variation of the message, "Another day without a SINGLE frontpage story on the Senate's bill to take health care from millions. Like living in an alternate universe.")

Faint Democratic voices could be heard complaining that the Senate bill hadn't been scored by the Congressional Budget Office. Of course not! How could the CBO score what it can't see? At last report not even Tom Price, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, had been permitted to view the sacred text.

That august privilege has been reserved for exactly thirteen old, white, male Senators. They constitute the New Sanhedrin: the long-anticipated, much-dreaded, honest to Pete Death Panel.

Rumor has it they plan to slash

\$834 billion worth of health care from a mob of shiftless layabouts who should have made better decisions.

In unrelated news which just happens to confirm what decent people have always known, scientists recently published a paper showing that when humans acquire power, mirroring neurons in the brain, which enable one individual to understand what other individuals are experiencing, begin to atrophy and die. This means, according to our latest theory — which we obtained for a nickel from an antique vending machine in a dusty corner of the newsroom, and which is ours — is that this is why humans will go extinct.

The recalcitrant may always choose to fight back, of course. What better way to while away the hours as you wait for the real Death Panel to call your name?

* For the purposes of this screed, and out of consideration for the delicate sensibilities of the brutish thugs who claim it, we will knowingly employ the term "conservative" according to its commonly-accepted but thoroughly incorrect and intentionally misleading usage; i.e., in place of the fair and accurate term "radical reactionary." Conservative used to mean to favor stability and caution over rash experimentation. Now it means supporting social Darwinism and the time-dishonored principle that might makes right.

† The Grand Yam doesn't know much about anything but, having once cut off the health care of a disabled nephew, he's actually an expert on gratuitous cruelty.

The Alleged News®

The Battle of Sanders Poynt: A Lack of Progress Report

William "Bill" Binnie's illegal blockade of the public's right to access the waters of Little Harbor at Sanders Poynt has now lasted 21 months longer than John F. Kennedy's Presidential Administration.

Judging by his actions, he doesn't think that's long enough.

Binnie, of course, is the proprietor of the excruciatingly fashionable Wentworth by the Sea Country Club in Rye. Long before he purchased that amusement park for well-heeled alleged adults, and to his painfully obvious chagrin, any *Homo sapiens*, whether well-heeled or barefoot, have had — quite possibly for millenia — the communally-accepted right to stroll across what is now the farthest end of the Wentworth's expensively-manicured greens and dig up a few worms, launch a small

boat, or just toss an old inner tube into the waters of Little Harbor and splash about to their heart's content, revelling in the joy of simply being alive.

That sort of behavior seems to grate on Binnie's nerves. In October of 2012, using the flimsy pretext of a questionable town permit to put up a fence, he ordered his minions to obliterate a town-built and town-maintained gravel parking lot and erect a three-tiered barrier consisting of a fence, a row of boulders, and a thicket of juniper bushes.

Rye resident Robert Jesurum called on the state's Attorney General, asking him to earn his pay and defend the public's right of access, which is clearly set out in the state's RSAs [Revised Statutes, Annotated]. Almost inexplicably, the AG declined to do his job. As we un-

derstand it, he pleaded a "lack of resources." Once again, the state's abhorrence of an income tax seems to curiously favor the interests of the wealthy at the expense of the less-so.

Undeterred, Jesurum hired local attorney Paul McEachern, ably assisted by Jacob Marvally, and sued Binnie's legal façade, WBTSCC Limited Partnership, *et al* [the Wentworth] in Superior Court.

Jesurum won. Judge Marguerite Wageling ordered Binnie to restore the site to its prior condition.

Binnie appealed. Jesurum won again.

Binnie appealed to the New Hampshire Supreme Court. Jesurum won again.

The case was remanded to Superior Court, where Judge Wageling is purportedly overseeing the process of restoration.

Binnie, however, is now showing signs of being a hitherto unrecognized expert on Zeno's Paradox: if a man goes halfway across a room, then goes halfway across the remaining distance, &c., &c., he will never reach the other side. In Binnie's case, "the other side" is the moment when actual work on the site begins.

A reasonable person trying to comply with the Judge's orders could and would have handed any suitable contractor a photograph of the site as it had been and simply said, "get to it." A few days later — some months ago — the site would have been ready for use. Instead, as one of Jesurum's filings puts it, "the Wentworth Defendants have aggrandized the task before them."

Binnie has dragged into the process every town and state agency he could induce to cooperate, and paid

his landscape architects to draw up a series of complex plans which appear to be designed so as not to work. The first plan proposed four cramped parking spaces; if all were in use, two of the cars would be unable to leave.

Only Binnie, of course, knows his true motives. A suspicious person, though, might have reasonably begun to wonder if he might be trying to break Jesurum's will by crushing him with the cost of legal shenanigans.

With the fate of principle of public access at stake, and its defense in the hands of a private individual acting at his own expense, we asked Jacob Marvally about the state of Jesurum's determination.

The Alleged News®
from page one

"It is disappointing that the state did not step up and fulfill its duties as Trustee of the Public Trust Lands," Marvelly said, "particularly the Attorney General as Trustee of Public Trust Lands. And it was disappointing that they declined to take on this important beach access case in the state.

"Mr. Jesurum has been impressive and dedicated. He saw the fencing off of an important public right, and he has stood up to advocate for that, which is admirable. He continues that admirable path of working to clear the blockade against a decades or perhaps centuries old beach access point, to which the public is entitled."

How does Jesurum feel about Binnie's latest proposed plan?

"He opposes the plan because the public acquired prescriptive rights to the entirety of Sanders Poynt, meaning, the entire gravel area and the walkway to the water's edge, and so, Mr. Jesurum objects to any plan that restricts the footprint of the public's prescriptive easement.

"He objects to the current plan

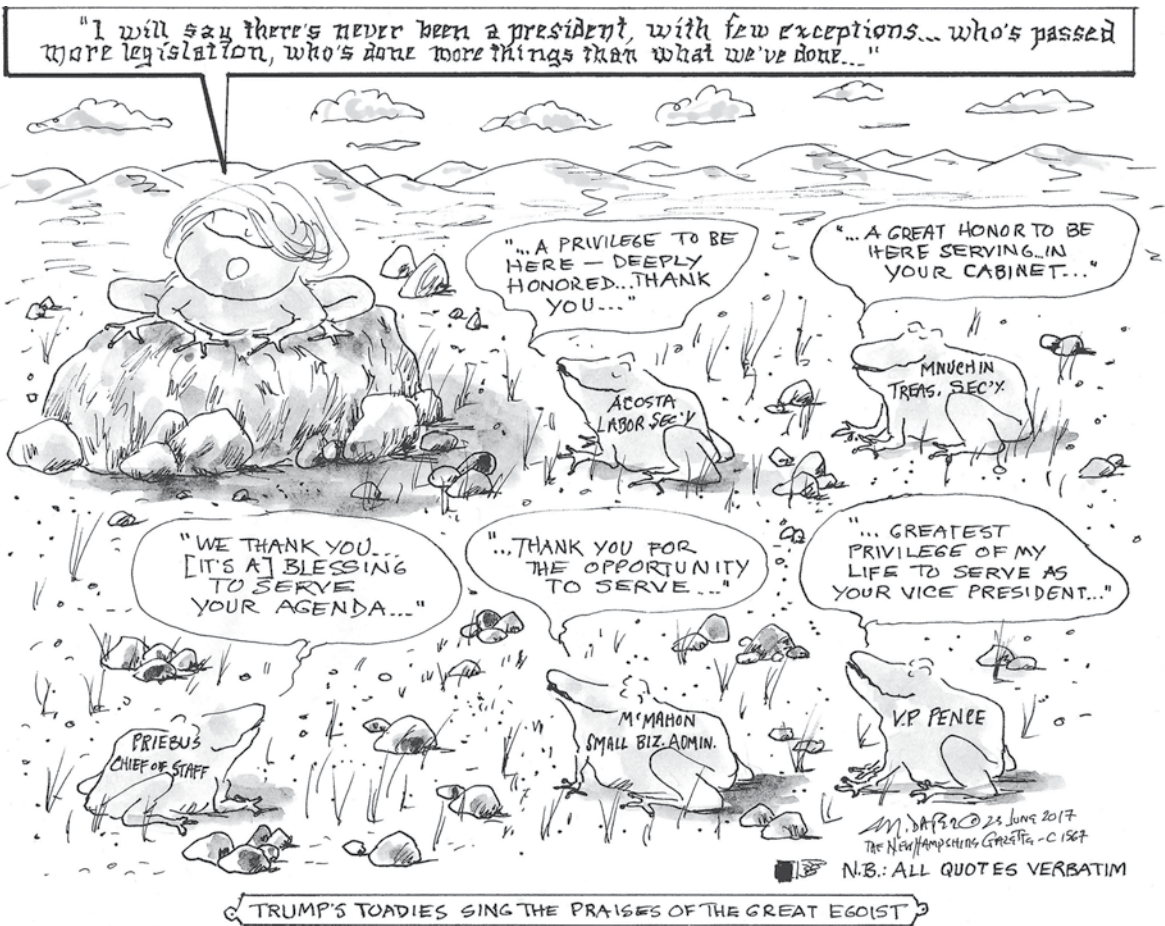
because it proposes to significantly reduce the footprint of the useable area of Sanders Poynt, and that, in our view, would violate the court's order finding a public prescriptive easement to exist at Sanders Poynt.

"And, it would violate the court's order to restore Sanders Poynt to the condition it was in before October, 2012, which was when the Wentworth defendants, the WBTSCC Limited Partnership, constructed the fence and placed the boulders across the entrance."

Among the features currently proposed: a narrow path from the parking spaces to the beach, flanked on both sides with thickly-planted, prickly rose bushes. It could have been worse, we suppose. Binnie might have proposed planting poison ivy.

The Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire [CCANH] has been accepting donations to defray Jesurum's legal expenses. We checked in Monday with CCANH President Don Swanson, to see how that effort is going. Not so well, we're sorry to report. Only about \$8,500 has been raised so far.

The most encouraging news Don had was that back in March, he re-



The umpety-umph Market Square Day, held on June 10th, dodged all conceivable meteorological bullets: no downpours, no baseball-sized hail, no freak twisters, no early hurricanes — best of all, there were no meteors!

ceived the following note:

"Dear Gentle People:
"At 76, on a limited income, and eschewing screens (no television, no internet) I learned of Robert Jesurums fight for the public at Sanders Poynt by way of *The New Hampshire Gazette*.

"This being New Hampshire I can't get there from here, but I can contribute something. I apologize that it's so little, but I want to do what I can.

"So, I'm enclosing a small check. Thanks to you, the Coastal Conservation Association, and thanks to Mr. Jesurum."

The sender granted permission for the note to be published, but asked that her name and hometown be withheld.

Those wishing to follow this person's example 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.

The Liberty Goes Unremembered

Sadly, as we predicted in our paper of May 26th, the 50th anniversary of the Israeli attack on the *U.S.S. Liberty*, in international waters off the Gaza Strip, went virtually unreported in the national news media: 34 men dead, 174 wounded, all forgotten.

Rigorous Googling revealed that UPI's "Almanac" feature ran a very short item on the June 8, 1967 attack, "which," UPI carefully noted, "Israel said was a case of mistaken identity."

The only other coverage we were able to locate was one article in the

Rutland [Vt.] Herald, circulation 12,000. No doubt it appeared because a *Liberty* survivor lives in the vicinity. It, too, repeated the official line put forth by both Israel and the U.S. Government:

"Asked to comment on the 50th anniversary of the attack, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a brief emailed statement: 'This was a tragic accident, and a matter that was settled between the parties involved years ago. We have nothing to add to that.'"

Shockingly, a reader who has followed this issue closely for half a century informed us that neither the American Legion nor the VFW mention the *Liberty* in the June issues of their magazines.

He speculated that this was by design. The reader's theory, as we understand it, is as follows.

The national commanders of the leading veterans' service organizations [VSOs] are, by virtue of their

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positions, in constant communication with Members of Congress. Whenever they may have pushed for further investigations into the attack, they were rebuffed. Just as Lyndon Johnson and his successors brushed aside the concerns of the *Liberty's* survivors in consideration of "larger" geo-strategic issues, Members of Congress also found it inconvenient to go to the mat over a few hundred men — especially when perceived anti-Israel actions might jeopardize their campaign fund-raising.

Finally, according to this theory, to whatever extent successive VSO commanders might have been inclined to push, our reader surmises that they may have backed off themselves so as not to jeopardize present or future Congressionally-mandated benefits for their members.

This theory doesn't present a very pretty picture, which suggests to us that it might be right.

Despite all the lofty rhetoric, we do sometimes leave our dead behind. Hell, we leave the living behind — look at the VA plan to slash disability benefits for a quarter of a million older veterans.

Of all the many ways this country has gone wrong since Ronald Reagan made America grate [sic] again the first time, one of the most dam-

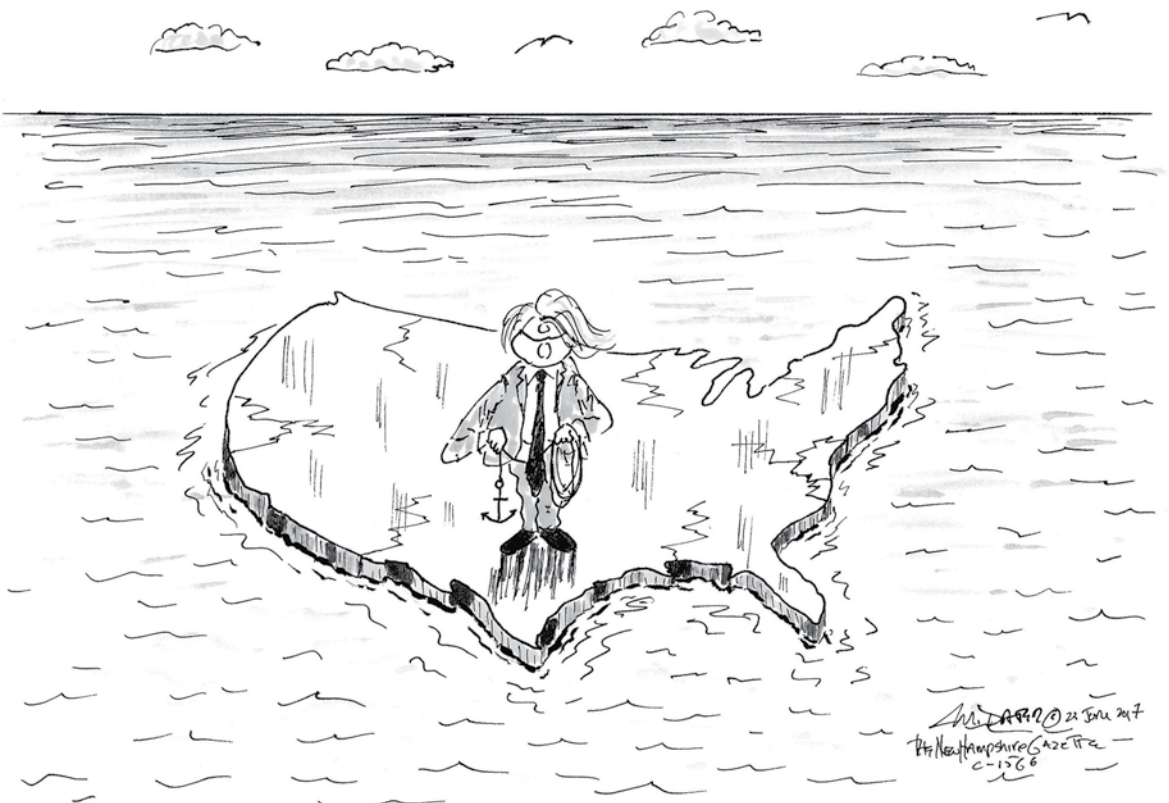
aging has been the re-glorification of war and other military adventures. Truth is beauty, the poets say. Perhaps the true story of the *Liberty*, as ugly as it is, could help us to correct that grave error.

Mary Pinchot Meyer and the Murder of John F. Kennedy

Peter Janney delivered a fascinating talk at RiverRun Bookstore on June 11th. He's the author of *Mary's Mosaic*, which looks at the assassination of President John F. Kennedy through the prism of Mary Pinchot Meyer. To summarize brutally, the CIA figures rather largely in Janney's analysis.

During the Q and A, Doug Bogen asked, "Given this rather sordid history of U.S. involvement in other countries, as well as potentially domestically in our own politics, I'm curious what you think about the current apparent consensus of the intelligence folks, including Mr. Comey and others, about the Russian involvement in our elections. ... Mr. Trump or maybe one of his colleagues, made reference to the Deep State and they're suggesting it's all part of some conspiracy. Where do you come down on that?"

Janney replied, "Like everyone else I'm still learning. I'm very suspicious about how there's an effort



ADrift FROM THE WORLD - A NEW ICEBERG

to demonize Russia, day in and day out. I don't like that. I think the situation is much more complex. It's not as if I'm a great admirer of Vladimir Putin. I'm not. But I don't think he's the devil that many of the people in this country would like to make him out to be.

"I do think there is an effort by our own intelligence establishment to get rid of Donald Trump, and I understand why. I was at a party with several retired CIA people not too long ago and this subject came up. I said, 'Why are you guys doing this? We know you're doing it.' And, as one of them said, 'Look, when you've got a four-year-old with his finger on a nuclear trigger, you have to do anything and everything to get him away from that. And it's sad that is has to go down this way, through all this leaking and stuff, but the situation is much more critical than most people really understand.'

"And I think there's some truth to that. I just don't think that it's necessarily the intelligence's place to always make those kinds of decisions. Because I think personally Donald

Trump could be impeached just on the basis of what he's done already. But of course there is not the political or moral courage in Washington to do something like that."

More Plummeting Helicopters

Don Opplinger was "one of the largest cattle operators in the west central U.S.," according to a recent news report. His success, though, could not protect him. He was killed June 3rd, when the Robinson R22 helicopter he was piloting crashed in Dimmit, Texas.

Separate crashes destroyed two Robinson helicopters recently in South Africa. An R22 killed one person, while an R44 killed two and left two more seriously injured.

Technical Difficulties

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, as activity in the *Gazette* newsroom began to reach its fevered fortnightly peak, and a considerable part of the content of this issue had yet to be created, an Actiontec MI424 fiber-optic modem silently turned into a digital pumpkin.

One minute we had instant digital communication to all points on

the globe: text, images, video — the works. The next minute we were nearly *incommunicado*, reduced, like Alexander Graham Bell in the 19th century, to voice only, over a landline.

Fortunately, a call to Fairpoint's apparently well-staffed Tech Support Department was answered almost immediately. Unfortunately, the earliest the technician on duty could promise a replacement was Thursday.

As a consequence, a considerable part of this paper was composed without access to the raw foolishness we so often use as seasoning: direct quotes from public figures. We've done our best to make up for it with an extra measure of spite, vitriol, and malice.

On Political Economists

"I have always felt a certain horror of political economists, since I heard one of them say that he feared the famine of 1848 in Ireland would not kill more than a million people, and that would scarcely be enough to do much good."

— Benjamin Jowett [1817-1893]
British theologian



The installation of new gas lines under Congress Street has been proceeding as smoothly as could be hoped, considering that utility workers are performing exacting tasks involving a highly-flammable gas capable of producing huge explosions, all amid heavy pedestrian and automotive traffic.

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Liberals Gone Wild

To the Editor:
Caught up in the echo chamber of fake news broadcast by CNN, CSN-BC, and liberal fantasy, along with suffering PTSD after Hillary Clinton's defeat, the liberals are convinced there was some Russian plot that gave the vote to Donald Trump. And as the fake news of liberal media continues not to offer any proof of Russian interference in the election a charge of obstruction of justice is created which wastes precious taxpayer money pursuing this delusion. So it is the liberals who are in possession of, and purveyors of, fake news, not those who voted for Trump. In short there is no there, there. But, liberals never have been able to see their own hypocrisy.

In fact, liberalism has always been hypocritical. We see it in those liberals who rant about global warming but leave the biggest carbon footprint with their private jets, their yachts, their gas guzzling autos, and their overall lifestyle. Then there is the support of public schools and their so called inclusiveness, while they live and hide behind the walls of their gated community, their private pools, and their private schools. And tolerance is only for those groups that violate the normative behavior established by centuries of civilization. But, for white Christian males there is only contempt. The only use for these males, and females who disagree with them, as the liberals see it is as the military to advance and spread the liberal agenda to the rest of the world. Of course their children will not serve or die on some remote battlefield in some God forsaken part of the world. And of course here in America the liberals will talk of gun control when perhaps they should talk of drone control, of bombing control, of control over their passion for slaughtering those in the name of democracy when democracy is never what it is about; it is only about greed and power. And did they really think that they could put Hillary Clinton, a chronic liar and thief who supported war and Wall Street, into the office of President, thinking that everyone but they are stupid? This is exactly what

they thought.

This hypocrisy is of course an attempt to hide the dark heart and soul of liberalism behind a mask of kindness and civility, but war and violence is neither, yet is war and violence toward those who do not agree with them that is their guiding behavior. It cannot be otherwise as thinking themselves to be entitled to rule over the world and, having an agenda that varies so far from the mainstream, they can only put their bizarre self-serving agenda into effect by creating a strong central government and powerful invading armies to spread it to the rest of the world. But this runs the risk of having those rational, truly good, citizens who will have none of their nonsense vote to use that government to advance a logical and opposing agenda, a truly kinder anti-war and all inclusive agenda that will tolerate, but not necessarily promote, differing behaviors and opinions. Therefore, liberalism cannot exist in a democratic world.

This is why the liberals loved the Soviet Union under Stalin but hate Putin. Under Stalin the party leaders — positions they saw as their natural right — beloved by the American Left who [have] now morphed into the neoconservatives, enjoyed all the benefits of Western social and economic advances while the remainder of their society waited on line for day-old bread, and died in the gulag if they protested. No, the liberals have not changed their spots, despite renaming themselves neoconservatives. This is why they react so violently to the recent display of true democracy by the forgotten citizens that are the backbone of American society. These folks rejected the hypocritical liberal agenda, and we see the big lie and violent dark heart and soul of liberalism reveal itself in the violence and hatred the liberals display.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.

John:

We continue to enjoy your acerbic assaults on perceived liberal woolly-headedness. They help us hone what's left of our wits.



We would never try to deny the existence of the aforementioned condition, but we disagree about its prevalence and its impact. Liberals, in their woolly-headed, incremental way, did manage in 2009 to pass a bill that expanded coverage and ended some of the worst cruelties of our cobbled-together health care insurance system. Conservatives are now trying to deprive those millions of their coverage and condemn those with pre-existing conditions to bankruptcy. If they succeed they'll be killing people and wasting money in the process. That's woolly-headed and cruel. Liberal or conservative: which, would you say, is worse? The solution to the problem is obvious, of course: we should end Federal support for the vicious and depraved private health insurance racket, and institute Medicare for all.

We can't say whether or not Trump's inner circle plotted with Russians to win him the 2016 election. Finding that out is Bob Mueller's job. Anyone can see, though, that everyone in that inner circle is either related to Trump by blood or marriage, or tied to shady Russians through their business interests.

Trump may or may not fall for electoral shenanigans. We fully expect to see him charged for money laundering, though. In an ideal world, those indictments will come right after, or contemporaneous with, others that may prompt Mike Pence and Paul Ryan to be suddenly overcome by the fervent desire to spend more time with their families.

You decry the private jets and lavish yachts that clog our harbors and our skies, and the walled and gated communities that separate our economy's winners from the losers. Do you really mean to suggest that the majority of the owners of those grotesque examples of unfettered capitalism self-identify as liberals? On what basis?

The Editor

Trump vs. Earth's Climate

To the Editor:
Donald Trump's decision to have

the United States withdraw from the Paris Accord was a terrible decision from a public health, environmental, political, diplomatic and economic perspective.

As a candidate, Trump promised to bring jobs back to America. In rejecting the Paris Accord, Trump has assured that one of the largest growth industries, renewable energy, which would produce millions of jobs, will not be in our future. His rejection of the clean renewable energy future is akin to a President at the beginning of the 20th Century rejecting the future economic boon that the automobile would create for the next hundred years and beyond. Imagine a president in 1917 rejecting the automobile and saying we need to rebuild the horse and buggy industry. That is exactly what Trump is doing, rejecting the energy of the future, which will be in the designing, manufacturing, sales, installation and maintenance of solar, wind, geothermal, and tidal energy systems, for digging coal, the horse and buggy of the energy system.

The country that is rejoicing the most about Trump's Paris Accord decision is China. Trump is in essence offshoring the renewable energy industry to China. In the absence of an America leading the way in the renewable energy revolution, China will step in and fill the void, which will allow China to become the next great economic power in the future. By rejecting the Paris Accord, Trump has given China the keys to one of the greatest treasure chest in history, and they are ready and eager to take full advantage of our stupidity.

Trump will not make America great again, however he is well on his way to making America second rate again, by trading high tech, high paying clean green energy jobs for dirty,

dangerous coal mining jobs. No, Mr. Trump the "self-inflicted major economic wound" that you say we will suffer from remaining in the Paris Accord, will instead be due to your decision to abandon the Paris Accord. Thanks to your hubris, you will be pulling America backward by the horse and buggy to the 19th Century.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Stealing Health, Helping The Rich

To the Editor:

While all eyes were on James Comey, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell set about destroying health care coverage for Americans.

He has invoked Rule 14 which allows him to schedule a vote on the Republican health care plan (AHCA) with no input from the public, no Democratic input, no committee discussion, and allowing for no amendments. The plan has not been made public!

What will the Republican legislation do? Based on the Republican House bill, it will give an \$880 billion tax break to the richest, cut \$800 billion from Medicaid, gutting it and causing millions of middle class, working class, and poor Americans to lose their health care coverage. It will defund Planned Parenthood and deprive children of basic health care.

You *know* this will be bad for the average American or the Republicans wouldn't be trying to rush through legislation in such stealth!

Remember this when you vote: they took \$800 billion from health care and transferred it to the richest people in the country, their base.

In the meantime, call the Capitol Hill Switchboard (202) 224-3121 and talk to the Senator(s) of your choice.

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Governor Sununu is making sympathetic noises toward pushing 50,000 New Hampshire residents off Medicaid. Give his office a call too, at (603) 271-2121.

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

All Enemies, Foreign and Domestic
To the Editor:

May was an exciting month for my family as we celebrated the graduations of two fine young family members from their respective colleges. I had the distinct honor and privilege of attending the commencement and commissioning ceremonies at the United States Military Academy, West Point for one of the said members.

It is customary for West Point to invite the Commander-in-Chief to deliver the commencement speech. The 45th POTUS was invited to do so for the Class of 2017 but was apparently disinclined prior to the graduation, for “concerns over protests in the vicinity of the campus.”

I found the news disappointing since I was curious to hear the Commander-in-Chief talk to the new Army Second Lieutenants on the Core Values of the Army: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. My disappointment was quickly alleviated upon learning that Secretary of Defense James Mattis would be standing in for his boss. Mattis, far more suited to speak to said values, was the perfect replacement for #45.

Furthermore, thankfully our Secretary of Defense holds intelligent positions on hugely important national security issues which are diametrically opposed to those of his boss and the Republican Party. He has hailed

NATO as the “fundamental bedrock” of trans-Atlantic cooperation; acknowledged that Russia interfered in our past election and perceives Russia’s actions as a serious threat to our democracy; bemoaned proposed spending cuts to the State Department; and called climate change a major national security threat, opposing withdrawal from the Paris Climate Change Treaty.

As I expected, the commencement speech of Mattis, who had a distinguished 40+ year career which saw him rise to the rank of a U.S.M.C. Four-Star General from an 18-year-old Private, received rousing applause throughout with the exception of a congratulatory message from his boss, which met with an eerily muted response. After all, Mattis, in stark contrast to the Commander-in-Chief, is a scholarly warrior who truly understands the cost of war and what it means for the new Army Officers to swear “to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.”

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:

Our moderately-diligent search failed to find any corroboration of your assertion that Trump was “disinvited” by West Point. Traditionally, sitting Presidents address the graduating classes of the five military academies on a rotating basis. Obviously, one-term Presidents don’t get to address them all.

Trump did address the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. Commandant Paul F. Zukunft, according to the Conn. Mirror, said “it was ‘an honor’ that, in the first year of his presidency, Trump chose to attend the academy’s graduation despite its small size compared to other military academies.

“We have out-muscled the Air Force Academy, West Point and Annapolis,

because we have landed our Commander-in-Chief to preside at this day’s commencement.”

Here’s part of what he told them: “Look at the way I’ve been treated lately — especially by the media. No politician in history — and I say this with great surety — has been treated worse or more unfairly.”

This seems as good a place as any to note that a Twitterer with the handle @amcarnageblog calls him “Dolt 45.”

The Editor

Dolt #45 and His Heel Spurs

To the Editor:

I was curious about how heel spurs could cause someone to be unfit for military service (case in point, Donald Trump) so I searched out the condition.



As you can see, depending where the heel spur ended up, this could cause quite some discomfort, possibly now allowing the recipient to be able to ride in a jeep, for instance.

Thanks for the rag.
Mike Dwyer
Accord, N.Y.
Mike:

According to one of his classmates, our current Commander in Chief “swanned through” his years the New York Military Academy, maintaining “the hazing tradition of those beneath him, while seeming untouched by it from above.”

It’s tempting to imagine how such a prima donna might have fared as a

draftee in the U.S. Army, where his rich daddy would have held no sway — particularly if he were wearing those heels!
The Editor

Do We Need a King?

To the Editor:

No, not the dictatorial demagogue currently warming America’s gold-plated throne! I’m talking about Angus King. At 73, he’s plenty sharp, as Trump Administration apologists recently discovered while attempting to stonewall the Senate Intelligence Committee.

King is a Dartmouth grad, an experienced public defender, a former popular Maine governor, and now the only Independent voice in the U.S. Senate. He’s well schooled in the law and in the art of Washington politics, a good listener, and clearly far more rational and deliberative than the current item occupying the White House. While progressive firebrands like Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren are essential to elicit the raw passion needed to stir action, national reform will ultimately depend on a more conciliatory image to steer the nation into calmer water.

Is King too much a dark horse? Perhaps, but don’t rule him out — especially if Dame Hillary attempts to run again. Her unpopular quest for power already launched Barry-the-Obsecure from the back streets of Chicago, and Donald Trump, the alt-right’s prince of darkness, straight into the White House. In that regard, she’s been a highly effective king maker! Please, do it again Hillary, only this time scare us into voting for someone who won’t sell out the Middle class or tear down the house!

Is there too much negativity and hate speech making the rounds? Absolutely! We’ve all been victims of a 20-year hate-based experiment in social engineering fronted by powerful people with enough expendable cash to screw with America’s head. It’s unfortunate, but it’s also our own fault for letting “them” get away with it. Regardless of who’s to blame, here we are, and amid this social dystrophy, there’s a huge vacuum building for sobering

leadership.
Is Maine Senator Angus King acquiring the right combination of active ingredients we need to fill that vacuum? Could his mix of leadership skills empower us to drive out the weasels and circumnavigate the rocks? It’s a fair question that deserves our attention!

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Are Democrats to Blame?

To the Editor:

Can any good at all come from the tragic, appalling, and deplorable shooting of Republican Congressman Steve Scalise and three others by a one-time Bernie Sanders supporter? At least, members of Congress, who are responsible for gun legislation, have experienced forcefully and personally the dangers of guns to innocent people.

Does the blame fall on Democrats? Are they evil people? No, one need think back no further than 2011 to the grievous injuries sustained by Democratic Member of Congress Gabby Giffords and 18 others in a similar shooting in Tucson, Arizona.

Did recent, raucous town meetings of Democratic constituents with Republican representatives contribute to the shooting? No more so or less than did rowdy meetings of Tea Party members with their Members of Congress following the election of Barack Obama to the Presidency.

One could equally point the finger of blame at Donald Trump. As noted in the June 13th *Boston Globe*, “Trump is named in a lawsuit that accuses him of inciting violence against protestors at a March 2016 campaign rally in Louisville, Ky. At that event, Trump repeatedly said ‘get ‘em out of here’ and protestors were subsequently shoved and punched by Trump supporters.”

In truth, guns owe no allegiance to any party. They are equal opportunity killers willing to murder both the innocent and the guilty alike. An average of 33,000 Americans were fatally shot each year from 2012 to

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Populism, 1892 — 2016

by William Marvel

Ross Lockeridge devoted his entire literary career to one novel that appeared in 1948. *Raintree County*, the first edition of which may have had the most intriguing dust-jacket illustration of all time, is an epic historical account of a mythical county in Indiana. Snobbish criticism notwithstanding, it's a wonderful book. In the tradition of James Joyce's renowned (and widely unread) classic, it tells the long history of the Midwest through the events of a single day — July 4, 1892, at the height of America's Populist movement. Lockeridge's protagonist, John Shawnessy, is an ardent advocate of the People's Party. His communitarian altruism contrasts with the dishonesty and political opportunism of Garwood Jones, who serves those who pillage public resources and prey on the masses.

The People's Party consisted of an alliance between labor unions and small farmers who tried in vain to wrest political power from

the corporations that were already dominating the United States. Urban industries and company towns in the East and Midwest exploited their workers with brazen impunity, and on that Independence Day of 1892 steel workers at Homestead, Pa., were in the midst of a strike that federal troops would help crush. Railroads that had already made fortunes selling government-granted lands in the West shamelessly cheated the farmers there with rigged transportation fees, charging more to carry goods to or from the center of the country than from coast to coast. Corporations owned most politicians, especially in the West, where single companies expanded their enterprises until they ruled entire states.

As often happens in this country with third parties and renegade candidates, the Populists were depicted by Democrats and Republicans alike as radicals, revolutionaries, and dreamers whose notions would wreak havoc. The Populist platform included currency reform and a graduated income tax, both of which were intended to put the control of

money back in the hands of the people collectively. Corporations fought as ferociously against those ideas then as they do now. For too many voters party loyalty overcame actual economic interest, and Democrats fended off the Populist surge by portraying themselves as the real protectors of the people. Former president Grover Cleveland gave the ticket enough credibility on that point to win the election, but predictably his administration addressed none of the Populist demands, and he used troops to suppress strikes just as his predecessor had.

The Populist spirit survived if the People's Party did not, but it was not until Franklin Roosevelt's first term that the Democratic Party began acting in the interests of the common man again. Roosevelt's policies even increased his majority between 1932 and 1936, amid the disastrous economic impact of the Depression. Democrats retained the loyalty of the old Populist constituency for decades thereafter, but eventually they came to be viewed as the architects of the welfare state. That alienated the ideological descendants

of those who merely wanted a fair share in the proceeds of their own hard work, and those proponents of personal responsibility gravitated to the other branch of the two-party political racket.

The 2016 election amounted to a reenactment of the whole Populist movement played at fast-forward speed. An apparent majority of people frustrated by the insincere promises of two parties that both pander to corporate masters openly courted candidates who would challenge the elite on behalf of a not-so-silent majority. In near-perfect irony, rebels of a conservative bent chose a cartoon renegade whose persona disguised a poster boy for corporate oppression, who fervently preached tax breaks and government subsidies for private enterprise. Liberal rebels (who now try to call themselves "progressives" to dodge the pejorative connotation of liberalism) mounted a champion from outside the major parties, but he finally submitted to and endorsed the corrupt Democratic machine. The party that lost the working class by promising a free lunch then offended more of

Middle America by adopting every element of an increasingly radical social agenda, and as a result corporate America still reigns supreme.

Not that Democratic victory in 2016 would have made any difference, and certainly not with another corporate-friendly Clinton in the White House. Whether Bernie Sanders could have wrested power from the One Percent is debatable, given a majority of congressmen on the take in both parties, but there is no question he would have tried. He would almost certainly have had the opportunity to try had he been nominated, for plenty of people angry enough to vote for Donald Trump also expressed admiration for Sanders, and they often credited his sincerity above all contenders. As in 1892, the only chance to work our way back to meaningful democracy died at the hands of one of the major parties, each of which colludes with its putative rival to make sure the American people keep fighting each other. Were it not for that deliberate distraction, we might actually turn on the real enemy.

≈

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

2014. Although the United States has only five percent of the world's population, Americans own 40 to 50 percent of all guns. The equation is simple: More unregulated guns produce more gun deaths.

All of us wish a complete and speedy recovery to Congressman Scalise and the three others shot in Alexandria. We might also wish that at long last Members of Congress, having seen first-hand the extensive damage that guns can do to innocent people, will pass common-sense gun safety legislation.

Gary Patton
Hampton, N.H.

Gary:
Hope springs eternal.
The Editor

≈

Congrats, Po'town and Nashua
To the Editor:

Recently, the mayors of Portsmouth and Nashua joined hundreds of mayors across the country to promise support for renewed efforts to continue the goals of the Paris Climate Accord, despite President Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from that agreement. Mayors Blalock and Donchess, and their cities, are to be congratulated for their focus on environmental

impacts and their leadership for a cleaner and greener economy of the future. This new economy can create a significant number of new good-paying local jobs, improve efficiency for vehicles and electronic devices, create a cleaner environment for all of us, as well as halting the rising temperature of our globe. That global temperature rise is predicated by an overwhelming consensus of scientists and political leaders in most countries to cause droughts, severe storms, sea-level rise, displacement of millions of people and (according to the Pentagon) increased military conflicts.

It is very disappointing that President Trump has chosen to walk away from the Paris Climate Accord for either political or non-scientific reasons. That agreement was an historic event with almost all of the countries of the world concluding that climate change was a real threat to all, and deciding to develop their own (voluntary) plans to take action. While these were not legally binding, they agreed to periodic reviews of progress in a highly transparent manner.

President Trump's decision will hand our country's leadership position internationally to the European

Union and China. We'll be considered a second-rate country with respect to renewable energy, green technologies and all of the economic benefits that accompany these changes. Many of our young people who strongly favor protecting our environment and want jobs in the new green and clean economy will not find as many here in the U.S. as the result.

However, it is encouraging to hear that a number of states with large populations such as California, New York and Massachusetts, along with hundreds of mayors are promised to accelerate their plans for a clean

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Time for Democratic Party leaders to get going — go

by Jim Hightower

Good news, people — at last, Congressional Democrats have gotten a clue, grown some spine, and are beginning to act like — well, like Democrats!

In particular, a majority of Dems in the U.S. House are responding to the rising public demand that decent health care be treated as a right for everyone, rather than being rationed

by profiteering insurance conglomerates. Nearly six of 10 Dems in the House have now signed on to Rep. John Conyers' "Medicare for All" bill, which is being carried in the Senate by Bernie Sanders.

So — Hallelujah, progress!

Yes, but there are many speed bumps to overcome before the Democratic Party gets onto the moral high road of politics. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, for one. When the

leader of House Democrats was asked if the party should make health-care-for-all a major issue in Congress and in the 2018 elections, she replied with a flat "no." Basically, Pelosi says "the American people" aren't ready for it — by which she really means that the narrow slice of the public that inhabits her world — health industry executives, lobbyists, and campaign donors — aren't ready. Meanwhile, a good 60 percent

of regular Americans are damned sure ready, telling pollsters that our government has a responsibility to ensure that everyone gets the care they need.

Let's be blunt: When it comes to the fiery leadership that America's grassroots people want and need, the Democratic Party establishment is weaker than Canadian hot sauce. When you've got 60 percent of your party's rank-and-file Congressional

members ready to go, and 60 percent of the public is also ready to go — it's time to go! The national party's "leadership" must get going on health care for all, or the leadership itself must go.

To help push both the party and the issue forward, forward go to www.NationalNursesUnited.org.

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and green economy in the spirit of the Paris Accords. I urge Governor Sununu, himself an environmental engineer, to demonstrate real leadership by supporting a clean and green economy here in New Hampshire. I also hope that many leaders in towns and cities in New Hampshire will join the Mayor's National Climate Action Agenda (MNCAA) to continue to encourage a more sustainable, clean and green economy in New Hampshire.

Rep. Peter Somssich, District 27
Portsmouth, N.H.

Peter:

As an elected Representative it is incumbent upon you at least to appear to give hereditary Governor Sununu the benefit of the doubt.

Being under no such obligation, we expect more fast talk, not leadership.

The Editor

~

Cow Hampshire

To the Editor:

When I moved to New Hampshire in the mid 1960s I encountered the term "Cow Hampshire." Notwithstanding that it's the state in which I've lived longest and which I've come regard as "home," though it's agrarian character has diminished, the pertinence of the term hasn't. It was never about farmers anyway, was it? Farmers are, in fact, a pretty savvy and resourceful lot. It's about being backward, "behind the times," less than progressive. The state is probably a bit

less these things than it was four or five decades ago (e.g., it no longer has a Governor who wants nuclear capability for the New Hampshire National Guard, one supposes to discourage threats from the Green Mountain Boys of Vermont), but only a bit.

Take the New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority, for instance. Evidently, the state's legislature would like to take it ... away. It was precisely such an all-volunteer group the perseverance of which brought what has become the highly successful Amtrak Downeaster service to Maine. Seventy-four percent of New Hampshire residents favor exploring commuter rail opportunities in the state, an executive at a Manchester firm has said that such service could expand the pool of educated workers for tech companies in that city, and Nashua mayor Jim Donchess has advocated for a service with two stops in Manchester and one in Nashua that a Capital Corridor study has estimated would attract an annual ridership of 668,000 and generate 5,600 new jobs by 2030. Yet HB 267, introduced by House member Neal Kurk, calls for dissolution of the authority. Meanwhile, long-time member Peter Griffin was denied membership this time around by virtue of being "biased" towards rail (one wonders if the authority excludes automobile- and truck-biased individuals from the highway department; perhaps "Cow

Hampshire" could be supplanted by "Car Hampshire"?). Several New Hampshire cities, namely Durham, Dover, and Exeter, enjoy commuter rail services courtesy of the state's neighbor to the north. Demand for public transportation in all forms is attested to by C&J's successive expansion of parking facilities in Portsmouth and Newburyport and addition of busses and routes, and ridership on the aforementioned trains that transit New Hampshire has increased year-over-year and the service in Maine been extended north of Portland with further northerly expansion planned.

So to whom does the New Hampshire Legislature listen? It doesn't seem to get exercised over much other than keeping the minimum wage at a primordial minimum (New Hampshire = \$7.25, Maine = \$9, Vermont = \$10, Massachusetts = \$11 per hour) and guaranteeing Second Amendment "rights" (one needs a license to fish in this state, but not to carry a loaded weapon, openly or concealed; I give you, by way of a hint of sanity on the subject, the following open letter to customers from president and CEO of Levi Strauss and Company Chip Bergh: "it is with the safety and security of our employees and customers in mind that we respectfully ask people not to bring firearms into our stores, offices or facilities, even in states where it's permitted by law"). "Pulling a boner," meaning to

make a stupid mistake, was in the wake of its last election altered to "pulling an America." As the United States is now to much of the rest of the world an intellectual backwater in which "facts" are anything one chooses to say and science is acknowledged only insofar as it is the basis of providing mindless comforts, so New Hampshire is to its neighbors to the north, west, and south ... on further thought, add the east; one can't be sure even fish don't have contempt for willful ignorance.

John Simon

Portsmouth, N.H.

~

Postcard From the Edge

To the Editor:

In the 1970's, I can remember paying two dollars for a carton of cigarettes, while HBO cable cost \$8 a month. TV service was free. Now cigarettes are \$5 a pack and cable TV toasts around \$120 a month.

Back in 2009 I decided to "cut the cable" and it changed my life. I started reading more newspapers and books while eliminating commercials and slaughterhouse news.

I would like to get our free TV back for sports but I need your help. Cut your cable for a couple of months or years and see if it doesn't change your life, bringing peace into your home while raising your children's IQ levels.

In the beginning, they told us, "with cable you don't have to watch commercials anymore" — hah!

Don't put up with being robbed of \$1,200 a year. Cut the cable and and enjoy some peace and quiet.

Jacques Porche

Las Vegas, Nev.

~

We Are Not North Korea

To the Editor:

In North Korea if people do not shower their "Dear Leader" with praise and admiration they wind up dead or starving in labor camps for years. When President Trump brought in television news crews to his Cabinet meeting, each member had to recite the wonders Trump had created since he took office. It is a wonder they did not refer to him as their Dear Leader.

We need a President who pays attention to the needs of Americans instead of public displays of brown nosing by his cabinet. We need a President not a Dear Leader. We are not North Korea.

Walter Hamilton

Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:

Not yet, we're not.

The Editor

~

"Thanks as always for making all the bad news easier to take. I particularly love the nickname you have given our president, 'The Grand Yam.' I'm going to have a hard time not seeing Mr. Trump forever more as a giant orange tuber! If only he was just as harmless as a sweet potato"

— E.S., Scarborough, Maine

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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 25	MONDAY, JUNE 26	TUESDAY, JUNE 27	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28	THURSDAY, JUNE 29	FRIDAY, JUNE 30	SATURDAY, JULY 1
2005—"I could kill someone with this ring," says Vladimir Putin, about Patriots owner Bob Kraft's Super Bowl bling. Then he puts it in his pocket. 2003—Lester G. Maddox, high-school dropout, racist cafeteria owner, and Democratic ex-Governor of Georgia (1967-1971), dies of violence. 1998—The Federal Reserve Board of Governors, abrogating Glass-Steagall, OKs a merger between Travelers Group and Citicorp, thus melding investment banking, insurance, and FDIC-insured deposits, and lighting a ten-year fuse on a financial bomb. 1996—An al-Qaeda truck bomb kills 19 U.S. servicemen in Saudi Arabia, and wounds 372. The Saudis and the CIA finger Iran, though. 1971—ITT lobbyist Dita M. Beard writes a memo noting that Pres. Richard "Dick" Nixon knew ITT was giving the Republican National Committee a \$400,000 bribe to get a favorable Justice Dept. decision. 1962—God is expelled from U.S. schools by the Supreme Court. 1906—At Madison Square Garden, which he had designed, Stanford White is shot dead by Harry Thaw, husband of Evelyn Hesbit, whom White had violated at the age of 16. 1876—Five companies of the 7th Cavalry, including General George Armstrong Custer, two of his brothers, and AP reporter Mark Kellogg, are killed by Native Americans at the Little Big Horn in Montana.	2015—The Supreme Court puts an end to marriage discrimination. 2013—Byron Low Tax Looper [actual name], convicted of murdering his political opponent, dies at 48, of a heart attack, hours after assaulting a pregnant prison guard. 2006—With no legit prescription for his stash, Rush Limbaugh's Viagra is confiscated on his return from the Dominican Republic, a popular sex tourism destination. 2002—A federal court declares the words "under God" render the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional. 1995—In Golf Manor, Mich., EPA workers dismantle a homemade nuclear reactor in the suburban backyard of David Hahn, 17. 1976—Gov. Kit Bond rescinds a predecessor's "Extermination Order" banning Mormons from Missouri. 1954—Bao Dai, the feckless puppet Emperor of South Vietnam, appoints Ngo Dinh Diem as premier. 1947—Boston Mayor James Curley reports to federal prison. 1940—At the Waldorf in NYC, Gerhard Westrick hosts a gala celebration of the Fall of France to Nazi Germany. His former law partner, future Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, defends Westrick from critics. 1919—Dist. Atty. and future Congressman T. Webber Wilson cheers on a crowd of 10,000 at the lynching of John Hartfield in Ellisville, Miss. 1844—Oregon outlaws blackness.	2011—A Robinson R22 helicopter goes "bang," sheds parts, and crashes in Del Valle, Texas, killing the pilot. 2006—Gutless pinko bastards in the Senate block a Flag Protection Amendment" by one vote. 2003—On the first day it's possible, more than 735,000 people sign up for the "Do Not Call" list. 2000—"Until I'm the President," says George W.[MD] Bush, "it's going to be hard for me to verify that I think I'll be more effective." 1986—The International Court of Justice rules the U.S. was out of line in funding the Contras. 1972—Five MiG 21s shoot down five U.S. F4s over Vietnam. 1971—Col. David Hackworth, that war's most decorated soldier, wrecks his career by saying on TV that the U.S. cannot win in Vietnam. 1960—It's an extra feature for the audience at the Rumford Point, Maine, drive-in movie: a Boeing KC-97G Stratofreighter crashing six miles away on Jonathan Smith Mountain. 1954—CIA-sponsored rebels overthrow Guatemala's democratically elected government, napalming a British cargo ship in the process. 1950—Syngman Rhee, U.S. ally and President of South Korean, orders military police to massacre leftists. Between 100,000 and 200,000 die; Rhee blames communists. 1905—Russian sailors mutiny aboard the battleship <i>Potemkin</i>.	2005—Operation Red Wings takes the lives of 19 U.S. special ops personnel in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley, including Special Operations Chief Daniel R. Healy of Exeter, N.H. — the single greatest loss of naval special ops forces since WWII. 2005—At a rest stop on the Kan-amagas Highway, Gary Moody, 45, is charged with criminally trespassing under the women's outhouse. 2004—The U.S. grants "limited sovereignty" to the Iraqi "government," virtually assuring a rapid return to normalcy. U.S. death toll so far: 971. 1994—The Department of Energy admits hundreds of U.S. citizens were used as unwitting guinea pigs in radiation experiments during the Cold War. 1975—Rod Serling enters another dimension. 1972—Richard Nixon cleverly announces that no new draftees will be sent to Vietnam, further eroding the anti-war movement already weakened by the lottery. 1971—The Supreme Court overturns Muhammad Ali's conviction for draft evasion. 1969—Gays and lesbians violently resist a police raid at the Stonewall Inn in N.Y.C. 1968—LBJ OKs a bill from a Democratic legislature converting Memorial and Veterans Days into three-day weekends. 1957—At 295 Broome St., New York City's last known opium den is busted.	2016—The 477-foot tanker <i>Chem Venus</i> runs aground off Goat Island, damaging itself and three boats at the Kittery Point Yacht Club. 2006—"It was not always certain," says George W.[MD] Bush, "that the U.S. and America would have a close relationship." 1992—A Robinson R22 helicopter falls apart 2,000 feet above San Pablo Bay, Calif., killing a flight instructor and a student. 1989—<i>The Washington Times</i> reports that high officials in the Reagan & Bush I administrations are under investigation for involvement in a homosexual prostitution ring. The story quickly and conveniently evaporates. 1987—"We don't care," declares Attorney General Ed "Meese is a Pig" Meese, "about the political or ideological allegiances of a prospective judge." His audience bursts out laughing. 1966—U.S. starts bombing major oil facilities in Hanoi and Haiphong harbor. 1956—The U.S. Federal Highway Act OK's 42,500 miles of new highway so the Pentagon can move stuff around if the Cold War turns hot. 1940—The Smith Act, requiring aliens in the U.S. to register with the government, is enacted. 1897—The Chicago Cubs score 36 runs in one game against Louisville. 1620—Tobacco growing is banned in England, giving the Virginia Company a monopoly.	2009—Oil futures prices hit an eight-month high when an unauthorized trader buys 7 million barrels during an epic drunk. 2003—<i>The Army Times</i> reports that the Bush administration wants to cut combat and family-separation pay for troops in combat zones. 2001—Surgeons find a little black thing in Dick "Dick" Cheney's chest and attach a pacemaker to it. 1973—Dwight E. Stone, a black, 24 year-old plumber's assistant from Sacramento, is the last man drafted into the U.S. Army. 1971—Richard "I Am Not a Crook" Nixon orders his "Plumbers Unit" to break into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. 1971—A leaking valve in Soyuz 11 results in three Soviet cosmonauts being asphyxiated upon reentry. 1956—Two airliners collide over the Grand Canyon, killing 128 and leading to the creation of the FAA. 1908—A mysterious 40-megaton explosion flattens a huge area around Tunguska, Siberia. 1882—Charles Guiteau goes to the gallows for assassinating President Garfield, chanting "I am going to the Lordy, I am so glad." 1864—N.H.-born Treasury Sec. Salmon P. Chase resigns, charging speculators are plotting to prolong the Civil War for monetary gain. 1704—Pirate John Quelch is hanged in Boston, without a jury trial.	1991—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush nominates Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. 1973—The U.S. military draft ends. Henceforth, the ranks will be replenished by economic coercion. 1970—An isolated brigade of the 101st Airborne comes under seige by an NVA division at Firebase Ripcord. 1968—South Vietnam officially takes over the Phoenix Program. 1968—A chartered DC-8 carrying 214 U.S. soldiers to Vietnam strays into Soviet airspace lands in the USSR. 1956—On "The Steve Allen Show," Elvis sings "Hound Dog" to a basset hound dressed in formal wear. 1946—The U.S. Army detonates the world's 4th nuclear explosion at Bikini Atoll. U.S. Navy sailors board radioactive target ships the following day. 1943—Willem Arondeus, who blew up Amsterdam's Public Records building to fight Nazi oppression, says before a firing squad, "Let it be known that homosexuals are not cowards." 1917—In Boston, 8,000 march against the Great War. 1916—On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 19,240 British soldiers die and 35,493 go missing. 1898—Buffalo Soldiers take San Juan Hill, while T.R. takes the credit. 1884—Allan Pinkerton, founder of the strike-breaking, union-busting detective agency, dies from an infected tongue after biting it accidentally in a fall.
12:15 12:55 6:38 6:49	1:07 1:48 7:30 7:42	2:00 2:42 8:22 8:37	2:55 3:36 9:15 9:33	3:50 4:32 10:08 10:32	4:49 5:30 11:03 11:33	5:50 6:28 11:59
SUNDAY, JULY 2	MONDAY, JULY 3	TUESDAY, JULY 4	WEDNESDAY, JULY 5	THURSDAY, JULY 6	FRIDAY, JULY 7	SATURDAY, JULY 8

2003—George W.[MD] Bush says, "There are some who feel that the conditions are such that they can attack us [in Iraq]. My answer is, bring 'em on."

1982—Vietnam vet "Lawn Chair Larry" Walters, 33, ascends to 16,000 feet in a lawn chair buoyed by 45 helium-filled weather balloons.

1976—The Supreme Court rules it's neither cruel nor unusual for the government to kill certain people.

1967—On their worst day in Vietnam, U.S. Marines suffer 84 KIA, 190 WIA, and 9 MIA in Operation Buffalo near Con Thien.

1932—After predicting highway speeds of 100 m.p.h. would soon be common, Fred Duesenberg rolls his Duesenberg at high speed. He dies three weeks later.

1917—After a carload of white males conducts a drive-by shooting in black East St. Louis, Ill., the worst U.S. race riot of the 20th century begins.

1894—Attorney General Richard Olney (an ex-railroad director) issues an injunction against striking Pullman workers.

1881—Charles Guiteau, a "Stalwart" Republican, shoots President Garfield, a "Half-Breed" Republican, in the back.

1822—Charged with plotting insurrection, former slave and co-founder of Charleston, S.C.'s Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church Denmark Vesey is hanged after a secret trial.

1993—In just leather jacket, dog collar, and jockstrap, punk rocker G.G. Allin is laid to rest at St. Rose Cemetery in his hometown, Littleton, N.H.

1988—The U.S.S. *Vincennes*, confusing an Iranian airliner for an F-14, shoots it down; 290 civilians die.

1979—President Carter OKs covert aid to the mujahideen, despite Z. Brzezinski's warning it will spur a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

1960—George Lincoln Rockwell leads an American Nazi Party rally on the Mall in Washington, D.C. It devolves into a riot.

1894—President Grover Cleveland sends Federal troops to Cleveland to break up the Pullman Strike, citing the indispensibility of mail delivery as justification.

1863—Portsmouth-born Benjamin F. Falls captures a flag at Gettysburg. He subsequently receives the Medal of Honor in recognition of his valor.

1850—Australian newspaper publisher James Harrison dooms New Hampshire's then-thriving ice-exportation industry by demonstrating the first mechanical refrigeration plant.

1847—To celebrate the Fourth of July, Portsmouth hooligans in Market Square set a stagecoach on fire.

1754—French forces, enraged by the recent killing of a French officer in Lieut. Col. George Washington's custody a month earlier, capture Fort Necessity and force Washington's surrender.

2004—Joe Frost makes the final sale ever at The Book Guild on State Street in Portsmouth.

1994—Nye County, Nev., Commissioner Dick Carver re-opens a Federally-closed road with a bulldozer, reigniting the Sagebrush Rebellion.

1991—Nam Vets are applauded 17 years after Saigon fell during a Portsmouth parade for Desert Storm vets.

1961—The Soviet sub *K-19* lives up to her nickname, "*Hiroshima*."

1951—Baltimore's fireworks display is preceded by a mock "atomic bomb" explosion complete with two collapsing houses, burst water and gas mains, and evacuation of the "wounded."

1947—The Boozefighters, a subset of "The Greatest Generation," take over Hollister, Calif. Three days of debauchery inspire *The Wild One* and spawn a generation of posers.

1924—Thousands of Klansmen meet in New Jersey to burn crosses and celebrate the Democratic Party's refusal to condemn the KKK.

1911—The temperature in Nashua hits 106°; still the record for N.H.

1898—At Hampton Beach, N.H., a tornado kills 3 and injures 120.

1857—New York City's two rival police forces stand down due to a feud as the Dead Rabbits and the Bowery Boys begin an unrestrained gang war.

1835—A mob of 70 men gather in Canaan, N.H. Lincoln suspends *habeas corpus*; 18,000 subversives and peace activists are arrested.

2011—A Robinson R22 helicopter goes "bang," sheds parts, and crashes into a Phoenix, Ariz., house. Everything burns, the pilot dies.

1968—Besieged for 78 days at a cost of 737 Marine lives, Khe Sanh is abandoned 90 days later.

1950—Shipped out hastily without a plan, ill-equipped and outnumbered ten to one, Task Force Smith is decimated by North Koreans at Osan. The troops are blamed, not their commander, Gen. MacArthur.

1943—A lost B-17 drops six training bombs in the town square of Boise City, Okla., at 12:30 a.m.

1937—Leaving Berlin, IBM President Tom Watson thanks Adolf Hitler for a big order and assures the tyrant he will "do all in [his] power to create more intimate bonds between our two great nations."

1934—During a dock workers' strike in San Francisco, Joseph Roush, a Federal Laboratories sales rep, fires a long-distance tear gas shell at strikers. Hit in the skull, one later dies. Roush writes to his boss, "as he was a Communist, I had no feeling in the matter and I am sorry that I did not get more."

1894—A massive fire, probably set, destroys six buildings at the World's Columbian Exposition, including Machinery Hall, where Daniel Fowle's printing press was last seen.

1861—Abraham Lincoln suspends *habeas corpus*; 18,000 subversives and peace activists are arrested.

2013—A runaway fuel train derails and burns, destroying half of downtown Lac Megantic, Quebec.

2006—Riding a bike in Scotland, George W.[MD] Bush takes a hand off the handlebars to wave at police. Bush falls and strikes a policeman, who has to be hospitalized.

2003—A *New York Times* op-ed by Joseph Wilson accuses George W.[MD] Bush of "twisting" intelligence to justify a war against Iraq.

2001—Ex-FBI Special Agent, devout Catholic, patron of strippers, and exhibitionist Robert Hansen pleads guilty to selling U.S. secrets to the U.S.S.R., then to the Russians.

1971—President Nixon sets up a "Plumbers Unit" to stop leaks.

1959—A C-124 crashes at Barksdale AFB, La. Fortunately the nuke on-board is without a fissile core.

1933—In the first All-Star Game, played at Comisky Park, Babe Ruth hits the first homer.

1916—The U.S. Army adopts dog tags to better account for dead GIs.

1907—The Irish Crown Jewels are found to be missing. Several theories are put forth; none proven, all sordid.

1894—U.S. troops land in Nicaragua to "protect U.S. interests."

1892—Pinkerton "detectives" and striking miners begin fighting it out in Homestead, Pa.; 20 die.

1887—Hawaii's King Kalakaua signs away his power when he inks the "Bayonet Constitution" at gunpoint.

1967—General Nguyen Chi Thanh dies of a heart attack after excessively celebrating the Politburo's approval of his Tet Offensive plan.

1954—As puppet Premier Diem arrives in Saigon, U.S. Gen. John W. O'Daniel, says "the war in Vietnam can be won without bringing in one single American soldier to fight."

1950—FBI Chief J. Edgar "Mary" Hoover proposes the permanent detention of 12,000 people he deems "potentially dangerous to the internal security of the country."

1924—President Coolidge's son Calvin Jr. succumbs to blood poisoning resulting from a blister he got playing tennis with his brother on the White House lawn.

1905—Kentucky hangs Robert Mathley, but he's six feet tall and the rope stretches. Officials with shovels dig until his feet don't touch the earth.

1844—In Philadelphia, nativist Protestants and Irish Catholics armed with cannon fight it out at the Church of St. Philip Neri.

1863—The U.S. begins exempting men from the draft, provided they cough up \$100 cash.

1826—In Frankfort, Ky., Jereboam O. Beauchamp, Esq. is hurriedly hanged for murder before he can be bled to death from a self-inflicted knife wound. Beauchamp and his wife Anna are then buried, embracing, in the same coffin; her end of the suicide pact succeeded.

1976—The State of New York yanks Richard Nixon's law license.

1969—The U.S. begins withdrawing troops from Vietnam.

1962—The U.S. detonates a nuke 250 miles up, knocking out phones in Hawaii, 900 miles to the east, and crippling seven satellites.

1959—Viet Cong forces attack Bien Hoa airbase, killing two U.S. advisors as they watch a movie.

1947—Radio reports say a UFO has crashed at Roswell, N.M.

1945—At a POW camp in Salina, Utah, Army Pvt. Clarence V. Bertucci machine guns 29 Germans; nine die.

1932—The Dow-Jones average bottoms out at 41.22 points.

1911—Nan Jane Aspinwall arrives in New York City having left San Francisco 310 days earlier, traveling more than 4,500 miles on horseback.

1876—In Hamburg, S.C., 100 white men attack 40 black militiamen, capturing 25, of whom they murder five. None are ever convicted.

1853—Commodore Perry convinces the Japanese it's better to trade with Americans than get shelled by them.

1835—The Liberty Bell tolls upon the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Legend says it cracked this day, but that's been disputed.

1776—In Philadelphia, the as yet unnamed Liberty Bell summons citizens to hear the Declaration of Independence read for the first time by Colonel John Nixon.

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