

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

A Modest Proposal for a Memorial to the War on Whatever It Is We're Fighting

A fortnight ago the Senate passed the Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act. On reading the bill's title it may appear that we've inadvertently inserted a typo. It is a little redundant.

That's what we thought, anyway, so we set out to double-check it. That sent us down the rabbit hole. By the time we emerged we'd come to the conclusion that the title isn't nearly redundant enough.

Quick, now, off the top of your head: where exactly are we fighting? We were able to come up with seven countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen.

According to the Department of Defense's official list of casualties, though, in the Global War on Terror, U.S. servicemembers have died in 28 countries, on four bodies of water, and on one military base.*

The Senators, after passing the Act, then went — as is their wont — on their annual August recess. There's nothing quite like job security.

The bill now awaits the President's signature. He's on vacation, too, so don't expect quick results. Not that anyone has any reason to expect much of anything these days, quick or otherwise, from either Congress or the President.

It's a fine time for a vacation. The weather has been delightful: pleasantly warm, not too humid, plenty of sunshine . . . It's much like the weather Europe enjoyed in the summer of 1914. Given the news these days, this is a little bit unsettling.

More unsettling was the moment that came between seeing a tweet from Donald Trump reading: "Be

prepared, there is a small chance that our horrendous leadership could unknowingly lead us into World War III," and discovering that it's four years old.

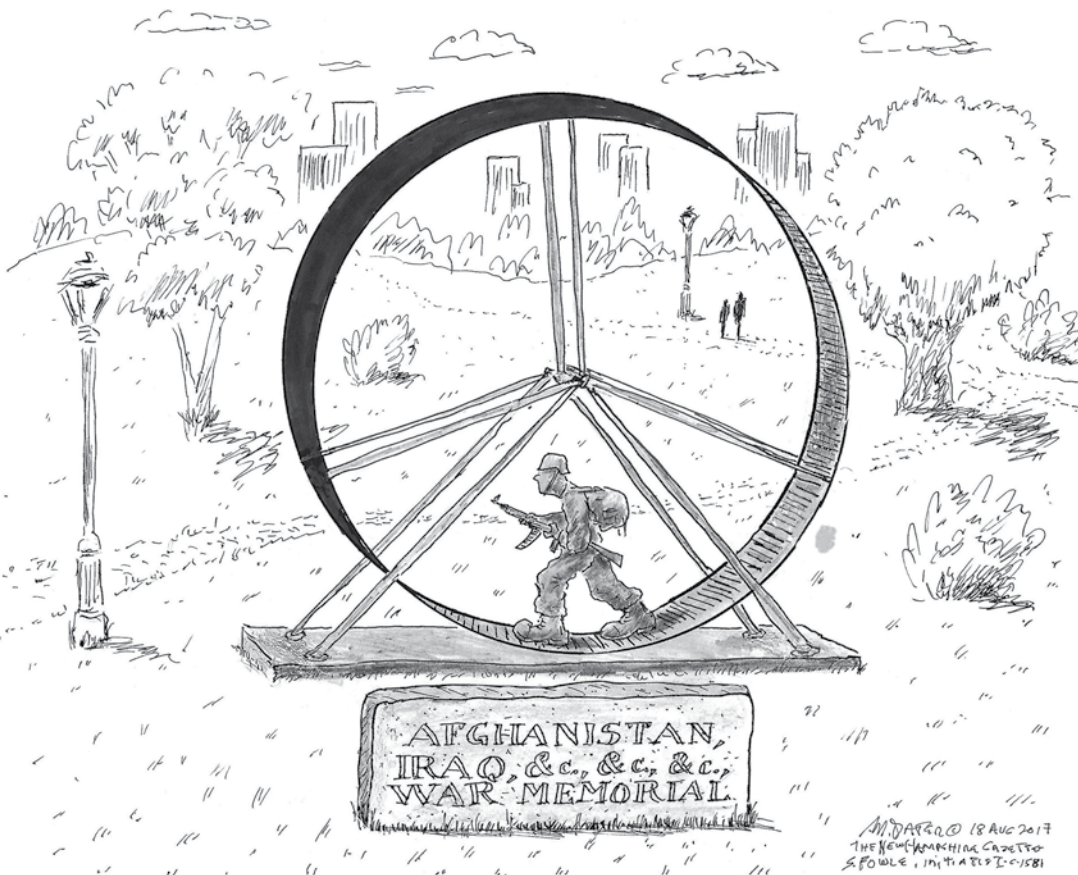
Nostradamus failed us: he never predicted that one day a pudgy, spoiled, superannuated rich kid with a weird haircut and a nuclear arsenal would be engaged in a battle of wits with a pudgy, spoiled, rich kid half his age with a weird haircut and a nuclear arsenal. North Korea's nuclear threat has now receded a bit in our consciousness, not because it's been diminished, but because it's been supplanted.

It looked for a while as if we might go to war to bring democracy to Venezuela. That little blip was quickly eclipsed, though. Another war looms, and it shows signs of having some real staying power. It began 156 years ago. Wars are almost always bad. This one, though, does have one merit: engaging in it would not add another country to the too-long list of places where our service members are dying.

Attention, Please

Just last Sunday two more Americans were killed in an artillery mishap in Iraq; five more were wounded. One of the dead was just 22; the war that killed him began when he was in first grade. Two more Americans were killed and four were wounded in Afghanistan on August 2nd. One was 25, one was 23.

Whether they end up dead or unscathed, those who serve in our unending war abroad deserve a suitable monument. We should get it well started before we become too distracted by the one at home.



If it seems too strange to build such a monument while people are still dying, the solution is plain enough: stop the dying.

You Can't Be Serious

Our proposal has been rendered above. At the risk of being presumptuous, we predict the general response: "You can't be serious." In response we would paraphrase a former President: "Oh, yes we can."

The Proposal is Not Denigrative

At first glance, the casual observer might mistakenly think that by featuring the apparently interminable nature of the armed struggle in which we are engaged so prominently, this monument somehow denigrates the sacrifices being made by its combatants.

While that initial impression would be understandable, experience tells us it may be mistaken. Many people expressed outrage when the design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was unveiled.

What some saw as a "black gash of shame" became, over time, a subtle but deeply affecting homage, one of the most-visited, best-loved sites in the nation's capitol.

"The Wall," as it's called, achieved that transformation largely through its simplicity. It is a black canvas capable of reflecting back to viewers whatever may be in their hearts and minds.

Our proposed monument obviously takes a different approach, juxtaposing as it does two immediately recognizable objects. One is the eternal figure of a generic infantryman, the other a hamster wheel.

The point, to be clear, is not to equate the person with a small rodent. Rather, it is to emphasize the existential heroism required to soldier on with no discernible end in sight. Such are the circumstances in which we are asking our troops to fight. They deserve to have the

difficulty of their task portrayed in honest terms.

Open to Suggestions

Unlike certain prominent public figures, we're fully aware of the imperfections of our work. This proposal is by no means perfect. While it manages to embody the challenge of an endless war, it fails to convey how that burden is concentrated.

While "we" as a nation are engaged in an armed struggle, only one American in 152 is a member of the uniformed armed services; only a fraction of them are actively engaged in activities that may include shooting and bleeding.

We did the best we could.

Why This Proposal Will Fail

Its greatest shortcoming may be that it fails to perform one function that, with a few notable exceptions, has been central to the purpose of most war memorials: it probably won't do very much to help meet recruitment quotas.

* Afghanistan, the Arabian Sea, Bahrain, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guantanamo Bay, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, the Persian Gulf, the Philippines, Qatar, the Red Sea, Saudi Arabia, the Seychelles, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Yemen.

The Alleged News®

Is the Wentworth in Contempt of Court?

In October of 2012, William "Bill" Binnie and his Wentworth by the Sea Country Club barricaded a public access point at Sanders Poynt in Rye. Rye resident Robert Jesurum asked the Attorney General to correct this blatant injustice. The AG declined. Jesurum, to his eternal credit, took up the legal cudgel at his own expense, hiring Attorney Paul McEachern.

After an epic battle that went all the way to the New Hampshire Supreme Court, Jesurum won. Rockingham Superior Court Judge Marguerite L. Wageling ordered William "Bill" Binnie and his Wentworth by the Sea Country Club to restore public access at Sanders Poynt in Rye.

We checked in Monday with Jacob Marvally, who works with

McEachern. The following is a transcript of our conversation:

Q. — It's been a while since the Court ordered Wentworth by the Sea to restore public access at Sanders Poynt. Has the work been completed yet?

A. — No, the work is not yet completed.

Q. — What, then, is going on?

A. — The parties will attend a hearing this Thursday morning [August 17th] on a motion for contempt on this issue.

Q. — That would have been put forward by Mr. McEachern, we presume. Did the Wentworth defendants make any attempt to prevent that hearing from taking place?

A. — No. They filed an objection, which is the typical procedure, but they did not make any specific re-

quest that we not have the hearing.

Q. — What are the possible outcomes of that hearing, and what might be the timeline?

A. — If I could start with the timing, the court could issue an order from the bench — that's when the judge states an order while the judge is in the courtroom. The judge could take time and write an order; that would be issued whenever it's ready. Those could be made ready quickly, or, if they require more research, they can take a couple of weeks to issue. So, that's the timing.

As to the possible outcomes of the hearing, basically there are two. One is that the Wentworth defendants are found to be in contempt of the court's order, and the other is that the court may find that the Wentworth defendants are not in

contempt.

Q. — Nice and straightforward, then: it's either this, or it's that.

A. — That's right — it is one or the other.

Q. — If by some strange chance the Wentworth is found to be in contempt, what would be the consequences?

A. — Without seeing the order I'm hazarding a guess, but it would be an order that the Wentworth defendants comply forthwith and make the restoration effort immediately or as soon as possible. The court could issue a fine. One way that fine could look is a daily, per diem fine for every day that goes by where the Wentworth defendants have continued to fail to restore Sanders Poynt.

Q. — Very interesting. Any more comment on that general situation?

A. — Well, Mr. [Robert] Jesurum did a remarkable job standing up for the public's rights and he secured a court order telling the Wentworth defendants to restore Sanders Poynt, and this contempt hearing is part of the process to gain compliance with the court's orders, and so that will be his presentation. What he's asking for is consistent with the court's order that was affirmed by the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

Q. — Once again, it seems very straightforward. Is there anything you can say to help us understand why the Wentworth defendants have yet to move so much as a shovel full of dirt?

A. — The Wentworth defendants

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to page two

The Alleged News®
from page one

are proposing a plan that would remodel Sanders Poynt to allow four parking spaces and a walkway, but it's a different plan than a restoration of Sanders Poynt to the condition it was in before October 2012, which is when the Wentworth defendants initially blockaded Sanders Poynt.

I understand the Wentworth defendants' position to be that they're still in the permitting process or development process of their plan. They have provided a copy of that most recent plan to us and to the court, and that's the plan they seek to implement.

Q. — As a layperson it would seem that the nature of the Court's order was that the area in question be restored to its prior condition. Could it be argued that, by proposing what could easily be recalled a radically different plan, the plan itself constitutes contempt of court?

A. That is the argument that Mr. Jesurum advances. The affirmed order is straightforward. It called for restoration, and any effort to do any other thing is a violation of that affirmed order.

Q. — So, then, there are two things that could result in a finding of contempt: the extraordinary delay, since April or whenever it was this spring, and the plan itself.

A. — That's right. Those are the two categories. One, it's taken too long, and two, they propose to do the wrong thing. They propose to do different work than the order calls for.

Q. — Do you see any sign that the Wentworth defendants are wavering or about to change their course before Thursday?

A. — That would be a question best answered by their lawyer, but as I understand it, the positions you and I have just discussed are the parties' positions going into Thursday's hearing.

Q. — Well, all we can say is "Whoopie." This should be fun.

A. — It's a positive step to have this issue before the judge. The judge has spent a lot of time working on this case. Procedurally this is the next step, for the judge to have an opportunity to review what's been done and what hasn't been done, and to issue orders.

The Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire



The most enigmatic bit of art in FauxPo has now lost some of its mystery. More has been gained than was lost, though. The cast bronze map of the old North End, affixed to the Portwalk Place garage, is now accompanied by a splendid marker explaining its historical significance.

[CCANH] has been accepting donations to defray Jesurum's legal expenses. Back in June, CCANH President Don Swanson informed us that about \$8,500 had been raised. He sent us an update on August 8th: "Just picked up another \$1,050.00. Total to date is now \$10,340"

Those wishing to contribute may do so 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 reimbursing Jesurum.

FauxPo Actually Gets Improved

The North End of Portsmouth is without much doubt the most abused piece of real estate in town. For the purposes of org betterment

— or so we are told — it was levelled almost fifty years ago. Parts of it were then re-developed, apparently by some of the same interests that supported the destruction. Had we but resources enough, and time, perhaps we could tell that story with specificity — and, since truth is defense against libel, without ruination. Lottery winners, please take note.

In those days we believe it was called "urban renewal." In retrospect it looks more like class-based vandalism.

Had it not been destroyed, what would the North End be like today? It's lovely to think it would be home to hundreds of families, and a sprinkling of artists and oddballs. More likely, thanks to the overwhelming dominance of our benevolent capitalist economy, it would be gentrified to a fare-thee-well. The general effect on housing, though, would certainly be positive.

Instead we've got what we've got.

The good news is, what we've got has been greatly improved — in a small sort of way — by the addition of another splendid blue historical marker, which appeared, unheralded, sometime within the past fortnight or so. The cost was borne not by the taxpayer, but by Portwalk Place. It was the least they could do, but at least they did it.

Going, Going — Gone Postal

The Democratic Party desperately needs a few more arrows in its quiver. Not being the Party of Trump doesn't seem to be cutting it.

Here's a suggestion: a campaign to save the U.S. Postal Service from Congressional sabotage!

We suggest a two-pronged strategy:

Prong No. One — Repeal and replace the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 [PAEA], a unique absurdity which requires the Postal Service, in just one decade, to accumulate enough

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cash reserves to fund its retirement system for half a century.

In a properly-run nation this put-up job would have been a major scandal. In the context of all the other shenanigans going on, though, it amounts to little more than a convenience store stick-up.

The Usual Suspects are determined to destroy one of the last bastions of organized labor in order to give "private enterprise" free rein in the delivery sector of the economy.

Naturally, among those who suffer the most will be people living way out in the boondocks. The USPS is mandated to serve them at the same rate as people who live downtown. UPS? Not so much.

Another irony? Suddenly the same crowd that's always barking "make the government run more like a business" is insisting on radically-scrupulous pension funding. Corporations have been shifting the burden of their pension requirements onto the taxpayers for decades. If the Postal Service ran the way businesses do, it wouldn't fund its pension at all!

Prong No. Two — Adopt the recommendation of the USPS Office of Inspector General's report, "The

Road Ahead for Postal Financial Services." The essence of this 2015 proposal:

"Postal Banking is simply the provision of low-cost, consumer-driven financial services via the Postal Service. Products and services could range from check cashing to bill payment to savings accounts to small-dollar loans. Postal Banking will benefit consumers who do not have access to traditional banks as well as those who would prefer a more public option. Every other developed country in the world has postal banking. The expansion of services would also strengthen our public Postal Service."

"More than a quarter of households in this country either don't have a bank account, or have an account but also rely on often expensive alternative financial services like check cashing and payday lending. These underserved households are looking for more affordable options, and the U.S. Postal Service may be able to help." The establishment of a new set of postal financial services could "save Americans time and money, help banks and other businesses connect with customers, and create new revenue for the Postal



Service."

The Postal Service is already "the largest single provider of paper money orders — the most widely used alternative financial service in the United States. In fiscal year 2014, it sold 97 million money orders with a face value of \$21 billion. ... The 13 million people who use these products — many of whom are regulars who come in every month — could be a ready-made customer base for new postal financial services.

"Under its current legal authority, the Postal Service may be able to expand into new products related to its existing offerings. ... [A] suite of expanded financial services based on what the Postal Service may be able to offer under current law could bring in \$1.1 billion in annual revenue after a 5-year ramp up, while covering costs and contributing to profits. ..."

Repealing PAEA would be up to Congress. Chances of victory are slim, but that never stopped the GOP from making hay with abortion or Obamacare.

Postal banking could apparently be put in place by the Postmaster and the Postal Board of Governors. What are the odds of that hap-

pening? Just about nil, since there currently is no Postal Board of Governors — a curious state of affairs the explication of which will require further research.

Three Cheat Death, One Does Not

A Robinson R22 helicopter crashed and burned near Cloncurry, Queensland, on August 2nd. The pilot, a cattle herder, died. The Australian Transport Safety Board is investigating the cause of the crash.

The next day the Mexican Navy rescued two seriously injured men after their Robinson helicopter, model unknown, crashed in the Pacific Ocean. The machine had been operating from a tuna boat 230 miles southeast of Puerto Chiapas.

Finally, on Monday, a Robinson R44 crashed near Julatten, Queensland, about 400 miles southeast of the August 2nd crash. The machine landed on its side, but the pilot walked away unscathed.

Voter Education by Burrito

Rights & Democracy N.H. [RAD NH] has informed us that next Wednesday, August 23rd, Dos Amigos Burritos in Concord will be helping RAD NH raise money for a voter education program. The public is invited to stop by during the day

for a burrito or for dinner from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. to hear about Democracy Summer and plans for the fall.

Rights & Democracy N.H. can be reached by mail at 83 Hanover Street, Suite 26, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101. They're also on Facebook at RightsNH.

New Beekeepers School

We need bees and bees need our help, so we're happy to run this item: Have you ever wondered what it would be like to keep bees? Seacoast Beekeepers Association is offering a 6-week introductory course this fall to help you prepare for getting your own honeybees. Topics covered include honeybee biology, equipment, hive management, and pests and diseases. Classes will be held on six Thursday evenings: September 28; October 5, 26; and November 2, 9, and 30 at the Jeremiah Smith Grange, 1 Lee Hook Road, Lee, N.H. from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$75 per person (or per person + 1 family member) and includes class handouts and a one-year membership to the Seacoast Beekeepers Association. Pre-registration is required. For more information, please email info@seacoastbeekeepers.com and put "Bee School" in the subject line.



Here we are, more than 210 days into what we have been assured will be the greatest Presidential Administration in history, and its signature face does not appear on the wall of the local Post Office. This is surely not the fault of local postal workers; we have always found them to be utterly reliable. The fault must lie with the members of the Postal Board of Governors. What ... what's that you say? There are none? Oh, dear.

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The Times Building

To the Editor:

The discrepant wishes of owner and city regarding preservation or demolition of the *Times* building that adjoined the late State Street Saloon want deeper reflection than on divergent findings of engineering studies.

Kate Raworth, senior visiting research associate at Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute and senior associate at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, observes in an article in *aeon* that Monopoly inventor Elizabeth Magie encountered "[i]n the pages of Henry George's classic, *Progress and Poverty* (1879) ... his conviction that 'the equal right of all men to use the land is as clear as their equal right to breathe the air — it is a right proclaimed by the fact of their existence'."

Elaborates Raworth: "Travelling around America in the 1870s, George had witnessed persistent destitution amid growing wealth, and he believed it was largely the inequity of land ownership that bound these two forces — poverty and progress — together." Magie's conception of her game, Raworth explains, reflected George's conclusions in two sets of rules, "Prosperity" rules under which all win when the player who starts with the least money doubles that amount, and "Monopolist" rules under which the game is won by the player who manages to bankrupt all the other players.

Said Magie: "It might well have been called 'The Game of Life,' ... as it contains all the elements of success and failure in the real world, and the object is the same as the human race in general seems to have, *i.e.*, the accumulation of wealth." The game invented by Magie to demonstrate the evils of capitalism is, of course, today played almost exclusively under the latter set of rules, proffered with a version of the game presented to Parker Brothers by Charles Darrow as his own. What George theorized, and Magie sought to portray, about the manipulation and exploitation of land that is the core of what passes for capitalism's "heart," Margaret Atwood ponders at a deeper level still in her poem "The Moment":

*The moment when, after many years
of hard work and a long voyage
you stand in the centre of your room,
house, half-acre, square mile, island,
country,
knowing at last how you got there,
and say, I own this,
is the same moment when the trees un-
loose
their soft arms from around you,
the birds take back their language,
the cliffs fissure and collapse,
the air moves back from you like a wave
and you can't breathe.*

*No, they whisper. You own nothing.
You were a visitor; time after time
climbing the hill, planting the flag, pro-
claiming.
We never belonged to you.
You never found us.
It was always the other way round.*

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, the not interminable, as will be discovered, predations of homo sapiens notwithstanding.

John Simon
Portsmouth, N.H.

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Former Senator Nails It

To the Editor:

Below is the letter former Senator Humphrey sent to Rep. Shea-Porter and Kuster. It was printed in full in the *Concord Monitor*. As a public service, I request you print it in full on your Opinion Page.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Dear Rep. Kuster:

President Trump's threat to rain down "fire and fury" on North Korea is like pouring gasoline on a fire. It's crazy.

Donald Trump is impaired by a seriously sick psyche. His sick mind and reckless conduct could consume the lives of millions. The threat of nuclear war is steeply on the rise.

You must not take comfort in the system of checks and balances. The president alone has the authority to launch nuclear weapons, the only restraint being the advice of senior advisers who might be present at the



time of crisis, and Donald Trump has shown repeated contempt for informed and wise counsel. He is sick of mind, impetuous, arrogant, belligerent and dangerous.

Donald Trump should be relieved of the powers of the presidency at the earliest date.

I urge you to support HR 1987, the Oversight Commission on Presidential Capacity Act, which, would establish a commission to determine whether the president is mentally fit. I have asked Rep. Shea-Porter to do the same and have asked Sens. Shaheen and Hassan to lead an effort in the Senate.

HR 1987 is consistent with the intent and the wording of the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Either the Cabinet or a body created by Congress, may find the president unfit for reasons of health, whereupon his powers are transferred to the vice president.

Serious crises are bearing down on us.

We cannot leave our national security and our families' safety in the hands of a president whose poor judgment, belligerence, vindictiveness and reckless impetuosity constitute an indictment of his mental health.

Donald Trump is seriously sick. He is dangerous. As a citizen, a former U.S. senator and 12-year member of the Armed Services Committee, I urge you to act once. This is an emergency.

Gordon Humphrey
Chichester, N.H.

(The writer served as a U.S. Senator from 1978 to 1990.)

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Let's Have A Party!

To the Editor:

So long, Mooch, and God help us with what disaster might come next! With so much tangled deadwood underfoot, how can we raise our gaze long enough to see the forest for the

trees? Yet, see it, we must!

Personally, I'd begin by ignoring Fox News, the *New York Times*, Twitter, and all of those other distractions that pull our attention away from repairing America's tattered two-party system. Logic tells us two parties should be better than one. However, the exception might be when both parties are controlled by wealthy people devoted to making loads more money by gaming the system. We all know the drill, with patrons of privilege funding think tanks and hand-picking pay-for-play politicians to pose as "our" public servants. Little wonder elections have become multiple-choice exams that offer no correct answers.

Much as I love to complain, it's a safe bet none of our impassioned letters to the editor will stop powerful interests from using political advantage to redirect America's "common wealth" into private coffers. In fact, nothing will stop them until we break out the pitchforks and demand it! But how do we accomplish such a rebellious feat without a party to rally around? To be without "party" in our two-party system is to be without a country!

The problem sounds complex, but the answer is very simple. The Democratic Party is currently in a shambles, thanks to abuses and multiple failures by the Clinton Dynasty. They stole our lunch, and now it's time to steal it back. Bernie Sanders proved on-line funding can compete effectively with the evils of the PAC system, and there are currently plenty of open contests ranging from the local school board to the nation's top job to take on. Opportunity is knocking.

It's been said that victims whine while survivors dine. So, enough with the long face. Let's get busy, stop bitching, and overthrow ourselves a party!

Rick Littlefield

Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

We are deeply hurt to learn of your lack of faith in the power of this feature of our newspaper to effect radical and transformative change in the world. We'd best get busy right now — at this very moment — demonstrating the error of your ways.

Outside of that petty cavil we agree wholeheartedly. So — what shall we do?

You didn't so much as mention the option of attempting to reform the Republican Party. We can't blame you. While we obviously place great faith in our own puissance, we have no illusion of Herculean strength.

There is the option of dutifully playing foot soldier in the orthodox Democratic Party. Without pretending to have any particular inside knowledge, that would seem to entail a lot of trench warfare with the faction that got us where we are today.

There may be another way. We recently read an article on Vox headlined "9 questions about the Democratic Socialists of America you were too embarrassed to ask," written by Jeff Stein. It explains, among other things, how the DSA sidesteps the guaranteed-failure problem that besets all third parties in this nation of first-past-the-post elections. Essentially, the DSA would seem to serve as a way for people who hold views that are actually broadly popular, but marginalized by corporate media, to voice their insistence on better public policy — and use the resulting clout to induce the Democratic Party to wise the bleep up.

Check it out and let us know what you think.

The Editor

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To the Editor:

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— Denis Leary (1957-) comedian, actor

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The New Hampshire legislature has fallen in line with the unfounded White House contention that there were illegal voters bused in from Massachusetts casting ballots in New Hampshire in the 2016 presidential election. Bill Gardner, New Hampshire Secretary of State, has even fallen for this false narrative as an excuse for serving on Trump's so-called Election Integrity Commission and by supporting New Hampshire voter suppression bills written by out-of-state entities with no understanding of New Hampshire and its residents.

If our leaders and legislators were honestly interested in election integrity and defending voting rights, they would support legislation that encourages more people to vote and empowers local election officials to verify an accurate vote count. Not surprisingly the New Hampshire legislature and Trump's commission are going after phantom "illegal" voters rather than achieve their purported goal of election integrity.

As if the Koch Brothers' Voter ID law passed in New Hampshire weren't bad enough, even more ALEC-inspired voter suppression bills were passed in the last legislative session. Our legislators, so concerned about this perceived voter fraud, supported these regressive bills, while steadfastly voting against legislation to protect our voting rights and verify that our votes are counted accurately by profit-producing machines.

We have several honorable New Hampshire legislators whose votes demonstrated an understanding of the need to encourage greater participation in the democratic process and who voted to assure that our vote-counts could be verified. Unfortunately, there are not enough of these

informed, clear-thinking representatives, so it is up to us, We the People, to assert our rights and to take action to make sure every person of voting age is able to vote and can be guaranteed their vote matter, and to see that the electoral process is not hijacked by special interests and their legislative friends.

New Hampshire communities recognize the growing assault on our voting rights and election integrity. In the wake of recent court rulings like Citizens United, the proliferation of money in politics has increased substantially, transparency is virtually nonexistent, and the stranglehold of the corporate state on our individual and collective rights has tightened the noose around any sense of democracy. We need to assert our rights at the local level to change our form of government to one that serves and protects people over the profits of corporations and their representatives.

Given the failure of the New Hampshire legislature to protect our votes and given its advocacy for voter suppression, we have to take action in our communities. The New Hampshire Community Rights Network (NHCRN) provides education about local self-governance and the development of rights-based ordinances that put communities in charge of decision-making regarding their resources, ecosystems, health and safety, religious freedom, immigrant rights, food sources, access to the ballot and fair elections that are clean and verifiable.

We have the power in our communities to preserve our right to vote and to demand integrity in our elections. NHCRN is a vital resource for communities to procure clean and fair elections. To learn more, contact NHCRN through their website at

www.nhcommunityrights.org.

Diane St. Germain, NHCRN Board of Directors

Center Barnstead, N.H.

Diane:

Thanks for writing. NHCRN has always shown itself to have the necessary vision to protect the rights of the community from the depredations of its would-be "privatizers" — a better term might be the old-fashioned "thieves."

We cannot protect our environment if we leave our election process unprotected.

The Editor

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Praising Fat Man and Little Boy
To the Editor:

War is horrible. People are killed, maimed, emotionally destroyed. Property is destroyed, wealth is consumed. Even the winners lose in protracted wars. In war, the best way to lessen the suffering is to end the war quickly.

This is why the United States and Japan should celebrate the anniversaries of August 6 and 9, 1945. The atomic bombs we dropped on those dates quickly brought WW II to an end saving many millions of lives.

WW II in the Pacific was particularly savage. The Japanese believed in death before dishonor, and surrender was considered dishonorable.

In the battles on island after island thousands of Japanese fought to the death, typically taking one American life for every 4 to 5 Japanese soldier deaths. Typically fewer than 5 percent of Japanese soldiers were captured, usually only those too sick or weak to fight or commit suicide. Many Japanese civilians on these islands died helping their soldiers or committed suicide; the videos of Japanese adults and children jumping off cliffs to their deaths are heartbreaking.

The 73 million Japanese prepared to defend their almost 146,000 square mile homeland to the last man, woman, and child. Everyone who could fight was being trained and armed;

children were taught to fight with spears. The death toll promised to be horrendous.

The atomic bombs convinced the Japanese to surrender before the invasion.

While the death toll from the atomic bombs was high, Hiroshima 80,000 and Nagasaki 40,000, they were not extreme in WW II. For example, the March 9-10, 1945 bombing raid on Tokyo took about 100,000 lives, the raids on Hamburg took about 42,000 lives, the raids on London took perhaps 50,000 lives.

Compared to the perhaps 60-70 million Japanese that might have died in the invasion of Japan, the death toll from the atomic bombs was low and a small price to pay for the lives saved.

The quick Japanese surrender provided other benefits. Had the Soviet Union joined the invasion as planned, Japan may have been divided into U.S. and Soviet sectors, like Germany, and changed the whole post-war history in Asia.

Perhaps more importantly the world saw the destructiveness of these primitive bombs. These convinced the civilized world to avoid use of atomic, now nuclear, weapons.

There are at least 150,000 American soldiers and perhaps a few million descendants of those soldiers who lived because President Truman dropped the atomic bombs on Japan. The Japanese people have even more reason to celebrate August 6 and 9, 1945 because nearly every Japanese citizen that lived or was born after WW II owes their lives to those bombs.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

We can recall feeling shocked when we read Paul Fussell's defense of the nuking of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. To him, as an Army Lieutenant fighting in Europe, the bombings came as a reprieve. Having greatly admired his The Great War and Modern Memory, we could see his point.

Subsequent reading has us more inclined to credit the theory that rabidly anti-Communist elements in the defense establishment — Curtis LeMay, for ex-

ample — engineered the decision-making process to assure that Truman would drop the bombs.

Similarly, militaristic Japanese officials seem to have done their part for as long as possible to dissuade the Emperor from calling it quits, thereby enhancing the argument of our pro-bomb faction.

Then again, when the only tool you have is a hammer, all your problems look like nails: we always suspect that power-hungry fanatics are the problem, whether they follow bushido or the God of the Crusades.

The Editor

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Nukes? Why the Hell Not?

To the Editor:

On August 8, the anniversary of our atomic bombing of Nagasaki, our current president threatened nuclear war ("fire and fury") against North Korea. This kind of taunt did not cause Korea's insane leader to back off his nuclear program. Indeed, shortly after Trump's threat, Korea's Kim Jung Un threatened to bomb American Guam. Two irrational leaders who don't have the self-control to de-escalate their bellicose bluffs before causing catastrophe now endanger us all.

In addition to killing uncountable millions, nuclear bombing in Korea would cover our land with radioactive fallout. Our food supply would be poisoned. Many would suffer cancer and birth defects.

Congress must remove our mentally ill President from office now. We can't simply watch and follow a Commander-in-Chief whose record shows he is a person who can't distinguish lies from truth, who doesn't think coherently, whose priorities are to tweet incendiary provocations when mature pacification is necessary.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.
Bruce:

Kim Jung Un is a nasty piece of work, of that there is no doubt. We're not so sure he's crazy, though. Why would he not want a good supply of nuclear-tipped ICBMs?

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Wall Street thieves find “New Way” to steal from us

by Jim Hightower

We know that millions of American families lost their homes after Wall Street’s 2007 financial crash ... but where did all those houses go?

It turns out that Wall Streeters themselves formed profiteering investment groups that rushed out to scoop up tens of thousands of those foreclosed properties, usually grabbing them on the cheap at

courthouse auctions in suburban metro areas that were hard-hit by the crash. These moneyed syndicates have deep, deep pockets, so they easily outbid local buyers to take possession of the majority of the single-family homes being sold off in many distressed places.

Why are they buying? To turn the homes into rental properties and become the dominant suburban landlord, controlling the local market and constantly jacking up

rents. For example, the *Wall Street Journal* found that in Nashville’s suburb of Spring Hill, just four of these predatory giants own 700 houses — giving this oligopoly of absentee investors ownership of three-fourths of all rental houses in town. One of these bulk buyers is an arm of Blackstone, the world’s largest private equity firm, another is an equity outfit that was spun out of the housing speculation department of Goldman Sachs, and another is a

billionaire whose investors include the Alaska State oil fund.

Not only do rents jump dramatically when such outfits seize a market, but Wall Street’s intention is to impose “a new way” on housing America: They’re pushing a cultural shift in which homeownership is no longer part of the American Dream and tenants are taught to accept annual rent increases as the price of having a home.

So the banksters crash the econo-

my, you lose income and your home, they buy your house at auction, then they rent it to you at an ever-increasing price. The “new way” is the same old story: The rich robbing the rest of us.

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All (aka Single-Payer) in which zero Americans would be uninsured and consequently left without access to health care?”

You are probably just like me and about 60 percent of all Americans who would opt for the latter choice. Medicare-For-All is very doable for the most prosperous nation in the history of the world with the world’s largest economy that already spends 1/6 of its gross domestic product on healthcare every year. Studies have demonstrated that transitioning to a single-payer healthcare system would save the U.S. economy roughly \$500 billion dollars annually. Can you imagine, for example, if America committed large portions of those savings each year into infrastructure projects along with the millions of jobs that would be created as a result of this redistribution of resources?

Although what I described is within reach, I recognize that it won’t be easy as there are three major obstacles preventing us from doing so, thanks to dark corrupting money infiltrating our politics and government: the health insurance industry, the pharmaceutical industry, and the United States Congress, all of whom enjoy a symbiotic relationship. I believe these insurmountable-appearing obstacles can be negotiated with if We the People educate one another on the subject and if each one of us — democracy is not a spectator sport — reaches out to our respective Representatives in Congress,

from both chambers, and express our desire for a single-payer healthcare system.

So, which option do you choose? Please immediately call or e-mail New Hampshire Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter and U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan as they are waiting to hear you say Medicare-For-All.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

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America’s Note to Self

To the Editor:

Please consider publishing America’s Note to Self.

Dear Me:

I’ve worked for bad bosses before; I’ve been ripped off by crooks before; and I’ve believed what I wanted to be true in spite of the evidence, way too many times.

So, I’m writing this checklist to remind myself of what I already know, for the next time.

If someone tells me something unbelievable and ends saying, “it’s unbelievable,” that last statement is probably true.

If someone begins telling me something with “believe me,” don’t.

If someone boasts about being the greatest, the smartest, the most accomplished, remember that’s his insecurity talking, and it knows why it needs to keep on talking.

If someone tries to label his competitors as “lying,” “crooked,” “little,” he probably knows those qualities

very intimately.

If someone says, “You can trust me because I’m so rich I don’t need your money,” ask where his money came from as I am running away.

If someone says, “I’m really, really rich,” it probably means he owes a lot to his lenders.

If someone says he’s going to make my life better, but instead of explaining how, he keeps saying how great it’s gonna be, remember that my life is currently better than it will be if I let him.

When someone tells me the game he’s playing is rigged, believe him because he rigged it.

Listen for pronouns; how much of his conversation is about himself?

Finally, remember, when I really want to believe in someone, ask myself what he has actually done to deserve my trust.

Lovingly,
Me
Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

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An Important Correction

To the Editor:

If I believe the Editor is wrong about something which I deem important and consequential, I would hope there is a way for me to respectfully disagree, such as in a letter which I author, without having to worry that the Editor will then attempt to belittle my views in an uncalled for manner, simply because he disagrees, as apparently happened

in his reply to my August 4th letter. It seems that the Editor neither understands nor appreciates the sometimes large difference between religion and spirituality, as I have carefully explained in previous letters, even though such a difference can result in the 1st Amendment (church & state) being violated.

Whether or not the 1st Amendment is violated seems to me a topic worthy enough for a liberal Republican, such as myself, to write about. It is my hope and prayer that the Editor can learn to respect my perspective enough so as to not yield to the temptation to be dismissive or condescending in his reply, should he choose to reply, for such a tone in his replies could potentially lead to a chilling effect on dissent — not just for myself, but for others who may wish to respectfully disagree.

Last but not least, I wish to state that I have never referred to the Editor as the “[Alleged] Editor”, which was the wording that appeared in the first sentence of my August 4th letter. The bracketed word “[Alleged]” was inserted by the Editor into the body of my letter without my knowledge or consent, despite my writing respectfully.

Alex J. Boros
Rochester, N.H.

Alex:

To the extent that it takes notice, the world will wait in vain for the [Alleged] Editor to ever treat religion with the respect its adherents believe it

deserves. While writing that sentence we begin to realize that perhaps we do perceive a distinction between religion and spirituality: we’re less likely to be disrespectful to those we perceive as spiritually-inclined than we are to the religiously inclined.

Thanks for clarifying our thoughts, and for pointing out that excessive mockery on our part might reduce the flow of incoming dissent. We’d hate to see that happen, particularly in your case — as a moderate Republican, you deserve all the consideration that is due to a member of an endangered species!

The [Alleged] Editor

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“Reporters learn early on to stay within the shallows of corporate and political worlds. Within tamely accepted limits, the mythic obligation of media ‘objectivity’ has become its own Orwellian newspeak, sanctioning journalists to assemble the readily available prepaid and predigested data, the safe pedestrian quotes, but almost never to call political cause or effect by plain, unequivocal ‘unprofessional’ names like hypocrisy, injustice, inequity, bigotry, demagoguery, crime, corruption, lie. In a distribution of power and sterilized public dialogue neither balanced nor fair, ideals of journalism have turned into a mockery — ‘balance’ has become subterfuge or contrivance, and ‘fairness’ always a guarantee that any criticism of vested advantage will always be rebutted.”

— Roger Morris

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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, AUGUST 20	MONDAY, AUGUST 21	TUESDAY, AUGUST 22	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23	THURSDAY, AUGUST 24	FRIDAY, AUGUST 25	SATURDAY, AUGUST 26
2013—RIP Elmore Leonard. 1986—Former drug addict Randy Woolls helps Texas authorities kill him by locating a good vein. 1983—Returning to the Philippines under assurances there would be no reprisals for his dissidence, Benigno Aquino is shot dead as soon as he leaves his plane. 1974—The House of Representatives votes 412-3 to recommend Articles of Impeachment against Richard Nixon. 1969—Frank Zappa disbands the Mothers of Invention because he’s “tired of playing for people who clap for all the wrong reasons.” 1965—Keene, N.H. seminary student & civil rights worker Jonathan Daniels is murdered in Nayneville, Ala. White jurors acquit his killer. 1940—In Mexico, Stalinist agent Ramon Mercader attacks Leon Trotsky with an ice ax. Trotsky tells his guards, “Do not kill him. This man has a story to tell.” 1910—Above the Sheepshead Bay racetrack in New York, Lt. Jacob E. Fickel pulls the trigger on the first gun shot from an airplane. 1672—Following a military defeat, Dutch peasants rip out the hearts of head of state Johan de Witt and his brother Cornelis. 1619—The first 20 enslaved Africans in North America land in Jamestown. 1191—Richard the Lion Hearted’s troops bravely slaughter 3,000 Arabs in the Holy Land.	1992—Samuel Weaver, 14, and U.S. Marshal W.F. Degan die in a shootout at Ruby Ridge, Idaho. 1986—An eruption of CO₂ from Lake Nyos in Cameroon kills 1,746 people and 3,500 livestock. 1984—A stolen Robinson R22 helicopter crashes in Frenchman’s Bayou, Ark. after running out of gas, thwarting the unauthorized pilot’s plan to free her boyfriend from prison. 1976—Two day occupation of Seabrook, N.H. nuke site begins. 1963—Ngô Đình Nhu’s secret police kill hundreds of Buddhist protestors across Vietnam — in defense of democracy, to be sure. 1962—CBS’s “Evening News” reports on the Society for Indecency to Naked Animals, Alan Abel’s most successful hoax. 1961—Douglas test pilots take a DC-8 to Mach 1.01. 1946—A plutonium-handling mishap at Los Alamos gives Harry K. Daghlian a lethal burst of radiation. 1927—Justice Louis Brandeis refuses to hear a request for a stay of execution of anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti. 1911—Vincenzo Peruggia walks out of the Louvre with the Mona Lisa, wrapped in his coat, under his arm. 1863—William A. Quantrill and several hundred of his Raiders attack Lawrence, Kan., and kill hundreds of men, women, and children. 1831—Nat Turner leads a slave rebellion in Virginia.	2016—The lift span of the Sarah Long Bridge is raised for the last time. 2002—The Bush Administration announces trade sanctions on North Korea, with which we do not trade. 2001—The Bush Administration, having jacked up expenses and slashed taxes, announces a baffling decrease in the federal surplus. 1992—An FBI sniper wounds Randy Weaver and kills his wife Vicki at Ruby Ridge in Idaho. 1991—When Derick Lynn Peterson’s heart continues to beat for ten minutes after his electrocution, Virginia officials zap him again. 1976—Police arrest 179 at Seabrook, N.H. anti-nuke rally. 1972—In Camden, N.J., 28 Catholic leftists, including one FBI informer, break into the Draft Board’s offices. 1953—The last prisoners leave the French prison at Devil’s Island. 1952—The Justice Department sues four big U.S. oil companies for overcharging on oil shipped to Europe under the Marshall Plan. 1914—In the Ardennes, 27,000 soldiers of the French Army are killed. 1900—Rioters in Akron, Ohio push the world’s first police car into a canal. 1893—Birth of Dorothy Parker. At 70, she wrote, “If I had any decency, I’d be dead. Most of my friends are.” 1791—The enslaved peoples of Haiti revolt. A free black country in 1804, its sovereignty is recognized by the U.S. 61 years later.	2001—French stuntman Terry Do snags his parasail on the Statue of Liberty and dangles from it for 45 minutes before being rescued. 2000—In Jutland, Denmark, a Robinson R22 helicopter breaks up in mid-air; the pilot and a passenger die. 1971—In a memo to his friend, the Director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, future Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell argues that Right Wingers should mount a huge pro-business propaganda campaign. 1968—Yippees nominate a pig for President, saying, “if we can’t have him in the White House, we can have him for breakfast.” 1944—A U.S. B-24 crashes into an English school and explodes, liberating 71 people from this mortal coil. 1927—Bostonians use electricity to transform Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti from obscure Italian anarchists to immortal international symbols of the struggle for justice. 1784—The state of Franklin is proclaimed. Now it’s eastern Tennessee. 1724—His parents scalped 32 years earlier, Jeremiah Moulton leads a raid on Norridgewock. Scores of Abenakis and the French priest Sebastian Rasle are massacred and scalped. 1305—For rebelling against His Majesty King Edward, William Wallace is hanged, cut down while alive, disembowelled, then killed by beheading. His corpse is quartered, and his head displayed on a pike.	2001—An Airbus with 306 souls on board and a fuel leak runs dry over the Atlantic. Pilots glide the plane 75 miles to safety in the Azores. 1970—Graduate student Robert Fassnacht is killed and three others are injured when peaceniks blow up a physics lab at the U. of Wisconsin. 1967—Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin scatter 300 dollar bills on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Bedlam erupts as capitalists scramble. 1964—I.F. Stone reports the U.S. government and press “have kept the full truth about the Tonkin Bay incidents from the American public.” 1963—The State Dept. orders Amb. Lodge to encourage Vietnamese generals to stage a coup. 1889—On St. Pierre, off Newfoundland, murderer Auguste Neel becomes the only person ever to be guillotined in North America. 1827—<i>The Mechanics Gazette</i>, first U.S. labor paper, is published in Philadelphia. By 1832 there are 68 labor newspapers. 1814—Thanks to tactical errors and sheer panic, British troops are able to march unopposed into Washington, D.C., where they set fire to the White House and the Library of Congress. 1572—French Catholic mobs massacre thousands of Huguenots, so pleasing Pope Gregory that he orders a day of thanksgiving. 1456—Workers in Mainz, Germany, finish binding Gutenberg’s Bible.	1999—The FBI admits six years after the fact that the tear gas canisters it fired into David Koresh’s compound in Waco were incendiary—but still denies they started the fatal fire. 1995—In Athens, Ga., zany House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) announces his new policy for winning the drug war: executing “27 or 30 or 35 people at one time.” 1985—The White House admits that while Ronald Reagan was head of the Screen Actors Guild in the late 1940s, he was also an FBI informer. 1967—George Lincoln Rockwell, founder of the American Nazi Party, is shot dead by an ex-aide and former Marine with a broomhandle Mauser. 1950—Harry S Truman orders the U.S. Army to take over the nation’s railroads to prevent a strike. 1945—Bao Dai, formerly the French puppet Emperor, more recently the puppet of Japan, surrenders his imperial seal and sword to Ho Chi Minh. 1945—Hotheaded Army Capt. John Birch argues with Chinese Communists while snooping in Jiangsu Province. They shoot him. 1925—In Harlem, 500 men choose A. Philip Randolph to lead the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. 1914—Germans burn the library at Louven, Belgium; more than 230,000 volumes, including medieval manuscripts and incunabula, are lost. 1893—The Columbian Exposition holds a “Colored Peoples’ Day.”	2005—The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard gets a stay of execution. 1980—Ex-Luftwaffe pilot John Birges, attempting to recoup his gambling losses, plants a half-ton bomb at Harvey’s Resort Hotel in Stateline, Nev. 1969—The fun-loving Canadian Parliament decriminalizes sodomy. 1969—The New Hampshire National Guard’s 197th Field Artillery, just weeks before leaving Vietnam, loses five men in a single incident. 1968—Mayor Richard Daley welcomes Democrats to the 1968 Democratic National Convention while his cops prepare to bust heads outside. 1967—Jimi Hendrix’s “Purple Haze” is released escapes. 1924—<i>Wanderer</i>, the last sailing whaleship to leave New Bedford, drags her anchor and is lost while sitting out a storm off Cuttyhunk. 1920—The 19th Amendment is ratified giving women the right to vote. 1919—Company goons shoot United Mine Workers’ Fannie Sellins in Brackenridge, Penn. 1883—Krakatoa begins a three-day eruption; tens of thousands die. Thirteen percent less sunlight reaches the earth during the following year. 1874—Hundreds of armed men on horseback open the Gibson County jail in Tenn. and lynch 18 black men. 1871—Antiquated procedures cause a train wreck in Revere, Mass. A dozen people die instantly, another 18 burn to death in the ensuing inferno.
10:38 10:54 4:20 4:33	11:30 11:46 5:14 5:26	12:19 12:36 6:03 6:17	1:06 1:23 6:60 7:05	1:51 2:23 7:34 7:53	2:10 2:36 8:18 8:40	2:57 3:22 9:03 9:29
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27	MONDAY, AUGUST 28	TUESDAY, AUGUST 29	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30	THURSDAY, AUGUST 31	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
2014—Arthur T. Demoulas gets the OK to buy Market Basket. 1999—Over County Longford, Ireland, the rotor blades of a Robinson R22 helicopter hit the fuselage. Pilot and pasenger die in the crash. 1991—A 15-member ABR panel rates Clarence Thomas as a candidate for U.S. Supreme Court: none rate him “well-qualified,” two rate him “not qualified.” 1984—Ronald Reagan announces that he will put a teacher in space. 1980—After evacuating Harvey’s Resort Hotel in Nevada, FBI agents explode an extortionist’s 600 lb. bomb, leaving a 50 by 30-foot crater. 1979—On Earl Mountbatten’s yacht off Ireland, a radio-controlled IRA bomb assassinates the British Admiral of the Fleet and kills three others. 1975—Veronica and Colin Scargill complete a 18,020-mile tandem bicycle ride around the world. 1968—Democrats nominate Hubert Humphrey for President as cops and protestors do battle in Chicago. 1949—While an anti-Communist mob attacks the audience at a Paul Robeson concert in Peekskill, N.Y., three FBI agents passively look on. 1938—Becoming increasingly agitated during a poetry reading by Archibald MacLeish, Robert Frost sets fire to a handful of papers. 1928—In Paris, sixty nations sign the Kellogg-Briand Pact and outlaw war forever.	2005—Hurricane Katrina hits New Orleans and the levees break. 2003—After being coerced to rob a Pennsylvania bank, pizza deliveryman Brian Wells is killed by a time bomb fastened around his neck. 1963—At the Lincoln Memorial, Martin Luther King, Jr. calls for freedom to ring from the prodigious hill-tops of New Hampshire. . . . 1955—During a visit to family in Money, Miss., fourteen year-old Chicagoan Emmett Till is murdered by whites for speaking to a white woman. 1947—In Linares, Spain, the fifth bull of the day helps even the score a little by fatally goring Manolete. 1922—WEAF in New York airs the first paid radio commercial. 1921—Ten thousand coal miners and two thousand hired goons start trading lead on Blair Mountain, W.Va. 1919—Resigning as mayor of Seattle, Ole Hanson, the survivor of an assassination attempt, says “hang or incarcerate all anarchists for life.” 1918—Big Bill Haywood and 14 other Wobblies get 20 years for draft obstruction. 1884—The first known photograph of a tornado is taken in Howard, S.D. 1869—The Mount Washington Cog Railway opens for business. 1833—Britain abolishes slavery throughout the Empire. 1830—The B & O Railroad’s locomotive <i>Tom Thumb</i> wins a race against a horse-drawn cart.	2008—A brand-new Robinson R44 helicopter being delivered by two qualified pilots suddenly and inexplicably noses into a steep dive. It crashes and burns in Ridgedale, Mo., killing both pilots in the ensuing inferno. 2007—Sloppy accounting results in an Air Force B-52 taking off from Minot AFB in North Dakota with some extra cargo on board: six loose nukes. 2006—George W.[MD] Bush tells NBC interviewer Brian Williams, “I’ve got an ek-a-lec-tic reading list.” 2004—A Robinson R22 helicopter, flying normally along the north shore of Long Island, suddenly makes a loud popping noise, loses its main rotor assembly, and crashes, killing two. 1996—The day Bill Clinton accepts the Democratic nomination for a second term, his political advisor Dick Morris resigns because it’s been revealed he paid a whore \$200/hr. to let him suck her toes. 1977—Memphis cops nab three people trying to steal Elvis’s corpse. 1968—A week-long rebellion erupts at the Long Binh Jail in Vietnam. Only one prisoner is killed. 1957—The Civil Rights Act passes despite a record-setting 24 hour and 18 minute filibuster by Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), who, at 22, had fathered a mixed-race child by his family’s 16-year-old maid. 1956—Jesus Christ “GG” Allin, the most depraved punk rocker in history, is born in Lancaster, N.H.	2011—The Federal Election Commission awakens and OKs an investigation of Rep. Frank Guinta. 2004—The Republican Party holds its Presidential Convention in New York City to milk all they can out of 9/11. Patriotic attendees mock wounded veterans by wearing “Purple Heart” band-aids. 1979—Thanks to a handy canoe paddle, President Carter survives an attack from a deranged rabbit. 1979—For the first time, astronomers observe a comet hitting the sun. 1968—“I want to pack my bags and get out of this city,” says Walter Cronkite as Mayor Daley’s finest clobber citizens. 1967—Thurgood Marshall is sworn in as America’s first black Supreme Court Justice. 1964—At the Democratic Convention, an all-white delegation from Mississippi is seated while a black protest delegation isn’t. 1963—A “Hot Line” is set up between the White House and the Kremlin. 1959—Parties loyal to Ngô Đình Diem win control of Vietnamese National Assembly. 1918—Would-be assassin Fanya Kaplan shoots V.I. Lenin. 1893—Huey “The Kingfish” Long is born in Winnfield, La. 1813—At Ft. Mims, Ala., drunken officers are playing cards when 800 Creeks attack. About 15 out of 500 whites survive.	1986—Levan Merrit, 5, falls into an enclosure full of gorillas on the Isle of Jersey. One gorilla, Jambo, guards the boy until he’s safely removed. 1981—A rotor blade falls off a Robinson R22 helicopter flying over Granby, Conn. It crashes and burns, killing the pilot and a passenger. 1973—The Gainesville Eight, anti-war veterans charged with conspiracy to riot at the 1972 Republican National Convention, are acquitted. 1965—President Johnson signs a bill making draft card burning illegal. 1954—Hurricane Carol slams New England; 65 die. 1948—An LAPD setup bears fruit: Robert Mitchum is busted for pot. 1939—German operatives conduct Operation Himmler, 21 false flag attacks along the Polish border, to justify the next day’s invasion. 1925—After an 11 year occupation, U.S. Marines depart from Haiti, leaving a dictatorship behind. 1921—President Harding orders a cease-fire in the W.Va. Mine War under threat of Federal intervention. 1919—The American Communist Party is formed in Chicago. 1895—Julius A. Wyland founds <i>An Appeal to Reason</i>, an independent socialist weekly. Its peak circulation, in 1910, is over half a million. 1869—In Ireland, Mary (King) Ward officers are thrown from a steam-powered automobile and run over: she’s the first person to be killed by a car.	2009—A Robinson R44 helicopter piloted by an FAA safety inspector crashes into a house in downtown Jackson, Miss. The pilot is seriously injured; his passenger, also an FAA safety inspector, is killed. 2005—New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin calls for George W.[MD] Bush and FEMA to “get off your asses and do something” about his flooded city. 1989—Narcs trying to score crack near the White House for a George H.[H]W. Bush presidential photo-op get the drug on their third try but not the film—their camera operator gets mugged by a homeless person. 1983—The USSR shoots down KAL Flight 007. Among the victims: John Birch Society President and Congressman Larry McDonald (R-Ga.). 1976—Rep. Wayne Hays (D-Ohio), “The meanest man in Congress,” resigns three months after a sex scandal revealed by his secretary/mistress, whom he treated most shabbily. 1921—A looted Gatling gun briefly gives miners an edge on Blair Mtn., W.Va. The Sheriff responds by hiring biplanes to drop bombs on them. 1920—Portsmouth-built <i>S-5</i> sinks off Delaware, but all hands escape. 1894—Thomas P. “Boston” Corbett, the self-castrating Cavalryman who shot John Wilkes Booth, dies in Hinckley, Minn. along with 800 others in a four-hour firestorm. 1841—A white mob attacks a black boarding house in Cincinnati.	1984—Mashantucket Pequots buy 650 acres in eastern Connecticut to resume their old tribal ways. 1983—Mississippi’s execution of Jimmy Lee Gray goes badly, possibly because executioner T. Berry Bruce is drunk. Eight minutes after the poison gas is released, officials clear the witness room because Gray is still gasping, moaning, and banging his head on a steel pole. 1967—Maj. Paddy Roy Bates (Ret.) displaces a rival pirate radio team from an unused military platform off the coast of England and declares Sealand a sovereign nation. 1957—Gov. Orval Faubus calls out the National Guard to keep blacks out of Little Rock High. 1945—VJ Day—Japan surrenders to Douglas MacArthur aboard a battleship named after Harry Truman’s home state. 1945—Cribbing freely from the U.S. Declaration of Independence, Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam to be sovereign and independent. 1935—Already routed from Washington, D.C. by Gen. MacArthur, 259 veterans working on the Overseas Highway are among the dead when the Labor Day Hurricane hits the Florida Keys. 1921—Two battalions of U.S. troops finally convince miners on Blair Mtn., W.Va. to begin disarming. 1841—Cincinnati, Ohio plays host to the nation’s first urban race riot.
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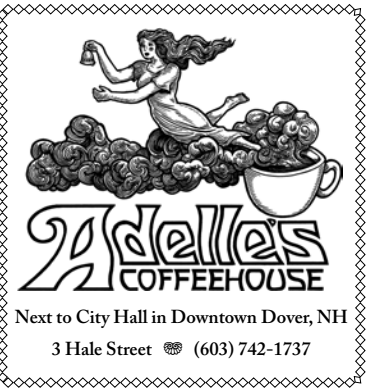
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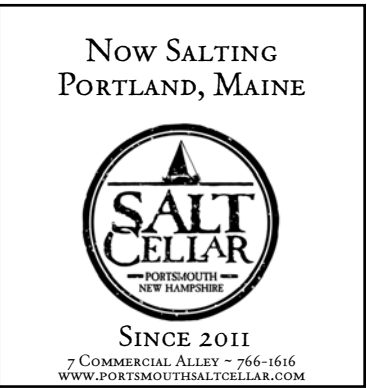
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