

The New Hampshire Gazette

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The Fortnightly Rant

It's Their Country, We're Just Tenants

Asteroid collisions, anthropogenic climate change, and thermonuclear war each have a rightful place on any serious list of existential threats to mankind.

There was a time when adding Republicans to this list would probably start an argument. Now that position is starting to look like conventional wisdom.

It's probably hard for young people to imagine, but the United States used to lead serious efforts to meet all sorts of challenges. Now Uncle Sam's shoelaces have been tied together—by the hand of the GOP.

Republicans quietly nixed the funding for a mission designed to develop ways to deflect errant asteroids while gleefully handing their big donors an enormous tax cut.

The EPA, now being run by its own arch-enemy, Scott Pruitt, is relaxing automobile fuel efficiency standards. New cars will now be allowed to emit higher levels of greenhouse gases. More baked Alaska? Coming right up.

No job is too colossal for the Republican Party to botch, and no government function is too mundane for them to meddle with. Case in point: Dick and Jane.

In the perfectly-normal mind of Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, multi-level-marketing heiress and sister of the planet's skeeviester warlord/death-profitier, the only proper way for a child to learn is from a perfectly-matched pair of parents—one of each gender, if you please—who can somehow find the time and wherewithal in today's nuked economy to operate their own single-family school district.

God forbid that any child should be able to learn to read in public school. Oh, no. That would be tacky. That's why we apply duct tape to

public school books that are falling apart: it drives home the message that charter schools are superior.

If policies like these are not contemptuous enough to satisfy your masochistic tendencies, consider Mick Mulvaney and all his works.

In 2010 the U.S. economy was a heap of rubble emitting vast clouds of toxic misery, the latest product of the most brilliant minds in the glittering world of finance. Because Wall Street runs the Republican Party, Democrats, who enjoyed a slightly higher level of semi-plausible deniability, technically had “control” of Congress and the White House.

In that capacity they managed to squeak through the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Among its features was a new federal agency called the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau [CFPB], whose intended role could be summed up as the enforcement of the Seventh Commandment: Thou Shalt Not Steal.

The very idea of a government agency established to prevent businesses from picking its customers' pockets appears to mortally offend Mick Mulvaney. The avatar of the Republican Party's philosophy of governance, Mulvaney is both the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Acting Director of the CFPB. In that capacity he is doing everything within his power to burn it to the ground.

The CFPB exists within what the Pentagon calls a “target-rich environment.” During the six years of its existence it has reversed the standard laws of economics by returning to victimized consumers a rather stunning 12 billion dollars out of which they had been bilked.

According to the ever-useful



Wikipedia, Mulvaney, in his capacity as the Bureau's top bureaucrat, has stopped all hiring, stopped collecting fines, suspended rulemaking, and put all active investigations under review.

Acting as its head administrator, Mulvaney has submitted a quarterly budget request of \$0.00, canceled an investigation into a South Carolina payday lender that had previously donated to his Congressional campaigns, and dropped a lawsuit against an online lender which had been charging 950 percent interest.

As a nihilistic representative of corporate chaos determined to clear all obstacles to Wall Street's goal of world domination, Mulvaney has recommended the Bureau's funding be made subject to Congressional appropriations, its future rulemaking subject to legislative approval, and its director made removable without cause by the President.

What he has not done is undertake a single enforcement action against any finance company. If he

had done so at his predecessor's rate he'd have opened a dozen cases by now.

Monday morning, as this sordid new “business as usual” was gnawing away in the background at the nation's vitals, John Bolton punched in at the Oval Office. What a team: Mustache Man and Commander Bone Spur. Now no one with a working sense of self-preservation can help but ask: how long can Trump stave off the temptation to slam that Big Huge Button with his tiny fist?

Monday evening, the FBI raided the home, hotel room, and law offices of Michael Cohen, the President's personal lawyer, who also happened to be the National Deputy Finance Chairman of the Republican National Committee. Agents collected evidence regarding Cohen's efforts to prevent a pornographic film actress from telling the truth about having sex with the President shortly after his third wife gave birth.

This development appears to have

overloaded Trump's already-strained coping mechanism. An evening meeting with his war cabinet turned into a one-man reboot of the Jerry Springer show.

On Wednesday morning, judging from his emotional barometer, Twitter, it was clear that Trump's mental breakdown was at least continuing, if not accelerating. His tweets echoed the content of “Fox & Friends,” America's most powerful think tank. Without betraying any indication that he was aware of what he was doing, he confessed to obstruction of justice. This, while also attempting to conduct perilous foreign policy negotiations with all the aplomb of an infant in desperate need of a fresh diaper.

Republicans, in this emergency, are either scurrying away or trying to make things worse.

If Democrats fail to stand up for the people and their Government, all of them will end up with their bones picked clean.

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The Alleged News®

How Goes the War in Afghanistan?

The U.S. has now been fighting in Afghanistan for 16 years, six months, and six days. Perhaps it would not be premature to ask how that war is progressing.

Secretary of Defense James “Mad Dog” Mattis announced last November that the Defense Department would soon send 3,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan. They would join 2,000 whose presence in the war zone was revealed last August, and the 8,400 previously known to have been there.

According to an official news story released by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, the “top U.S. general in Southern Afghanistan said he's ‘unapologetically optimistic’ about the difference incoming U.S. troops will make to the security situation there.

“To me, to see this increase in U.S. forces means we are now resourcing our counterinsurgency appropriately

to accomplish what it is we have laid down in our strategy,’ said Brig. Gen. John Nicholson, deputy commander of Regional Command South. ‘So I am very encouraged and feel that this is going to make a big difference.’”

Oops...we've made a terrible mistake. An editorial mistake, that is—we're obviously not qualified to make any sort of judgment about U.S. foreign or military policy. The quote above came from a story dated May 11, 2009—nearly nine years ago.

Ex-Brigadier Nicholson has since been promoted to four-star General and made Commander of all U.S. and NATO Forces in Afghanistan. Give him marks for consistency, though—he's still optimistic.



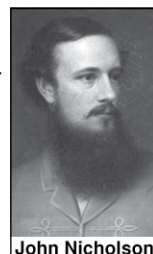
John Nicholson

An official news story released by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs—on March 22, 2018, we checked carefully this time—says Afghan forces will be able to “get on the offensive” because of the support provided by NATO and the addition of the Army's 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade and other trainers. “We couldn't do this in the past because we didn't have adequate levels of resources here,” Nicholson said.

If any non-Afghan can win a war in Afghanistan, it's probably Nicholson, a collateral descendant of an East India Company Brigadier of the same name who lived from 1821 to 1857. A contemporary with whom he served said he was “a man cast in a giant mould, with massive chest and powerful limbs, and an expression ardent and commanding, with a dash of roughness; features of stern beauty, a long black beard,

and a deep sonorous voice. There was something of immense strength, talent and resolution in his whole frame and manner, and a power of ruling men on high occasions which no one could escape noticing. His imperial air, which never left him, and which would have been thought arrogant in one of less imposing mien, sometimes gave offence to the more unbending of his countrymen, but made him almost worshipped by the pliant Asiatics.”

BadassoftheWeek.com offers a less formal description: “Captain John Nicholson was a cranky, humorless, God-fearing, self-proclaimed clairvoyant Irishman who commanded regiments of hardcore kukri-swinging Gurkha, did battle with ferocious Afghan tribal warriors,



John Nicholson

crossed swords with blood-raging Sikhs and rampaging Indian mutineers, kept the severed head of a convicted outlaw on his desk as a warning to criminals, and used to hunt Bengal Tigers on horseback using only a cavalry saber. Between riding down apex predators and crushing the skulls of all who opposed him in a bloodplosion of gruesome vengeance, Captain Nicholson was so damned effective as the ultimate paragon of Victorian English colonial badassitude of diplomatic iron-fistedness that he was worshipped as a god in some rural sections of the Punjab until the mid-1980s, is forever remembered by the British history texts as the ‘Hero of Delhi,’ and is equal parts respected and despised by roughly everyone on the Indian subcontinent.”

The Alleged News®

to page two

The Alleged News®

from page one

But we digress. Where were we?
Ah, yes—Afghanistan, where victory is just around the corner, because General Nicholson the Younger finally has “adequate levels of resources.”
Apparently the Department of Defense considers the question of troop levels settled for good. We came to this conclusion because, according to an April 9th report in *Military Times*, the Manpower Data Center’s latest quarterly report, which customarily states how many troops are deployed in our myriad combat zones, “just had blank spaces where Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan figures used to be.”

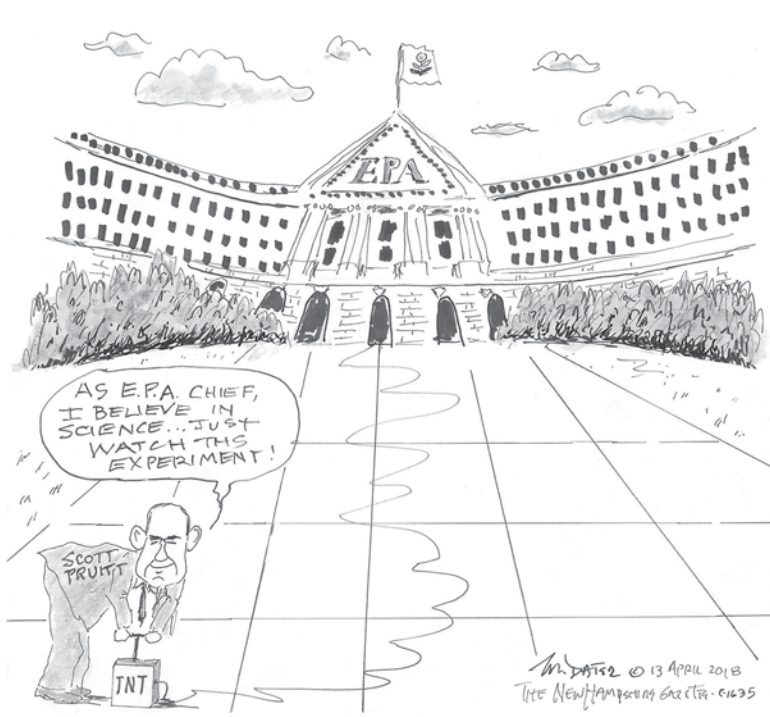


This painting by Jon McNaughton has reportedly been purchased by Sean Hannity, so that he can make a gift of it to President Donald Trump. All three of these named individuals are hereby Busted! by the Flag Police. Specific charges under the Flag Code will be ginned up at a later date.

Here Come the Killer Robots
Here’s a hopeful thought: maybe the Pentagon gave up reporting how many troops are “downrange,” as today’s military hipsters put it, because their jobs are about to become obsolete.
There was a time when Google searches for “killer robots” only brought up trailers for the latest reboot from Arnold Schwarzenegger’s “Terminator” franchise.
That same search now brings up stories about the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology [KAIST] partnering with Hanwha System, South Korea’s largest defense company, to open a Research Center for the Convergence of National Defense and Artificial Intelligence, to “develop artificial

intelligence (AI) technologies to be applied to military weapons, joining the global competition to develop autonomous arms”—i.e., killer robots.
Maybe this news is not so hopeful after all. If anyone can build a Terminator T-800 it’s KAIST, which won first prize at the latest DARPA Robotics Challenge.
Researching this story, we learned something disturbing: research in this field is already so advanced that a campaign against killer robots began five years ago. In an admirable display of forthrightness, it’s called the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots.
Human Rights Watch, a member of the Campaign, couched its argument in favor of a preemptive ban in admirably restrained terms, considering the terrifying subject matter: “It is questionable that fully autonomous weapons would be capable of meeting international humanitarian law standards, including the rules of distinction, proportionality, and military necessity, while they would threaten the fundamental right to life and principle of human dignity.”
After word got out that two powerful South Korean organizations had signed an agreement to build Skynet, scores of top level AI scientists from around the world organized a boycott of KAIST. On Monday, the scientists declared victory and ended their boycott after KAIST announced that it “does not have any intention to engage in the development of lethal autonomous weapons systems or killer robots.”
What a relief! At least for the time being, when the high-tech killing machines come for us, they’ll have a real, live human in the loop—like that Übermobile in Tempe that ran over a woman walking across the street.

with that of Thomas Kinkade—or, better yet, contrasted.
Kinkade billed himself as “The Painter of Light,” a more accurate moniker would have been “Schlockmeister of Schmaltz.” He made a fortune mass-producing over-priced and excruciatingly saccharine landscapes devoid of pain or sordidness. In other words, his work was the opposite of his life.
Kinkade, who died in 2012 of acute intoxication from alcohol and diazepam, was a tortured, hard-drinking soul. According to a 2006 report in the *L.A. Times*, in the late 1990’s at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim he allegedly urinated on a statue of Winnie the Pooh while quipping, “This one’s for you, Walt.”
McNaughton, on the other hand, is a Mormon living in Provo, Utah, making it likely that he lives a pure, moral, and upright life, eschewing even coffee. In addition to the Book of Mormon, McNaughton apparently believes in Flaubert’s famous dictum, “Be regular and orderly in your life, so that you may be violent and original in your work.”
His paintings reek of evil and depravity. They would appear to be updated works of Hieronymus Bosch, but for the marked absence of skill, imagination, and wit. “Obamana-tion” shows President Obama behind a podium, smiling obliviously and surrealistically beside a crowing rooster, surveying a scene full of filth and destruction: out-of-work Americans in chains, a burning State of Arizona flag, a Moslem burning a Bible, dead birds in a oil slick, George Soros embracing a briefcase that is probably full of cash, a uniformed cop sitting dejectedly on the ground drinking a beer, and, in case anyone hasn’t yet gotten the point, a corpse on a gurney.
Interviewed by Fox News’ Salt Lake City affiliate, McNaughton describes his latest bit of maudlin tripe, titled, “Respect the Flag”:
“It’s Donald Trump standing on a football field, and he’s picked up the American Flag that’s been trampled. It’s got grass stains on it, and he’s trying to wipe off some of the mud, and he’s looking at everybody and saying ‘What are you doing? Why did you do this?’”
The Flag Police concur with Twitter user @hello_caitlin, who proposes an alt-title: “Bewildered Old Man Wanders on to a Football Field Carrying His Blanket.”



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Veterans to Become Profit Center

It's like one of those YouTube videos showing somebody about to do something so stupid you can't believe it even as you watch him doing it.

Except, instead of some teenager riding a bicycle off the roof of a house, it's the President of the United States breaking the nation's biggest health care system.

Instead of said teenager losing a few of his own teeth, though, the sufferers number in the millions and someone else is doing it to them. By now they're used to it, though. They're that unique class of Americans who everybody professes to love to death, but don't really care enough about to uphold their end of the bargain.

After months of speculation, President Donald J. Four-Deferment Heel-Spur Trump finally fired Secretary of Veteran Affairs Dr. David Shulkin, a smart, capable, honest, competent, hard-working administrator whom the veteran community very much wanted to stay in office—even if his competence did make him stick out like a sore thumb.

Perhaps we're just too sensitive, but the timing seemed particularly atrocious: the next day was Vietnam

Veterans Day—a generally ignored non-event supposedly set aside to honor several million guys who served in the war that our Commander in Chief dodged.

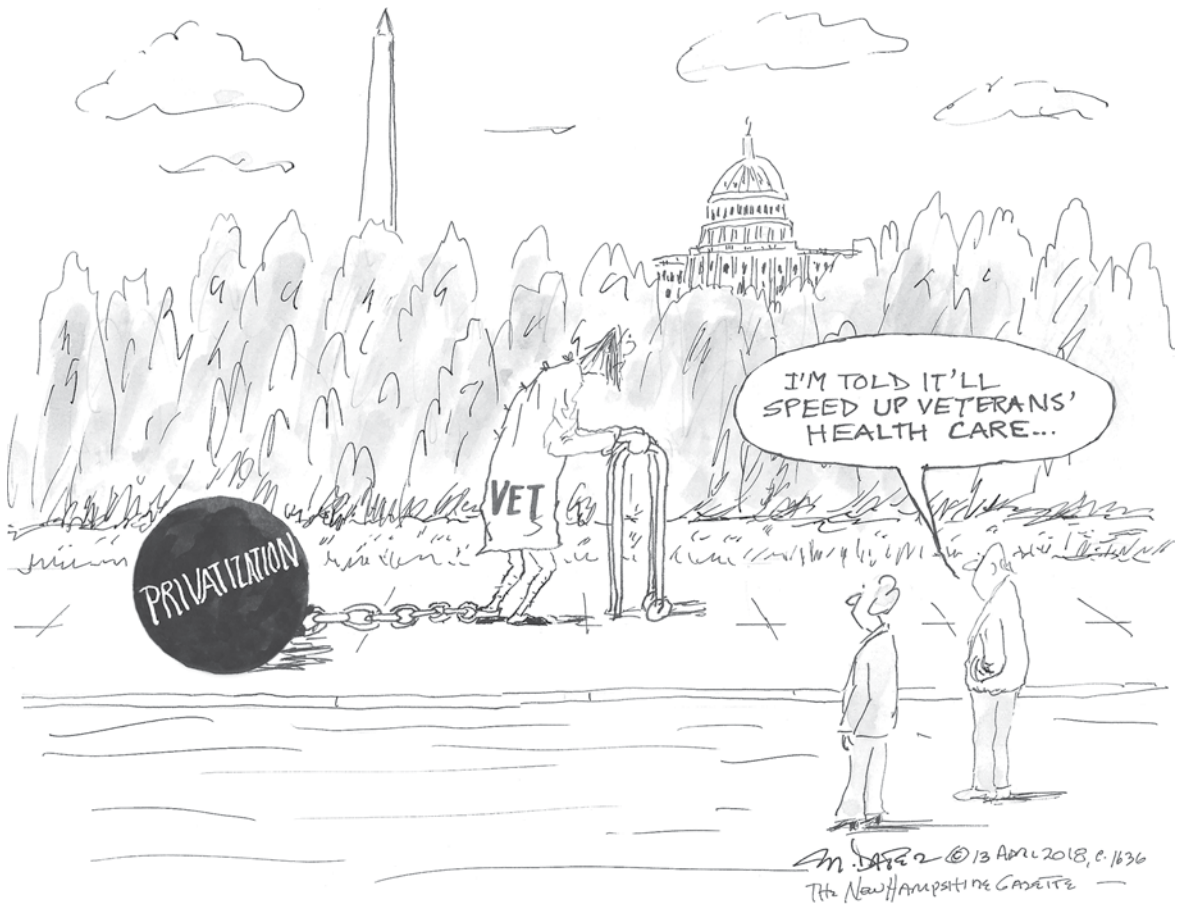
Trump claims Shulkin resigned, but Shulkin—who may have some insight into this apparently complex and nuanced matter, but, then again, may not be a reliable witness because he's too close to the matter to be truly objective—insists that he was fired.

The nation's news media used the opportunity to demonstrate once again their astonishing ability to fail to state the simple truth.

"Unnamed officials told Reuters Mr. Shulkin had become a distraction due to speculation about his future," according to a story on NPR. So much for the liberals' favorite source of straight, responsible journalism.

Here's our coverage of that coverage: "Anonymous person with unknown but deeply suspect motives utters meaningless tautology which one corporate news organization apparently accepts at face value, and another passes on as if it actually meant something."

Shulkin, interviewed on 1A, the



What distinguishes the Flag Police from your routine kvetcher or kibitzer? The ruthless ability to enforce adherence to the Flag Code with complete disregard for the identity of the miscreant. That principle was put to the test recently when a local officer spotted the violation depicted above at an iconic location on Fleet Street. If Sam Spade can turn over Brigid O'Shaunessy to the cops, though, the Flag Police can bust Gilley's.

NPR program so cleverly named that it makes no sense either aurally or in print, labored heroically for a good ten minutes to get across to Joshua Johnson that the cloud of "ethical issues" surrounding him were conjured up out of whole cloth by White House stooges.

Johnson replied—we paraphrase, here—"I can't help it if snakes and rats wearing human clothing have maneuvered me into a position where I don't think I have any options except to ask the same stupid questions as the idiots on Fox News. It's my job to keep banging on this trash can lid!"

As best we recall—NPR's clumsy online interface won't let us play the interview back selectively, and we're damned if we're going to go through the agony of listening to the whole thing again—Shulkin called out Johnson, saying, in effect, that such media failures are the reason why the White House is getting away with this.

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Actual Progress on Gazette Distribution

In November we asked for volunteers to help us expand our distribution. Two readers who frequently travel to Concord responded and offered to give it a try. We're pleased to announce that after a few minor hiccups we now seem to have a routine: each fortnight now, 200 papers follow the advice of Horace Greeley, that eccentric but hugely successful New Hampshire newspaperman, and "go west."

Some of these papers make their way to Gibson's Bookstore at 45 South Main Street and The Works Café at 42 North Main Street. Others go to the State House, in the Visitors Center and the Minority Leader's Office.

This is not a huge number of newspapers, but we are still in the proof-of-concept phase. The results so far are quite encouraging. What remains to be discovered is how far and how fast we can expand from here.

Our volunteer couriers quickly

seized upon a key concept which had yet to occur to our alleged editor: because it is the legislative heart of the state, Concord could also serve as a natural distribution hub for this little scheme.

Because the cost of our printing is negligible (albeit growing), and the additional expenditure for this method of distribution is \$0.00, the limits to future expansion of our readership appear to be the willingness of additional people to volunteer to distribute the paper, and our own ability to manage and organize those volunteers.

We're not really ready yet to incorporate new people into this alleged system; we're still feeling our way along. It's not too soon, though, for readers to start thinking about it, hence this announcement. Essentially we're talking about spending perhaps twenty minutes every fortnight, carrying some papers to places you'd be going to anyway.

It is an appropriate time to express our thanks to our new distributors.

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The Real Two Party System

To the Editor:
Be we Republican, Independent, or Democrat, all of us down on Main Street who benefit from America's institutions and infrastructure are Social-Security Card carrying members of the "Public Sector" party.

The Public Sector is our government. If we don't begin thinking that way and pull together to act strategically, predatory capitalists from the "Private Sector" side of the tracks will completely tear it down and replace it with for-profit entities at our expense.

Think about it. We have cash-strapped teachers picketing impoverished public schools, and angry teenage shooting victims begging their tribally-partisan parents to please grow up. What we call tragedy the Oligarchs call progress.

There's a lot of hyper-partisan rhetoric out there for us to memorize and spew at each other. But, trace it back to its roots, and you'll find it didn't come from us. Instead, it was skillfully injected like an opiate to pacify, divide, and conquer.

Perhaps we can't eliminate America's two-party system, but we can (and we must) reframe it to represent reality.

Rick Littlefield

Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

We can't thank you enough for this letter, which lit the fuse under this fortnight's rant. Nothing like a little radical clarity for busting through several of accreted Republican BS.

The Editor

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Israel vs. Gaza

To the Editor:

On March 30, Israel deployed 100 snipers and tanks to the Israeli-Gaza border in anticipation of a Palestinian peaceful protest. Israeli soldiers killed 17 Palestinians and injured over 1400.

Over 30,000 Palestinians participated in the "Great March of Return" demonstration.

News outlets reported "clashes;" however, the Palestinians did not begin their action as an attack or with the anticipation of violence. Video evidence proves that Israel interjected

the violence. These latest murders are part of a long history of Israeli violence against the occupied Palestinian people. In fact, the Israeli military initially took ownership of their actions, describing them as premeditated and intentional. Only after criticism did the military remove that statement from social media.

As members of New Hampshire Palestine Education Network, we unequivocally condemn Israeli violence on Palestinian protestors. We further condemn Israel's occupation of Palestine and support the Gazan protestors' statement of their right to return to their ancestral and family lands as provided in international law and according to UN Resolution 194.

This occupation is almost completely dependent on U.S. aid and diplomatic cover, which have remained steady throughout both Democratic and Republican administrations. So far, most U.S. legislators have been silent on U.S.-funded Israeli violence.

We call on Senators Shaheen and Hassan and New Hampshire's representatives to publicly condemn Israel's violence against peaceful protesters.

We support the Palestinian liberation struggle and international law as it applies to occupied people. We endorse BDS [the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions movement] as our Constitutionally-protected right under the Supreme Court definition of free speech.

Carolyn Ciccio

Goffstown, N.H.

Will Thomas

Auburn, N.H.

Carolyn and Will:

The Democratic failure to properly address this issue is one reason some say there is not a dime's worth of difference between the parties.

The Editor

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Time to Kill the Death Penalty

To the Editor:

New Hampshire is close to abolishing the death penalty. I ask all readers to support this wonderful effort. It makes no sense to kill people on behalf of the State. The death penalty is not a deterrent to crime. Worldwide, the



death penalty is being abolished because it just costs incredible amounts of money and does nothing to prevent crime. There are many better ways of creating a safer and saner world. Thank you.

Mrs. Ilse Andrews

Exeter, N.H.

Ilse:

Amen, Sister.

The Editor

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Q. & A. Time

To the Editor:

Why do the Hollywood elites condemn the one percent when they are a large part of the one-percent?

Why do they talk about the carbon footprint of everyone else while they have the biggest carbon footprint of all with their private jets, their yachts, and their gigantic homes that require year round temperature control?

Why do the elites talk of equality and lament the condition of the poor when they exploit the poor for cooks, for nannies, and for general labor, all at minimum wage with no benefits?

And why do they not really practice equality by opening up their private pools, clubs, schools, and beaches to those cherished poor?

Why are not the children of the elites part of the poverty draft?

Adults know the answer to these questions. The innocent, naive, youngsters don't even ask those questions. That is why these youngsters too are exploited to rally against gun ownership when the elites would never leave their gated and restricted environment to fly away in their private jets, or board their 65 foot yachts without well armed body guards.

Perhaps they should instruct the younger folk on the meaning of the Constitution and its Bill of Rights. These rights are not bestowed upon the people by the government, these are birthrights, and the only function of the government is to protect those

rights. Furthermore, all those rights are individual rights, not group rights-- a concept the liberals who deal with the ridiculous concept of group rights cannot understand. So, instead of ditching classes to attend some ridiculous rally they should be in school discussing subjects like the second amendment, and the broader Constitution.

However, debate requires critical thinking skills and with lazy teachers and professors who have substituted true- false, and multiple choice exams for compare and contrast essays there is little chance of anyone learning critical thinking skills.

Final question: Why do we not hear criticism of Donald Trump when he appoints lunatics like John Bolton as national security adviser, and Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State. Answer: with regard to perpetual war both Democrats and Republicans are enthralled to the Military Industrial, Security complex, Saudi Arabia, Israel and the Israeli lobby.

John Dente

Wilmington, Del.

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The Worst of a Bad Crowd

To the Editor:

Donald Trump has nominated and appointed many terrible people to positions within his administration. Among the worst of the worst are Pruitt at EPA, DeVos at Education, Zinke at Interior, Carson at HUD, Mnuchin at Treasury, Flynn, former National Security Advisor and Bannon, former Chief Strategist. However, the appointment of John Bolton, to be his next National Security Adviser, will prove to be his most reckless and dangerous appointment of them all.

The warmongering history of John Bolton has been widely reported and documented in countless media accounts. He was one of the most ar-

dent supporters of the Iraq war, and he still considers the invasion to be a success, despite the fact that it has led to the creation of ISIS and increased the influence of Iran throughout the region. Bolton has also advocated preemptively attacking other nations, including North Korea and Iran. He is an avid opponent to the P5+1 Nuclear Agreement with Iran even though, according to U.N. inspectors, and even conservative Pat Buchanan, Iran is "strictly abiding by the terms of the nuclear deal." Bolton also, while working in the State Department, produced false information claiming that Cuba was developing chemical and biological weapons. His superiors ordered him to remove those lies, which to this day he has never apologized for.

What is most frightening is that we have a Commander in Chief, who former CIA Director John Brennan said was "unstable, inept, inexperienced and unethical," being advised on national security issues by a man who has never met a war he did not want to start. The first target, in my opinion, will be Iran. After Bolton convinces Trump to withdraw from the Nuclear Agreement in May, he will advise him to strike Iran. The subsequent consequences of such a strike, as described in Pat Buchanan's April 1st OpEd in the *Seacoast Sunday*, will be catastrophic.

The only sane person remaining in the Trump Administration that could possibly prevent such a scenario is Secretary of Defense James Mattis. As reported in the *New York Times Magazine* April 1st, "Mattis may be the last voice of caution in an increasingly volatile administration." If we see Mattis leaving office it means Bolton and the other madmen have won, and we can expect the bombs to start fall-

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

*"So just think of \$700 billion,
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— President Donald Trump (1946-) speaking to
children at the White House Easter gathering (4/1/18)

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ing shortly thereafter and the Republican Congress allowing the madness to continue unchecked.

Rich DiPentima
LTC, U.S.A.F., Ret.
Portsmouth, N.H.

Forecast: Cloudy

To the Editor:
Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May said it is "highly likely" the Russian government was responsible for the recent nerve agent attack on a former spy in the UK. This all is sounding eerily similar to the run up to the Iraq War. There is no concrete evidence the Russian government carried out this attack yet now there is a "wave of nations" (including the U.S., Canada and many EU countries)) supporting Britain by expelling Russian diplomats. Doesn't this sound like President George Bush's "coalition of the willing" that supported the Iraq War?

Just like before the Iraq War the press is widely absent to provide investigative journalism and is simply parroting whatever the UK leadership says as fact.

Several years after the Iraq War former Secretary of State Colin Powell stated on Frontline that his infamous UN speech to convince the world Iraq had WMDs was "a great intelligence failure."

Britain's present day Secretary of State Boris Johnson has now recently twice made outrageous public statements comparing President Vladimir Putin to Hitler.

But there is a difference today than during the Iraq War era.

Remember how George Bush, Dick Cheney, Condi Rice and Donald Rumsfeld all sensationalized the threat of Iraq by repeating the words "mushroom clouds"?

Russia is not Iraq. Doesn't anyone see this could all lead to real mushroom clouds? Perhaps someday when our world lies in nuclear ashes will there be anyone to lament this was all caused by "a great intelligence failure"?

John Meinhold
Portsmouth, N.H.

"The Graveyard of Empires"

To the Editor:
Retired newsman Dan Rather recently responded to #45's proposal for a parade, asserting, "Military Parades are not participation trophies you get for being President. We've had them. When we won wars. Now Americans are still serving in harm's way around the globe (including America's longest war—Afghanistan). There is no Mission Accomplished, except stroking an ego."

Speaking of which, the last time I heard the current Commander-in-Chief say anything significant regarding our ongoing mission in Afghanistan, now in its 17th year, at enormous cost to American blood and treasure, was last August when he told the nation that he would be, against his own instincts and at the behest of "his generals," increasing troop strength. He announced that he was no longer concerned about nation-building, but that we were going to remain in Afghanistan, open-endedly, so "Our troops will fight to win. We will fight to win. From now on, victory will have a clear definition—attacking our enemies, obliterating ISIS, crushing al-Qaida, preventing the Taliban from taking over."

Lest we forget, Afghanistan, which has long been the object of desire by empires because of its strategic location, has also been labeled "The Graveyard of Empires," as it has been the demise of Alexander the Great, the

British Empire and the Soviet Union.

I recently heard General Nicholson, Commander of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, describe our armed forces as being caught up in a stalemate with the Taliban, the rogue regime we invaded Afghanistan to topple and remove in December 2001. Meanwhile al-Qaida, the terrorist organization which attacked America on Sept 11, 2001, and for whom the Taliban provided safe-haven, continues to operate safely in the country. Now the mix includes ISIS, which never existed until we invaded Iraq and disbanded the Iraqi military, the Russians, who are providing support to the Taliban, and poppy plantations which are funding the Taliban and making Afghanistan the world's largest supplier of Opium (70-85 percent).

Sounds like #45's regime had better come up with a plan that calls for a little more than just killing bad guys, breaking things and holding parades.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.
Wayne:
Oh, ye of little faith.
The Editor

A Veterans' Day Parade Done Right

To the Editor:
Word is that President Trump has ordered a big military parade in Washington, D.C. on Veterans' Day. It allegedly is to honor the brave men and women defending our nation. Some more cynical commentators suggest it is just to gratify his ego. Who knows?

In my experience big parades are a pain in the rear for the participants. There are the rehearsals, the inspections, getting up early and standing around waiting and then marching for miles in front of however many people want to see them march. That does not even address the cost of such a parade.

If he really wants to honor our service members I would suggest that the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines

and Coast Guardsmen should be the guests of honor. They should be seated along the parade route and in the reviewing stand. The White House staff, the Cabinet and the chickenhawks in Congress and the Senate will do the marching. Leading the parade could be the Commander-In-Chief himself (if his bone spurs are not troubling him). Then they could have a big party for the troops with the President and his coterie serving the refreshments. I'm sure the troops would enjoy it more than marching up Pennsylvania Avenue.

Just a thought, but as they say, "Nothing's too good for a soldier, but we give it to them anyway."

Dan Mannschreck
Col., U.S. Army (Ret)
Eliot, Maine
Col. Dan:
We'd go to D.C. to see that.
The Editor

A Truly Radical Proposal

To the Editor:
Is it too early to foretell who *Time Magazine* will choose as "Person of the Year" 2018? I predict it will be the students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Parkland, Florida.

These kids are rewriting the play-book, more power to them. At long last, someone has had the courage to stand up and say, "enough." It took 17 more innocent lives and broken families but finally our leaders have the message that their string of unending clichés—thoughts and prayers, good guys with guns, now is not the time, &c., &c., are not sufficient. We've suffered your bombast and your rhetoric long enough, now you're going to act.

Standing up to the NRA and the other monied special interests is good, but we expect more. Assault rifles are designed to kill a lot of people very quickly, there's no reason for them to be in the hands of civilians. Ban them. Want to fire a bazooka or an AR-15, blow something up? Join the Army. Unless you see the Vermont regulators forming on the other side of the Connecticut River, my guess is, you won't need an assault rifle.

States need to ban all weapons that

are not clearly used for hunting or for protection, and there's no good reason why these weapons cannot be registered.

Another thing we might consider: lower the voting age to 16. If a boy or girl is responsible enough to drive a vehicle at 16, they're mature and sensible enough to vote. After all, with parental permission, 17-year-olds can enlist in the Armed Forces. Why shouldn't they be able to vote for the President who's possibly going to send them to die in a far-off land?

One more thing, we must reintroduce real life skills into our schools; Government, American History (the truth this time), World History, Citizenship, Social Studies, and Civics and the relationship between rights and responsibilities. We've entertained our children far too long, it's time to teach them about life, the world, and things that matter.

If my generation had dealt with these matters 30 or 40 years ago when we should have, our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren wouldn't be going to school now wondering if they will make it home alive at the end of the day.

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.
David:
Good Lord, man—teach the truth in American History? Now, that's radical!
Don't get us wrong—we're all for it. But if it ever happens it's going to cause a hell of a ruckus!
The Editor

Will Trump Be The "Un" President?

To the Editor:
History may identify the Trump presidency and the Kim Jong show as a hit but more likely as the Gong Show flop. If Trump becomes known as the "Un" president it won't be because he made a deal with the North Korea president but because he is uncouth, uninformed, untruthful, unstable and unprofessional.

His crude, improper and coarse behavior and speech personify un-

Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

The Aeronaut of Coos

by William Marvel

Colonel Edward E. Cross of Lancaster may be Coos County's most famous soldier of the Civil War, but Jefferson native Thaddeus Sobieski Constantine Lowe enjoyed a wider and longer-lasting reputation for his exploits as an aeronaut. Both men proved extremely daring, and neither was particularly shy about self-promotion.

Lowe was the son of a man given to loading his sons down with ponderous, inventive names; his younger brother was Pembroke Charles Summersault Lowe. Most of the Lowe boys headed out West early, perhaps in search of some place where they might shed some of the excess names. Thaddeus, as he preferred to call himself, spent a couple of years as assistant to a chemist who performed public stunts with lighter-than-air gases. Then, assuming the title of "professor," Lowe started flying balloons, giving exhibitions and rides. On the eve of the Civil War he built a massive airship with the notion of making the first trip across the Atlantic. He made a test flight on April 20, 1861, launching from the grounds of the city hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, at four o'clock in the morning.

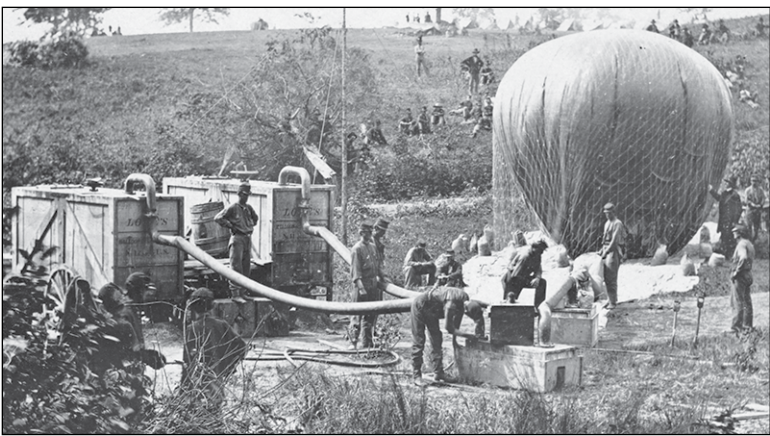
He expected that at sufficient altitude he would find an easterly air

current that would take him over the Alleghenies and the Blue Ridge toward Petersburg, Va. Instead, his balloon headed southeast.

Lowe knew that Fort Sumter had surrendered under Confederate bombardment a week earlier. He knew, too, that President Lincoln had called for troops to suppress the rebellion in South Carolina and six other slave states, but he probably didn't know that Lincoln's military appeal had also made an enemy of Virginia. That afternoon, suspecting he had gone off course, he started his descent and touched down in Union County, South Carolina.

Later, "Professor" Lowe told of being mobbed by secessionists who felt certain he was a spy, but contemporary newspaper accounts suggest that he was greeted as a celebrity. One South Carolina paper described his landing under the headline "Distinguished Arrival," but admitted that his story "was scarcely believed" until he produced early-morning Cincinnati newspapers of that very date. His Confederate hosts helped him collect his balloon and get it on a train for home.

Like many an entrepreneur, Lowe saw the war as a chance to earn some money, and later that spring he offered his services to the army. In a characteristic stunt he went up in his balloon near the White House with a telegraph wire attached, making



Professor Lowe's balloon near Gaines Mill, Virginia, June 1, 1862.

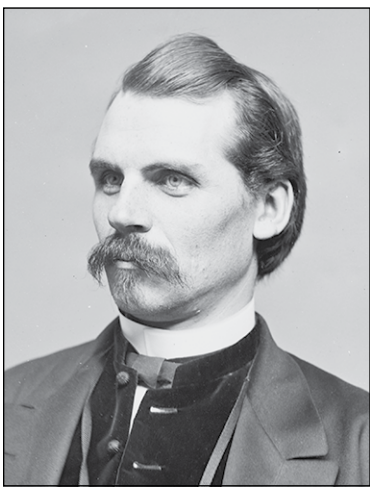
notes on the scenery and tapping out a telegram for Mr. Lincoln that he announced as the first message ever transmitted from the air. Lincoln was enamored of technological gimmicks and agreed to give him a try.

Toward the end of summer Lowe took his balloon over the Potomac to begin aerial reconnaissance from forts along Arlington Heights. He found his best friend in another New Hampshire native, General Fitz John Porter, who made ascensions with him and advised him what observations might be of use. Porter introduced him to other generals in the vicinity, and soon the balloon was in great demand. The War Department agreed to pay Lowe \$10 a day, which was more than a brigadier general made, but the man who had given himself the title of "professor" modestly settled on "Colonel" Lowe for his military title.

The next spring the Army of the Potomac embarked on its first cam-

paign against Richmond and Lowe went along, bringing wheeled contraptions he had invented for generating hydrogen in the field. He remained close to General Porter, but one morning Porter was in the basket of the balloon alone, making a low-level observation, when the tether rope broke. The balloon soared a couple of thousand feet high and drifted over Confederate lines, still gaining altitude. The only way Porter could descend was to climb the ropes on the outside of the balloon and cling there, gradually releasing hydrogen. The wind shifted as he did, and after a couple of harrowing hours he landed rather roughly within Union lines.

Up in his balloon on June 27, 1862, Lowe watched the battle of Gaines's Mill, where Porter, in command of only a portion of the army and heavily outnumbered, fended off repeated assaults by most of the Confederate army. Lowe per-



Professor Thaddeus Sobieski Constantine Lowe

formed aerial reconnaissance into early 1863, but his friend Porter was railroaded in a rigged court-martial that amounted to a political hit, and Lowe's army contract turned sour. A disgruntled employee reported that Lowe kept his father on the payroll at \$3.75 a day, even while the old man was sick in Philadelphia, and one day Lowe was summarily fired.

After the war Lowe described himself variously as a mechanic and as a "professor and inventor." He moved to California late in life, where he invested heavily in a steep mountain railway that may have been inspired by the Cog Railway so near his birthplace, but financial success eluded him. While he lived to the age of 80, he died relatively poor. The work he would be most remembered for was finished by the time he was 30.

from page five

couthness. Not to mention his thoughts—"if Ivanka were not my daughter I'd be dating her". Enough said!

His recent comments regarding "caravans of immigrants" highlight that he simply doesn't understand the conditions and details of the DACA law. His statements regarding the trade deficit with China is off by a factor of ten because he



doesn't understand those details either. He can't even accept the fact that the Post Office makes money on Amazon deliveries because he simply wants it to be not true.

He constantly lies about his infidelity, the size of his inaugural crowd, national crime statistics, his

original support of the Iraq war and who benefits the most from his tax bill. No fact is too small to distort or too big to honor. Recently he joked about lying to Prime Minister Trudeau because he didn't know the facts of our trade levels with Canada.

And then there is who will pay for "the wall". Oh!, don't forget the trade war he is starting with China which is really not a trade war because he says it isn't so!!

The man is unstable in his thinking and reasoning. He is constantly changing his position and, as fre-

quently reported, deciding an issue based on who he spoke to last, regardless of their level of expertise. His normal modus operandi is to rant, rage, strike out to disparage and insult and to call everything he doesn't like fake news. A well thought out and reasoned response!!

Finally, the guy is just pure and plainly unprofessional. He cares not that he is embarrassing the office of president, his family and the country.

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Guess who's serving the student loan industry?

by Jim Hightower

Question: What do you get when you combine ignorance, imperiousness, and incompetence?

Answer: Betsy DeVos.

She's Donald Trump's multi-billionaire Education Secretary who hates public education and loves the plutocratic idea of corporate rule over democracy. DeVos is so bad that she's winning the contest for

worst member of Donald Trump's cabinet (a little like winning the title of ugliest toad in the swamp). She has been a shameless shill for one of the ugliest parts of the financial services industry—the Wall Street-backed network of for-profit colleges, rip-off lenders, and ruthless collection agencies.

Some 5 million students—largely single moms, veterans, and other low-income people—have been

forced to default on their student loan debt and have had their credit ratings and job improvement prospects destroyed by this profiteering private education system that DeVos carelessly promotes. Her latest favor for the industry was to assert unilaterally that her agency can pre-empt any state laws designed to stop the blatant lies and abuses of this predatory network of corporate education. Her bureaucratic claim is

that state efforts to protect student borrowers undermines “uniform administration” of student loans. In her shriveled world of laissez-fairlyland values, you see, the uniform gouging of students trumps such basic human values as economic fairness and social justice.

Heavens to Betsy, what's wrong with this lady? Our nation's student loan debt has ballooned to \$1.4 trillion, threatening to blow another big

hole in our economy, yet she's stupidly conspiring in her department's back rooms with Wall Street's fast-buck educational exploiters to enrich them at the expense of students, taxpayers, and the public interest. DeVos is the one who needs an education—both in economics and ethics.

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He cares only about his own self-aggrandizement. He praises despots and dictators while insulting allies, war vets and gold star families. He disrespects our time-tested institutions, constitutional processes and the basic principles of governance. He is totally unimpressive and uninspiring. Sad!

Hopefully, by voting out, in the next two elections, this Putin puppet and the GOP peanut gallery, we can make American government effective and believable again.

Dave Potter
North Hampton, N.H.

Actually Thinking About Guns

To the Editor:

We should catalog some things before they're lost, like ways to address mass shootings in U.S. schools.

- Provide teachers with buckets of paving stones to throw at shooters.
- Arm teachers.
- Sue school districts that refuse to arm teachers.
- Require students to carry transparent backpacks.
- Encourage students to learn CPR.

These all being bona fide suggestions, one wonders what alternative universe this country presently occupies.

What distinguishes the United States from a country that imposed exceedingly restrictive controls on gun ownership in the wake of a succession of mass shootings, namely,



Australia, which is arguably inhabited by honest-to-goodness rugged individualists as opposed to couch potatoes who fancy themselves good guys with guns who would no doubt respond in a crisis situation like members of the A-Team? Maybe government officials with spines? Whose campaigns aren't financed in part by massive contributions from weapons manufacturer lobbyists? Who respond to the will of the people who elected them?

Perhaps collectors, hunters, and competition shooters should withdraw from the NRA and form a grassroots organization, called, for instance, Responsible Gun Owners of America to distinguish it from what has become an arm of the gun manufacturing industry that exploits a vocal minority of racists, white supremacists, and zealots who put the right of gun ownership above the safety of children to lobby for elimination of all barriers to sales and absolution from any degree of responsibility for the death and destruction occasioned by their “products.”

Are the citizens of countries like Germany, in which prospective gun owners must submit to a psychological evaluation, Italy and France, in which criminal and mental health records are considered together with

the reason for procuring a firearm, and the United Kingdom and Japan, which prohibit ownership of handguns by private citizens, in any way inferior to U.S. citizens, less at risk of being “subdued” by “repressive” governments?

Can you imagine a bunch of armed militiamen (like, maybe, the guy who flew to Florida a year or so ago to “shoot” the approaching hurricane?) going up against the most well funded (ironically, perhaps, at the insistence of the “gun rights” party itself) military in the world? Remember the pistol-packing protestor of the removal of (from a park that didn't have any) Confederate civil war monuments shot in the leg by his own sidearm, which discharged when he rested the base of the Confederate flag he was holding on his holster, whose wound was tended by a federally-employed park ranger?

According to Michael Waldman in a March 30th article in the *L.A. Times*, “All through early U.S. history, gun rights and responsibilities went together. In Boston at the time of the 2nd Amendment, for example, it was illegal to keep a loaded weapon in the home (they tended to blow up and start fires). In 1825, the University of Virginia board of visitors

voted that no student ‘shall keep or use weapons or arms of any kind’ on campus. Who were these gun grabbers? Madison...and Thomas Jefferson, to name two.” (Mr. Waldman further points out that Madison's original proposal for the requirement to serve in a well-regulated militia incorporated “a conscientious objector clause for those who did not wish to fight for the state.”)

When one considers the foregoing, together with the now undeniable alternative fact, in light of having to consider a “flat” earth, that, Europe and Asia being separated from the American continents by oceans to east and west, overland travel between the two is not (and so could never have been) possible (save, perhaps, by crawling underneath; does gravity hold on the bottom of the earth?), it would appear that hypocrisy, inconsistency, and ignorance have lost all meaning.

John Simon
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:
Ah, the curse of logical thought....
The Editor

A Question Needing to be Asked

To the Editor:

James Comey is about to begin a publicity tour through many news and entertainment shows, to pro-

mote his book. I hope the interviewers ask him why he thought it inappropriate to reveal that Trump had been under FBI investigation since July 2016, while he revealed, 11 days before the election, that another investigation of Hillary was beginning. The asymmetry reeks of partisanship. Given the micro-targeted thin margins which handed Electoral victory to a morally depraved psychopath in thrall to a foreign power, there is no forgiving Comey. He helped elect the most dangerous, unfit president of our lifetimes.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

Curious, isn't it, that a person who so furthered Trump's cause is now a hero to so many who want the now-President gone so badly?

The Editor

To Read, or Not to Read ...

Sirs:

Yesterday I picked up a copy of your newspaper because it looked interesting. I was mistaken. I found it to be a sad waste of perfectly good newsprint.

Mary Weston
Dover, N.H.

Mary:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter. We are pleased that our newsprint met, however briefly, with your approval.

The Editor

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ADMIRAL FOWLE’S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua’s ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of

Badger’s Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15	MONDAY, APRIL 16	TUESDAY, APRIL 17	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18	THURSDAY, APRIL 19	FRIDAY, APRIL 20	SATURDAY, APRIL 21
2015—In Zimbabwe, big-game hunter and Texan Ian Gibson is crushed to death by an elephant. 2013—Two bombs explode near the finish line of the Boston Marathon. 2003—George W.[MD] Bush installs Gen. Jay Garner to administer Iraq “until an Iraqi government can be formed.” He lasts less than a month. 1994—Dick “Dick” Cheney explains to C-SPAN viewers that G.H.[H.] W. Bush didn’t topple Saddam Hussein because it would have created a “quagmire” in Iraq. 1992—Leona Helmsley, America’s anti-sweetheart, takes up residence at a federally-owned Crowbar Hilton in Lexington, Ky. 1987—The <i>Washington Post</i> reveals that though Nancy has had the number on the sign in front of the Reagans’ Bel Air mansion changed to 668, the true, official number remains 666. 1974—William Randolph Hearst’s gun-totin’ granddaughter Patty helps the Symbionese Liberation Army rob a San Francisco bank. 1970—Rep. Gerald Ford calls for the impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. 1967—In New York and San Francisco, hundreds of thousands march against the war in Vietnam—including veterans of that war. 1961—The CIA’s ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion begins as three flights of falsely-marked American B-26s bomb and strafe Cuban airfields.	1992—The House Ethics Committee—no laughing, please—releases the names of 303 check-kiting Reps. 1992—Afghanistan’s President Najibullah, a Commie, resigns, making way for a more enlightened government. 1969—Billy Graham advises Richard Nixon to bomb North Vietnam’s dikes—estimated casualties: 1 million. 1963—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., writes “Letter From Birmingham Jail,” defending the civil rights movement. 1954—“There is no reason why French forces should not remain in Indo-China and win,” says Richard Nixon, three weeks before the Viet Minh overrun Dien Bien Phu. 1953—Ike says militarism hangs humanity “from a cross of iron.” 1951—The Boston Marathon is won by Shigeki Tanaka, who had been 20 miles from Hiroshima when The Bomb dropped. 1947—In Texas City, Texas, a load of fertilizer aboard the French vessel <i>SS Grandcamp</i> explodes, killing 581 in a 3-kiloton explosion. 1848—In Washington, D.C., 77 enslaved blacks board a ship, the <i>Pearl</i>, to flee north to freedom. Ill winds and a betrayal unfound the largest escape attempt in U.S. history. Opponents of abolition celebrate by rioting. 1788—A medical student imprudently waves a detached human arm out the window of a medical school, sparking a riot in New York City; at least six people end up dead.	2013—A fertilizer plant located next to a middle school in West, Texas, uninspected since 1985, blows up. Fifteen are killed, mostly volunteer firemen, 250 others are injured. 2002—G.W.[MD] Bush flip-flops again, vowing to rebuild Afghanistan. 1986—Peace is declared between the Netherlands and the Isles of Scilly, ending a bloodless 335-year war. 1981—The Supreme Court decides banning the use of peyote as a religious sacrament doesn’t violate the First Amendment. 1975—Cambodia slips into the abyss. 1970—<i>Apollo 13</i> makes it home. 1967—“[T]he defeat of the Communists forces in South Vietnam is inevitable,” says ex-Veep Richard Nixon. “The only question is, how soon?” 1966—Timothy Leary is busted for pot possession by G. Gordon Liddy. 1965—In New York City, 25,000 march against the Vietnam War. 1961—Transports chartered by the CIA deliver 1,511 Cuban exiles to the Bay of Pigs. 1959—In Times Square, 22 weirdos are arrested for declining to participate in an air-raid drill. 1954—Affable old Ike threatens to attempt in Red China. 1935—Sun Myung Moon has a revelation: Jesus Christ asks him to complete His mission. 1850—In the U.S. Senate, Henry S. Foote (D-Miss.) pulls a pistol on Thomas Hart Benton (D-Mo.).	2002—Four Canadian soldiers are KIA and eight are WIA after a U.S. F-16 pilot on “go pills” drops a 500-pounder on Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry regiment. 1986—“[W]hen you meet the President,” says Henry Kissinger, “you ask yourself, ‘How did it ever occur to anybody that he should be Governor, much less President?’” 1977—The federal frame-up of Leonard Peltier succeeds. 1974—As Professor Irwin Corey accepts Thomas Pynchon’s National Book Award for <i>Gravity’s Rainbow</i>, a streaker runs across the stage. 1968—The Army admits nerve gas from Dugway Proving Grounds killed 6,400 Idaho sheep. 1942—Eighty men in 16 B-25s, led by Jimmy Doolittle, take off from the <i>U.S.S. Hornet</i>, bomb Tokyo, and ditch their planes in China; 90 percent survive. 1930—The BBC’s newscast reports “there is no news,” then plays music. 1906—An earthquake and fire destroy much of San Francisco, killing 500 to 700 people. 1891—A fast mail train and the Toledo Express collide in Kipton, Ohio. Eight people die because of a four-minute watch error. 1844—Believers in William Miller’s Doomsday prediction are disappointed—for the second time. 1689—A mob of Bostonians overthrow Sir Edmund Andros, Governor of the Dominion of New England.	2004—A government spokesman reveals that NORAD had run a training exercise based on a hijacked airliner crashing into a building. 1995—A Right Wing “militiaman” murders 168 souls in Oklahoma City. 1993—For the good of the children, who end up among the 80 dead, the FBI attacks David Koresh’s compound at Waco, Texas. 1989—The <i>U.S.S. Iowa’s</i> Gun Turret Two explodes, killing 47. After trying to blame an innocent sailor, rather than ancient powder, malfunctioning equipment, or unauthorized experiments, the Navy says it can’t say why. 1971—Officials at Arlington National Cemetery turn away Gold Star Mothers and Vietnam veterans. 1951—General Douglas “Dugout Doug” MacArthur tells Congress, “Old soldiers never die.” Left unspoken is the obvious corollary, “that’s what the young ones are for.” 1948—Costa Rica disbands its army. 1939—After some study, Connecticut OKs the Bill of Rights. 1861—The Union Army loses its first soldiers to hostile action; four are stoned to death by a Baltimore mob. 1775—Minutemen and British soldiers battle in Lexington and Concord. The first published report comes two days later in the <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i>. Its probable author is eyewitness Isaiah Thomas, a former apprentice of Zachariah Fowle, Daniel Fowle’s peculiar brother.	2010—<i>Deepwater Horizon</i> explodes and burns; 11 die, the world’s largest oil spill ensues, and wrists are slapped. 2008—The <i>New York Times</i> reveals that many “independent military analysts” appearing on TV are really Pentagon puppets. 2001—The Peruvian Air Force, with some help from CIA “contract workers,” fires on a plane they think is full of dope. Nope. It’s full of proseletyzing American Baptists. Two die. 1989—A Robinson R22 crashes into a Stockton, Calif., building at 5:00 a.m. The pilot (blood alcohol 0.17 pct., enhanced with a little cocaine) and his passenger die in the flames. 1979—While canoeing near Plains, Ga., Pres. Jimmy Carter successfully defends himself from a deranged swamp rabbit. 1973—The U.S. Supreme Court says New Hampshireites can cover up “Live Free or Die” on their license plates. 1971—Mistaking the National Mall for their lawn, Supreme Court Justices tell Vietnam Veterans Against the War to get off it. 1971—Maryland building contractor Lester Matz pays a \$2,500 bribe to Vice President and freelance media critic Spiro “Ted” Agnew. 1914—Miners striking in Ludlow, Colo. are machine gunned by National Guardsmen employed by John D. Rockefeller; later their tent camp is burned. At least 19 die, including 11 children burned to death.	1999—To honor those killed at Colombine the day before, NRA president Charlton Heston says the gun lobby will cut short its Denver convention by one day. 1992—At about 3:00 a.m., Robert Alton Harris is strapped into San Quentin’s gas chamber. Twelve minutes later amid legal wrangling, he’s taken back out. At 6:00 a.m., he’s put back in and successfully gassed. 1989—Chinese students demonstrate in Tiananmen Square. 1986—On live TV, Geraldo Rivera opens Al Capone’s vault, discovering naught but his own credentials. 1980—<i>Newsweek</i> quotes R. Reagan inaccurately saying that Vietnam vets aren’t eligible for the GI Bill because their war wasn’t declared. 1975—After ten years of misrule Nguyen Van Thieu, last president of South Vietnam, throws in the towel and bugs out of Saigon. 1972—In El Paso, Texas, former commander of U.S. troops in Vietnam General William Westmoreland is pelted with tomatoes. 1971—In Washington, D.C., Vietnam Veterans Against the War defy the Supreme Court by staying on the National Mall. Park police decline to arrest. Tomorrow’s headline: “Vets Overrule Supreme Court.” 1918—After shooting down 80 Allied planes, Manfred von Richthofen, aka The Red Baron, is shot down—by an Australian on the ground.
11:40 11:57 5:25 5:42	12:20 6:06 6:21	12:35 1:02 6:48 7:03	1:16 1:47 7:33 7:46	2:00 2:35 8:20 8:33	2:48 3:27 9:10 9:25	3:41 4:24 10:05 10:22
SUNDAY, APRIL 22	MONDAY, APRIL 23	TUESDAY, APRIL 24	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25	THURSDAY, APRIL 26	FRIDAY, APRIL 27	SATURDAY, APRIL 28

2004—In Afghanistan, U.S. soldiers shoot Specialist Pat Tillman, former NFL football player.

2002—Dick “Dick” Cheney, fundraising in Florida, says “The Taliban is out of business permanently.”

2000—Federal agents snatch political pawn Elian Gonzalez from his colorful Miami relatives.

1992—A Robinson R22 helicopter falls 400 feet and lands on a multi-family home in Atlanta. The pilot says he lost control due to a gust of wind. His passenger dies.

1992—Four days after Guadalajara residents began smelling gas, 11 explosions rock the sewer system. At least 250 die, perhaps 1,000.

1990—Guilford Co., N.C. postpones Earth Day to April 28th so as not to interfere with the K-Mart Greater Greensboro Open Golf Tournament.

1983—After two jolts in Alabama’s electric chair John Louis Evans caught fire, but his heart was still beating. Third time was the charm.

1971—Capitol police arrest 110 Vietnam veterans for serenading the Supreme Court with *God Bless America*.

1971—John Kerry asks Congress, “How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?”

1970—Cops shoot and kill Black Panther Huey Newton.

1963—South Vietnam is “steadily moving toward a constitutional system resting upon popular consent,” says Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

1993—RIP Cesar Chavez.

1971—National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, on the phone with Allen Ginsberg, agrees to a personal meeting, but draws the line at doing so naked on television.

1971—In D.C., Vietnam Veterans Against the War return their medals to Congress by heaving them over a fence in front of the Capitol, as Operation Dewey Canyon III concludes.

1968—Anti-war students, including ‘Nam vets, occupy Columbia.

1956—The USSR announces it’s got an H-bomb.

1904—Congress flimflams Flatheads out of half their Montana reservation.

1880—Charles De Young, Editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, is shot dead by the son of the city’s mayor.

1868—“I don’t have to forgive my enemies,” says the dying Duke of Valencia Ramon Maria Narvaez y Campos, “I had them all shot.”

1860—Birth of Charles H. Kerr, founder of a radical publishing cooperative that’s still in business.

1734—The King’s Surveyor General visits Exeter with a team of men, looking for misappropriated timber. Locals beat them mercilessly.

1693—Birth of William Caslon, English typefounder [This is Caslon].

1014—Vikings are defeated at the Battle of Clontarf. High King Brian Boru is slain by Brodir, but Brodir is soon disembowelled by Brian’s brother Wolf the Quarrelsome.

1980—In Operation Eagle Claw, eight Americans die and five are wounded trying to get American hostages out of Teheran.

1967—“The military situation [in South Vietnam] is favorable,” says Gen. Wm. C. Westmoreland, but protests at home might lose the war.

1967—Completing a troubled orbital mission, *Soyuz 1* lands at 200 mph, killing Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov.

1959—Michigan native Capt. John S. Lappo, piloting a six-engine RB-47, flies under the Mackinac Bridge at 425 mph; clearance: 155 feet.

1943—The *El Estero*, loaded with high explosives, catches fire in New York Harbor. To put out the fire, Coast Guardsmen board the ship.

1916—The Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood proclaim the Irish Republic, and the Easter Rising begins.

1915—The Ottoman Empire begins the Armenian Genocide by arresting 250 intellectuals in Constantinople.

1877—Federal troops leave Louisiana; Reconstruction’s over. Good luck, black folks.

1778—*Ranger*, under John Paul Jones, captures *HMS Drake*—the first U.S. naval victory over a British ship in British waters.

1704—The *Boston News-Letter*, first successful newspaper in North America, begins. Editor John Campbell’s “print everything” policy means that by 1718 its “news” is a year old.

2005—Charles Duelfer, the CIA’s man in charge of finding WMDs in Iraq, says there are none.

2003—Secretary of the Army Thomas White gets fired for saying we need more troops in Iraq.

2002—At his Texas “ranch,” George W.[MD] Bush plays kissy-face with Saudi Prince Abdullah.

1984—Asked if he’s ever been to a communist country, James A. Baker III replies, “Well, I’ve been to Massachusetts.”

1964—The “Little Mermaid” in Copenhagen harbor is decapitated.

1962—Test-ban negotiations having failed, the U.S. says it will resume atmospheric nuke tests.

1959—A mob, assisted by a deputy sheriff, drags Mack Charles Parker, accused of raping a white woman, out of the Pearl River County Courthouse in Mississippi and lynches him.

1944—RIP George Herriman.

1915—Australian and New Zealand troops under British command attack Turks at Gallipoli and die in droves.

1898—The U.S. obliges W.R. Hearst by declaring war on Spain.

1847—The remnants of the Donner Party make it out of the wilderness.

1846—Obliging Mexican troops attack a U.S. “scouting party;” Congress has an excuse to declare war.

1523—Henry VIII of England forbids private ownership of guns by anyone with an income of less than 100 pounds a year.

2000—As an instructor and a student discuss who’s in control, a Robinson R22 rolls over and crashes. Only the student survives the ensuing inferno.

1986—A meltdown at Chernobyl lowers Ukrainian real estate values, contaminates much of the northern hemisphere to some degree, and condemns thousands to death.

1953—Radioactive rain falls on Troy and Albany, N.Y.

1952—The captain of the *U.S.S. Hobson*, disregarding an underling’s advice, takes his destroyer across the bow of the *U.S.S. Wasp*. Cut in half, the *Hobson* sinks with more than half its crew, captain included.

1946—Edna Rose Ritchings, 21, a Caucasian-Canadian, marries Father Divine, 65, an African-American religious figure.

1944—The U.S. takes over Montgomery-Ward after it defies the National Labor Relations Board.

1937—German and Italian planes destroy Guernica, Spain.

1931—Lou Gehrig hits a home run but is called out for passing another runner on the basepath.

1901—“I’ll be in Hell before you start breakfast!” says train-robber Tom “Black Jack” Ketchum, whose head flies off after the hangman drops him.

1865—Boston Corbett, a hatter-turned-cavalryman who had earlier castrated himself with scissors to better resist prostitutes, shoots and kills John Wilkes Booth.

2017—“This is more work than my previous life,” says President Donald Trump. “I thought it would be easier.”

2011—On the worst day of the largest tornado outbreak in history, 324 people are killed from Texas to Ontario.

1994—In South Africa, ex-prisoner Nelson Mandela is elected President.

1986—An HBO transmission is interrupted by a TV pirate calling himself “Captain Midnight.”

1978—A scaffold fails inside a nuke plant under construction in West Virginia; 51 workers die.

1974—Ten thousand people march in Washington, D.C. for the impeachment of Richard Nixon.

1956—Heavyweight boxing champ Rocky Marciano retires undefeated.

1937—The first Social Security check is mailed to Ida May Fuller: \$22.54.

1932—Saying “Goodbye, everybody,” Hart Crane leaps from the *Orizaba* into the Gulf of Mexico. His body is never found.

1930—A boy and girl burn to death within sight of their mothers after a sightseeing plane crashes in Greenland, N.H. Burned in futile attempts to save them was pilot Clyde Robinson.

1865—About 1,450 recently freed Union POW’s are among 1,800 who die in the explosion of the steamboat *Sultana* on the Mississippi River.

1773—The British Parliament passes the Tea Act. Oops.

1861—Abraham Lincoln suspends the writ of *habeas corpus*.

2016—Ex-Speaker John Boehner calls Sen. Ted Cruz “Lucifer in the flesh,” and says he “never worked with a more miserable son of a bitch in my life.”

2011—During a speech in Las Vegas, Donald Trump drops about seven f-bombs, promising to tell the Chinese, “listen you mother_____, we’re going to tax you 25 percent.”

2008—A Robinson R44 helicopter, just two feet off the ground in Bartlett, Texas, catches fire. The pilot escapes, his passenger perishes in the inferno.

2006—Rush Limbaugh’s lawyers announce that their fine work will keep their dope-addled client out of prison.

2004—The SEC votes to let banks risk more money and keep less on hand.

2004—Frank Lautenberg [D-N.J.] says on the floor of the Senate, “We know who the chickenhawks are. They talk tough on national defense and military issues ... but when it was their turn to serve, they were AWOL.”

1988—Aloha Airlines 737 develops a 20 foot hole in its fuselage; stewardess Clarabelle Lansing falls to her death.

1987—Contras in Nicaragua, “moral equivalent of our Founding fathers” according to President Reagan, murder American volunteer Ben Lindner.

1973—Hot brakes start a fire in the Roseville, Calif. railyard, and a trainload of bombs explodes; 5,500 buildings are damaged, the town of Antelope disappears, but no one dies.

1970—Richard Nixon authorizes U.S. troops to fight in Cambodia.



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