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The Fortnightly Rant

Bordering on Fascism

It's almost enough to make one think that actions really do have consequences.

For several decades, Republicans have used increasingly emphatic language to express their conviction that people who enter this country without following legal procedures are an existential threat to our republic.

During that same period, most of the GOP's rank and file have seen their wages remain essentially stagnant. Meanwhile, the cost of housing, health care, and higher education has increased quite substantially.

Political control of the White House and Congress went back and forth as those trends continued, but a single ideology dominated throughout. According to the *American Heritage Dictionary*, the "political theory of the late 1900s holding that personal liberty is maximized by limiting government interference in the operation of free markets" is called neoliberalism.

Judging from the reluctance of either party to explicitly acknowledge it, it could be called the policy that dare not speak its name. As the Book of Matthew tells us, though, by their works ye shall know them.

Republicans have long embraced neoliberal principles. They were most succinctly articulated by their hero Ronald Reagan in his 1981 inaugural address: "Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem." His acolyte Grover Norquist put it a little more colorfully: "I'm not in favor of abolishing the government. I just want to shrink it down to the size where we can drown it in the bathtub."

Democrats may have been late-comers, and perhaps a bit apologetic, but since the Democratic

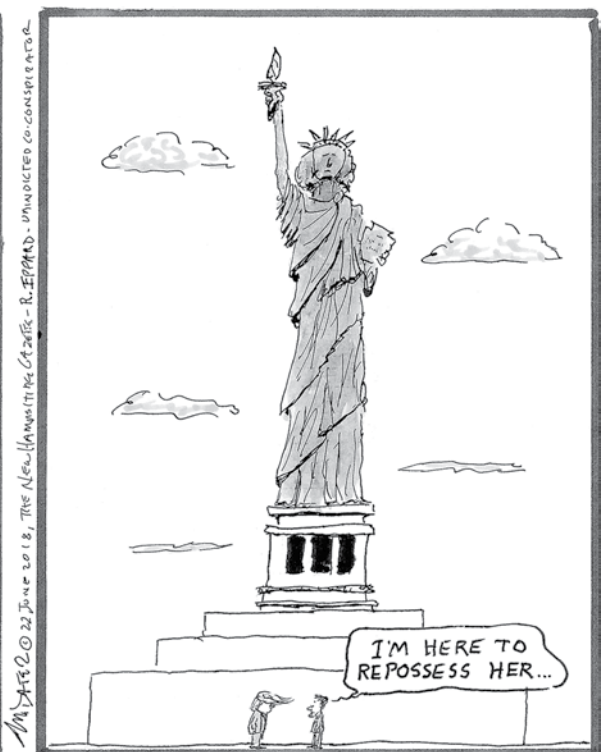
Leadership Council took over in the mid-1980s the party has put a host of neoliberal policies into action, *i.e.* welfare reform, more incarceration, tougher sentencing, NAFTA, and financial deregulation.

Here's another curious thing about the term neoliberal: it's completely duplicative. There's already a term for "an economic doctrine that opposes governmental regulation of or interference in commerce beyond the minimum necessary for a free-enterprise system to operate according to its own economic laws" [*American Heritage*.]

Dating, as it does, all the way back to 1751, one would think the term *laissez faire* would get a little more respect. In fact, for the better part of a century, from the end of the Civil War until the 1930s, the term was used to define the U.S. Government's approach to business.

Talk about the good old days: everyone was free to work for whatever wages the bosses offered; children were free to work in factories from dawn 'til dusk; workers too badly injured to be of any use were free to fend for themselves—we've never been so free! Unfortunately, the Panics of 1873, 1884, 1896, 1907, and 1910, and the Crash of 1929, took some of the shine off that terminology, perhaps leading to this recent rebranding.

To a layman, this history might seem a cause for concern. According to experts, though, "This time it's different." We all know what the experts know because those experts are brought to us regularly—incessantly, really—by our good friends in the news media. Dissenting perspectives on the issue are available, of course. Anyone with time to spare has the opportunity to search them out. It's still a free country.



This country is so free that, according to a new report,* "Many of the largest companies operating in the United States have [felt free to fatten] their profits by forcing employees to work off the clock or [by depriving] them of required overtime pay." Reviewing cases going back to 2000, the report's authors found that more than 450 large corporations have been forced to pay out \$1 million or more to resolve their cases, for a total of \$8.8 billion.

This report brings to light a curious situation. Thanks to Ronald Reagan, and the news media who found him so irresistibly telegenic, we're all familiar with the pejorative term, "welfare queens"—though, as with voter fraud, actual evidence of their existence is hard to come by. This report provides undeniable evidence that "wage theft" is endemic,

* "Grand Theft Paycheck: The Large Corporations Shortchanging Their Workers' Wages," by Philip Mattera, from the Corporate Research Project of Good Jobs First [GoodJobsFirst.org] and the Jobs With Justice Education Fund [jjwj.org].

yet we never hear that term on the TV news.

Wage theft, of course, is just one minor hazard in the land of the free. Every moment in the life of one of God's children is another opportunity for someone else to profit. The neoliberal toolbox is fully equipped to make sure none of those opportunities goes to waste.

Neoliberalism is working so well that last December the U.N.'s Human Rights Council set a Special Rapporteur here to see how we do it. Philip Alston found that about 40 million Americans live in poverty, 18.5 million in extreme poverty, and 5.3 million live in Third World conditions of absolute poverty. We live shorter and sicker lives than those living in all other rich democracies. Eradicable tropical diseases are increasingly prevalent. We have the world's highest incarceration rate, one of the lowest levels of voter registrations, and the highest obesity levels in the developed world. As for the so-called middle class, half don't

have the savings to cover an unexpected expense of \$400.

That's nothing—wait 'til he sees what happens after Congress guts Social Security! Seriously, Nikki Haley just yanked the U.S. out of the Human Rights Council, calling it a "cesspool of bias." That got plenty of media attention, but Alston's scathing—and accurate—report? Crickets.

Republicans have long found it convenient to blame undocumented immigrants for the many economic troubles besetting their voters. That diversion provided cover for the rapacious policies that made their campaign donors wealthy beyond measure while beggaring their voters. It may never have occurred to them that they might some day have to put up or shut up.

Then came Trump—a man so morally bankrupt that he's actually converting campaign slogans into policy. The consequences are so ugly that even some Republicans are revolted—and revolting.

The Alleged News®

"Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose"

Nearly 170 years ago, when this paper was a mere stripling of 93, the French editor and writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr achieved a rather obscure form of immortality by writing, "the more it changes, the more it's the same thing." So far as we know Karr's epigram has yet to be disproven. Its most recent validation comes courtesy of the VA Mission Act.

Having long ago surrendered unconditionally to the trivializing influence of Madison Avenue, Congress reverse-engineered a cutesy-pie name—the VA Maintaining Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act—slapped it on this bit of uncooked legislative tripe, and put it in front of Commander Bone Spur, who, ever grandstanding, signed it into law on the 74th Anniversary of D-Day. In certain circles, this was a great thing.

Joshua Flippo [@JFlippo1327],

for example, a self-professed "Christian, Co-Host of In the Zone Show, part of the #AmericaFirstMedia Team, Army Veteran. Infantry Squad leader. Republican, #MAGA #2A NRA MEMBER #MAGA-veteran," tweeted, "President Trump signs the VA Mission Act, allowing veterans to see regular doctors if they can't get into the VA. I can't even begin to explain how big this is. Thank you Mr. President!!"

An Unasked Question

One could hardly ask for a finer example of the lasting value of thorough indoctrination. As a former enlisted person himself, the alleged editor feels fairly confident that Flippo could well be a genuine veteran of the U.S. Army Infantry. We recognize the signs. The upper echelons of his chain of command never lay awake wondering if he was plotting insurrection. He is With. The. Program. It will never occur to him

to ask, "Wait—WTF? Why should any veteran have a problem getting into the VA to see a doctor?"

If he ever did ask, and got an honest answer, it would be approximately this: "Did you just fall off a turnip truck? The VA has been underfunded since the Korean War. Suck it up, buttercup."

Tough Love

There is actually something perversely therapeutic about the way the VA screws over veterans. It's as if it's trying to bridge the chasm between veterans and civilians by saying, "Welcome back to the real world. Don't let all that jabber about what a big fat hero you are leave you feeling isolated and alone. Now that you're back here in the real world, we're going to put the screws to you just like everyone else."

Amazon provides a Prime™ example. It crushes unions so it can continue paying its employees pea-

nuts. Some of those employees, to the extent that they are able, inevitably fall back on an ever-shrinking public safety net maintained by taxpayers' dollars. If that erodes their sense of self-worth, potentially contributing to the opioid-and-suicide epidemic, well, that's just the cost of doing business.

Meanwhile, way out there on the opposite end of the power dynamic, Amazon's owner Jeff Bezos has cleverly externalized a significant part of his costs. The results are nothing short of spectacular. On Monday, CNBC reported that since June 1st, his net worth had risen by over \$5 buh-buh-buh-billion.

The Military-Academic-Industrial-Media Complex [MAIM] uses the same technique as it maintains the American Empire. Faced with the most expensive single project in the history of man, it's forced to cut costs wherever it can. Trying to keep

those unruly foreign hordes in line is a job that often wreaks havoc on the bodies, minds, and souls of those who wear our teams' uniforms and carry guns in our names.

The U.S. Congress is in the difficult position of having to appropriate funds for that Brobdingnagian project and answer to the taxpayer for those expenses. It has no choice but to ask the tough questions. For example, "Do these people really deserve all that healthcare? Because it's really, really, expensive. Besides, our job creators haven't had a tax break in months."

Stealth Privatization

According to Suzanne Gordon and Jasper Craven in the *Washington Monthly*, the Mission Act included a grab bag of worthy but relatively minor details, like expanding a VA

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from page one

caregiver program for post 9/11 veterans and raising limits on a debt reduction program intended to attract doctors to the agency. The part of the bill that troubles some lawmakers is its codification of the privatizing principles which were “set forth in the 2014 VA Choice Act, an emergency measure passed to ensure timely care for veterans following a wait time scandal at a hospital in Phoenix.

“The Choice Act has caused even longer wait times for veterans and has diverted funds from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) budget that could have been used to remediate the agency’s long-standing capacity problems—the agency is currently operating with over 36,000 vacancies.”

Sen. Bernie Sanders [I-Vt.], who voted against the bill, said in a statement, “[D]espite some very good provisions in this bill, it continues a trend toward the slow, steady privatization of the VA. No one disagrees that veterans should be able to seek private care in cases where the VA cannot provide the specialized care they require, or when wait times for appointments are too long or when veterans might have to travel long distances for that care. The way to reduce wait times is to make sure

that the VA is able to fill the more than 30,000 vacancies it currently has. This bill provides \$5 billion for the Choice program. It provides nothing to fill the vacancies at the VA. That is wrong. My fear is that this bill will open the door to the draining, year after year, of much needed resources from the VA.”

Such was the status quo on Wednesday, June 6th, when Trump signed the Mission Act.

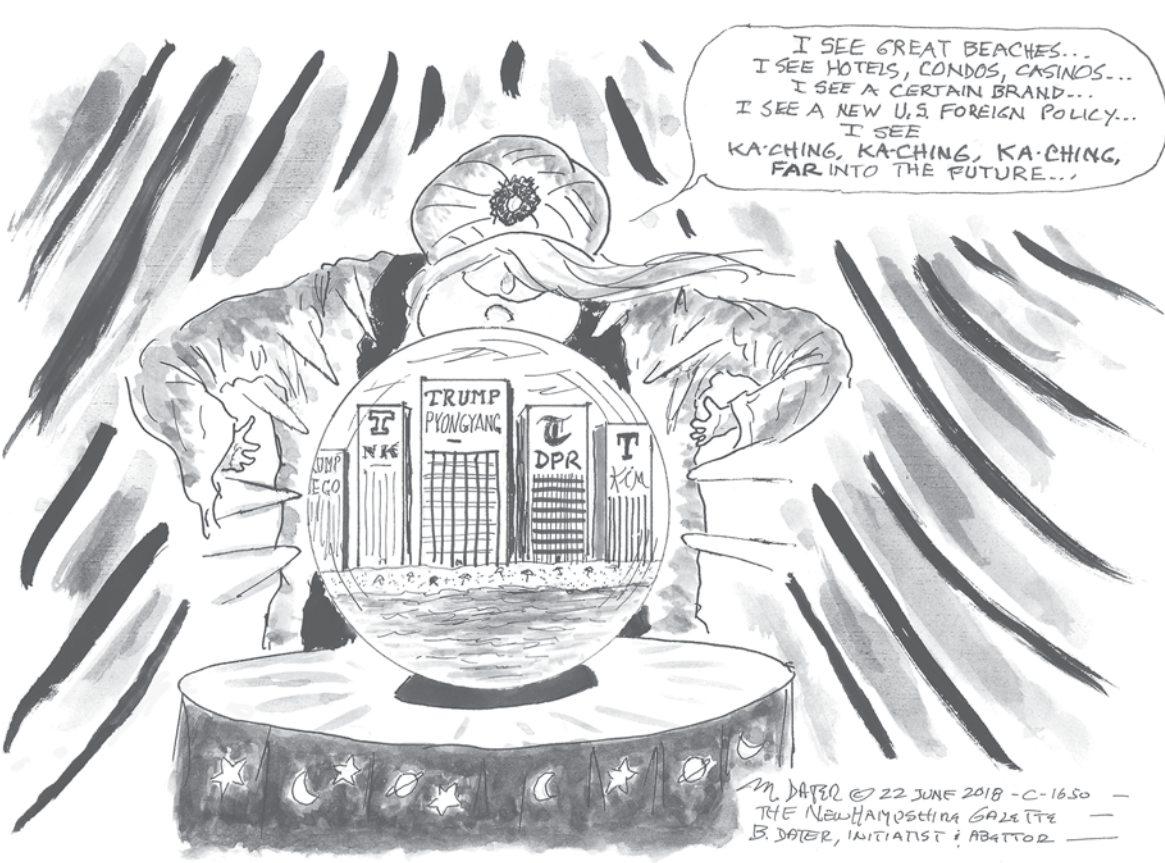
“In the campaign,” he said, in a barrage of his trademark word salad, “I also promised that we would fight for Veterans Choice. And before I knew that much about it, it just seemed to be common sense. I’ll be signing landmark legislation to provide health care choice—what a beautiful word that is, ‘choice,’—and freedom to our amazing veterans.”

He didn’t know much about it, but it sounded good. Now, there’s a sound basis for making a momentous decision to go along with a plan the Koch brothers have been pushing for at least half a decade.

Funding, Schmunding

Now that it’s been signed, how will the bill change things? Well, it immediately increased uncertainty about VA funding.

“Questions arose Wednesday about whether money for the Mission Act could be stripped from existing VA services or other parts of the federal budget,” wrote Nik-



ki Wentling for *Stars and Stripes*. “House Democrats predicted the funding issues. Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., the ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, helped draft the bill but voted against it because he worried that increased spending for the bill could trigger potential cuts to other VA programs.”

Then it got worse. That night Trump’s White House issued a very un-Trumpian sounding signing statement. Just picture the man verbally stumbling his way through 324 words of this: “Accordingly, I direct the Secretary to treat section 1703E(g)(2)(B)(iii) as advisory and non-binding while still heeding section 1703E(g)(2)(B)(ii), which requires the Secretary to notify the congressional committees before exceeding the spending cap.”

According to the *Washington Post*, Rep. Tim Walz (D-Minn.) told the *Federal Insider*, “I am deeply concerned by President Trump’s signing statement, however I do not find it surprising that before the ink was even dry on the VA Mission Act President Trump took steps to limit Congressional oversight of the bill’s implementation.”

Like a Wrecking Ball
The American Federation of Gov-

ernment Employees, which represents thousands of VA employees, is reporting something we have not seen elsewhere. It says the Act will also create “a corporate-style, private board that will make decisions about how and when they’d like to dismantle any VA facility in the country.” The union says “the use of a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process ... has been widely rejected due to its high costs, lack of savings, and extremely harmful outcomes for local communities,” and will “force veterans into non-VHA care—after the closure of their VA—which is fragmented, inferior, and lacks needed oversight.”

For the Record ...
Money is obviously tight at the VA—they can’t even afford to patch up the wounded. At the Pentagon, though, they must have money to burn—they just got orders to whip up a whole new sixth branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

“We are going to have the Air Force and we are going to have the Space Force, separate but equal,” said the Bloviator-in-Chief, adding the usual string of meaningless words: “It is going to be something so important.”

“In past pronouncements,” according to *GeekWire*, “Air Force and

Pentagon officials have said breaking off a separate Space Force would introduce more bureaucracy without significantly enhancing space security—but Trump signaled that he was instead siding with proponents of the idea.”

Speaking of meaningless things and wasted money, last month Congress passed a 1,000-page National Defense Authorization Act. It included two paragraphs authorizing another of Trump’s little fantasies: a national Veterans Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

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Is it Manslaughter? Or Homicide?
From an admittedly self-centered perspective, there is no more terrifying example of the Malice or Ineptitude Puzzle than the Trump administration’s dangerous and absurd 32 percent tariff on Canadian newsprint, which we first reported on January 5th.

Ostensibly imposed to protect 250 jobs at a Washington paper mill recently bought by a hedge fund, the tariff is an existential threat to the nation’s entire newspaper industry.

Newspapers were already on the ropes. This additional expense is going to cull any number of marginal papers—the vast majority of which will be in Trump Country.



Four weeks ago we favorably reviewed the new manhole cover which the City recently installed on Chestnut Street. From a certain perspective, that bit of attractive street furniture can be seen in spectacular frame. Trouble is, the only location offering this view looks to be the second floor of the Worth Plaza building. Well played, AlphaLoft! Say what you will about the Music Hall’s arch, they didn’t make it too small.

“Organized labor is the only way to have fair distribution of wealth.”

— Dolores Huerta

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Larger papers like the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and *LA Times*, flawed though they are, each add to the store of information citizens need—now more than ever—to try to keep this alleged experiment in self-governance anywhere near the rails on which it's supposed to be running. Television news, obnoxious enough in its own right, has always had a parasitic relationship with newspapers. Take away the papers and TV news gets even worse.

The Buffoon-in-Chief has damaged this republic in more ways than we can count, but if this tariff is sustained, it will be one of his worst acts of vandalism. We find it more than a little curious that the damage it will cause spares exactly one corporation masquerading as a news medium. Most news networks rely heavily on facts provided by newspapers. Rupert Murdoch's toxic lie dispenser, on the other hand, ignores—indeed, repudiates—all facts, taking its cues instead from a broad array of political stooges, corporate shills, oligarchs' flunkies, religious fanatics, deranged former military officers, random self-employed con men, and, for all we know, Beelzebub himself.

Dan McClory, publisher of *The Valley News*, announced on June 13th that the Upper Valley paper will be making some "painful" changes, in part because of the tariff. It will be outsourcing its advertising

design process, cutting three positions, and moving its printing operation to Concord. When that change is made, the paper will be narrower.

Our own printer, understandably, raised his rates. As a result, we were forced to raise our advertising rate, for the first time in nearly a decade. So far, our advertisers have stuck with us. We could not be more grateful.

Is there any hope? Some.

On May 14th, Sen. Susan Collins [R-Maine] introduced Senate Bill 2835, aka the "Protecting Rational Incentives in Newsprint Trade Act of 2018" or the "PRINT Act." According to the original legislature, it would "require a study of the well-being of the newsprint and publishing industry in the United States, and for other purposes." In English, it would block the tariff. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen [D-N.H.] is a co-sponsor. Sen. Maggie Hassan [D-N.H.] is not, as yet. We hope that will change. Meanwhile, in the House, Rep. Kristi Noem [R-S.D.] has filed a bill with a similar purpose.

Unfortunately there is some opposition. Democratic Senator Bob Casey, of Pennsylvania, citing concerns of steelworkers, among others, said passage of the Senate bill would "set a dangerous precedent."

The tariffs are already being collected now, but the Commerce Department won't make a final decision until August.



Whuppa-Whuppa-Whuppa

Our newsprint copy of the Award-Winning Local Daily said Seacoast Helicopters is expanding its operations. We just went online to refresh our memory, but to no avail. Though we're faithful subscribers—of course—and have registered our account, the AWLD's furshlugginer website treats us like a freeloading stranger.

William Marvel on Edwin Stanton While the world has been breathlessly awaiting the third season of "Preacher"—*Sunday! Sunday! Sunday!*—the best thing on (streaming) television has been *YouTube*, which carries no end of obscure entertainment. A few days ago we came across a video of William Marvel, our Northcountry Chronicler, delivering a talk on April 22, 2015 at the National Archives. The topic was "Edwin Stanton and the Repressive Tradition." Stanton features in this fortnight's "Northcountry Chronicle." While a full appreciation of Marvel's entire talk may require an interest in the fine-grained details of history, considerable entertainment value is on offer for aficionados of dry wit. The whole address may be seen at tinyurl.com/y7mqchcj, and

runs just under one hour. We offer these opening remarks as a sample:

"Thank you for a generous introduction. It's always a great boost to my self esteem to get out of the town where I grew up and hear myself talked about by people who haven't known me all my life. It's also been good for the spirit to come down and see some green grass. We don't have any yet. In fact, there was still snow in the yard when we left the day before yesterday. It's been a long winter.

"I've been living with Edwin Stanton for a long time, too, and he has not been a congenial companion. It's been almost ten years since I started collecting material about him, and I was nearly four years writing the biography,* not counting about a year and a half of revisions that I couldn't help picking away at while my publisher undertook a perfectly glacial appraisal process.

"Since I sent them the original manuscript I wrote two other books on local history, and both of them are now in print. They both beat the Stanton biography, and I confess there were times that I was sorry

* Marvel, William. *Lincoln's Autocrat: The Life of Edwin Stanton*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

that I had ever heard his name. That put me in company with a lot of other Americans, all now dead, who also wish that they had never heard his name, either.

"I don't live in the academic environment. Most of my days are spent in the town in northern New Hampshire where I grew up, with people with whom I'm far less likely to discuss American history than the superiority of Swedish chain saws. However, thanks to a very gregarious wife, I tend to meet a lot of new people—often more than seems necessary—and they always want to know what you do. And then they want to know what your latest project is. And they've always been sort of stymied by my reference to Edwin Stanton. None of them had really ever heard of him ...

"For the sake of those people ... I took to characterizing him as the Dick Cheney of the Lincoln Administration. That seemed to get the point across, but, of course, the analogy isn't perfectly accurate because Stanton had his defenders, and even a few admirers, and, personally, I've never met anyone that admired Dick Cheney. Seems kind of strange when you think that he once shot a lawyer."



Whatever may be the outcome of the "wavy ropes" issue, the opportunity to stroll upon the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge a fortnight ago convinced our Wandering Photographer—a big fan of science fiction in his youth—that the structure is an aesthetic success. It's a shame pedestrians are barred. Thanks are due to those who fought for bicycle lanes. Our WP is threatening to dust off his penny farthing for a return visit.

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Nuclear Deals: Iran vs. North Korea
To the Editor:

It is great to see Donald Trump tweet North Korea is no longer a nuclear threat. All it took was a Trump photo-op with their dictator and their promise to work towards denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Why waste money on inspectors or destroying centrifuges and stockpiles? Why take away the North's nuclear weapons or ICBMs? All that was needed was to fly to Singapore, praise North Korea's dictator, let the world know both countries are equal and declare peace is at hand.

No wonder Trump backed out of the Iran deal. It has inspectors. It required Iran to rid its stockpile of enriched uranium and drastically reduce the number of centrifuges. The only thing missing was a photo-op of Trump and Iran's Supreme Leader.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:

You're just jealous because the President, due to his unparalleled ignorance, lives in a state of constant bliss.

The Editor

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On Pusillanimity

To the Editor:

The word pusillanimous is defined as "lacking courage or resolution, cowardly, faint-hearted, timid, proceeding from or indicating a cowardly spirit." It's usage peaked around 1800, but suddenly seems to have a very modern application. Pusillanimous combined with venal ("overly motivated by money") perfectly describes the Republicans currently in Congress.

Republicans appear to be afraid to stand up for fundamental American values, norms and institutions and use their constitutional power to restrain the man who would be king. For the sake of their beloved tax cut for the wealthy, assault weapons in our schools, and denying women's right to make personal decisions about their health, they are unwilling to stand to Trump as he raises the national debt, undermines our judicial system, strips away our environmental and consumer protections, denies millions access

to affordable health care, implements a cruel and inhumane immigration policy, risks a trade war, insults our allies and breaks up the Western alliances which have promoted democracy and kept us safe since WW II.

These are not the kind of Republicans my parents supported. Perhaps they should be called "Trumpists" not "Republicans." As John Boehner has said, "There is no Republican party. There's a Trump party."

November is the opportunity for responsible citizens to find their voice and say "no" to the Trump Party.

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.

Cynthia:

First he came for the language . . .

It's a petty thing, we suppose, compared to what he's doing to small children and the Constitution, but Dolt #45's abuse of the English language reliably delivers us our first true aggravation of every day. And he only gets away with it because of these alleged Republicans, whom you have labelled with stellar accuracy.

The Editor

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Parsing the Second Amendment

To the Editor:

Students from more than a thousand schools across the country are working tirelessly to register young voters to try and unseat lawmakers beholden to the National Rifle Association . . . more power to them. One difficulty they will encounter is that many Americans do not clearly understand the Second Amendment. The NRA and the lawmakers indebted and supportive of this organization do comprehend it, all too well, and use this knowledge to keep the electorate confused and polarized.

The Second Amendment was originally adopted so that Congress could not disarm a state militia, thus the Second Amendment prohibits only the national government from limiting the right to carry weapons. It's vital that we keep this fact in mind when discussing issues (past and present) relating to this amendment.

At its core was the preservation of the "citizen soldier" (the militia); however, it does not guarantee an individu-



al citizens' right to keep and bear arms free from government restrictions. That's because the Supreme Court has never found (an least to this point) the Second Amendment to be within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause. Therefore each state has the authority to limit (as they should) its citizens' right to keep and bear arms.

States pass various laws imposing waiting periods, ban specific guns, place age restrictions, accessibility, storage and permit requirements, as they deem necessary to try and better safeguard their citizens.

Groups like the NRA, individuals and lawmakers who benefit by association with the NRA, stand in opposition to many of these laws. The United States Congress and state legislators (largely comprised of lawyers to whom no truth is absolute) have failed to enact adequate gun control measures to stem the violence and murder rates escalating since the 1980's.

A central question in the gun control debate is whether or not there is an individual right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment, or whether the amendment guarantees only the right of states to have their own militia, making it a community right. Assuming that the authors of the Second Amendment could not have possibly envisioned either the capability of weapons 200 years in the future or that children would kill other children with those weapons, in my view, the Second Amendment is, at least in part, moot, and desperately needs reassessing.

The NRA views the Second Amendment as recognizing the right of an individual to be armed (with no restrictions) as well as community protection and to maintain a militia. Unless you see the Vermont militia forming across the Connecticut River, and I'm unaware of it, defending the Second Amendment in its present

form in the 21st Century is absurd.

The Supreme Court has ruled on only a handful of cases regarding the Second Amendment and itself often votes as partisan party disciples. Considering the United States Congress is bought and paid for and recognizing the wording of the amendment is vague and subject to interpretation, it is highly unlikely the gun control debate will be settled any time soon.

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.

David:

We don't mean to argue, but what about District of Columbia vs. Heller, aka Antonin's Baby?

Certainly the Federal government not only can restrict a citizen's right to bear, say, an M-60 machine gun, or a Thompson, but has done so.

We thought, though, that Heller established that an individual has a right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia for traditionally lawful purposes. Are we wrong about that?

The Editor

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An Open Letter To Trump Supporters

To the Editor:

Do you really believe a fearful, tear-streaked three-year-old immigrant child being ripped away from her parents by strangers is different than a tear-streaked three-year-old child you know and love?

Do you really think two- and three-year olds should be locked up, away from the people that love them? Is it better to lock up four- and five-year olds?

Trump is an open admirer of dictators. He has no appreciation for the rule-of-law, the quality that separates the United States from the worst countries in the world, because he wants to be a dictator.

This is who you are supporting!

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

We've met some of these people.

That may be why they support him.

The Editor

=====

Fascism Has Arrived

To the Editor:

20th Century author Sinclair Lewis, having observed the rise of fascism in Europe, prophesized in 1935, "When Fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross." There have been countless indicators of fascism's arrival in recent years, but two of the most recent signs that Lewis' prophecy has come true are the announcement of the 45th POTUS/Pence Administration's plan to defund Planned Parenthood (to appease the Religious Right over 80 percent of which voted for #45), which would leave low-income women without access to affordable reproductive healthcare; and the introduction of policy by NFL Team Owners (all major beneficiaries of the Republican's grand tax scam), which forces NFL athletes (in order to placate the White Nationalist portion of #45/Pence's base), who are using their national stage to patriotically exercise their First Amendment right to peacefully protest injustices against voiceless African American males, to stand during the playing of the National Anthem.

As to the latter, #45 spewed, "You have to stand proudly for the National Anthem, or shouldn't be playing . . . Maybe you shouldn't be in the country. You have to stand proudly for the national anthem. And the NFL owners did the right thing." His VP simply responded by Tweeting "#winning." Given their logic, #45 (Aka Cadet Bone Spurs) and his VP should con-

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sider self-deportation for not standing for the Constitution.

Meanwhile, I propose that all African American football players in the NFL, of which 70 percent of the athletes are African American, consider standing down for Week One of the upcoming NFL season out of protest to the NFL Commissioner and team owners having capitulated to the fascist dictatorial #45/Pence Administration. I believe by doing so, they would bring Roger Goodell, Team Owners and #45/Pence to their knees before Week Two, when they would be forced to repeal their draconian rule about taking a knee. Otherwise, I believe the African American players could very quickly form a league of their own. Can you even imagine what the quality of NFL play would be like without these highly talented and indispensable athletes?

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:

To be perfectly honest, the only part of football that we find at all interesting is the fight over whether or not players have First Amendment rights.

The game itself? Zzzzzzzz.
The Editor

=====

A Visit from Pete

To the Editor:

On Wednesday, June 13, 2018 I bumped into Pete Seeger (the famous musician and activist who went to heaven in January, 2014) while eating a hot fudge sundae at the McDonald's on Gosling Road in Newington. Although Pete's no longer with us in the flesh, sad to say, he paid me an unexpected visit that day, I'm glad to say.

As I sat at a table near the front of the store, nonchalantly eating my sundae (with nuts), something extraor-

dinary happened: I suddenly sensed the soul of Pete Seeger sitting directly across the table from me. I knew it was neither a hallucination nor a demon in disguise, based on previous psychic experiences I've had.

"I understand you play guitar," he then said to me. "Yes, and I understand you play a little banjo and guitar," I answered (with my library voice). So went the conversation, with Pete speaking into my mind, as souls generally speak to me telepathically from the other side, and with me speaking out loud.

I then said out loud to Pete (again, using my library voice), as he sat before me, "I made a cardboard sign which I hope to use soon. It says, 'RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT - ANYTHING HELPS'." Right after saying this I heard Pete laugh. Then I clearly heard him say to me, "You've got my vote!"

Alex J. Boros
Rochester, N.H.

Alex:

We'll be happy to vote for you. It may not be until after New Hampshire follows Maine's lead and adopts Ranked Choice Voting, and you may not be our first choice, but we'll be happy to vote for you then.

The Editor

=====

Crying for Help

To the Editor:

Ed Mazza, writing in *HuffPost* on June 1, 2018, quoted former House Speaker John Boehner as averring that, "There is no Republican Party. There's a Trump Party." And: "If you can peel away the noise and the tweets and all that, ... from a Republican standpoint the things that he's doing by and large are really good things." Okay, really good things. Like fighting with national sports teams on the Internet? Acquiescing to the national lobby for

gun manufacturers over schoolchildren who don't believe bulletproof vests should be *de rigueur* school attire or that their teachers should need to be armed? Filling responsible government leadership positions with people not only eminently unqualified, but openly hostile to the agencies they are appointed to head? Who refuse, for example, to ban a pesticide, chlorpyrifos, known to be toxic to children and field workers? Passing a tax cut that exacerbates the wealth gap and incurs a Creature-From-20,000-Fathoms-size national deficit? Instigating potentially world economy destabilizing trade wars? Breaking treaties? Denying science? Risking Armageddon by engaging in childish banter with the head of a nuclear state? "Draining the swamp" to create a sewer?

Then we have Cheryl K. Chumley, writing in *The Washington Times* for Tuesday, May 29, 2018, arguing in response to New York Democratic candidate for Congress Patrick Ryan's call for restricting second amendment rights, that "the Second Amendment doesn't stem from what government wants or wishes. The Second Amendment, like the First, is God-given, not government granted." So, the science-denying, fake news-decrying cadre does possess some conviction: a belief in "god." There are at least half a dozen crucified savior narratives that precede the Christian one. Wonder how many Christians are aware of that? And how many religions are there? And from what I know of the biblical god, the one reputed to have given mankind the Bible, which includes the admonition that swords be beaten into ploughshares, the son who interceded with the father by surrendering himself to crucifixion that the sins of man might be forgiven, the one named Jesus, who pronounced the greatest commandment to be to love god, and the second to be like unto it, to love one another as oneself, would

hardly have been likely to bestow Second Amendment rights—effectively, a provision to ensure that everyone is prepared and has the means to annihilate everyone else.

Walking across the common at Strawberry Banke I looked up at the flag flapping at the top of the pole in Prescott Park, and thought "You really want really want to be flying upside down." The state of the nation, it occurs to me, is well summed up by Eminem, in "Talkin' 2 Myself," from his *Recovery* album: "You're lyin' to yourself/You're slowly dyin'/You're denyin'/Your health is declinin'/with your self-esteem/You're cryin' out for help." Eminem rescued himself. If we can't do the same, we'd better darn well hope there is a god, and one that still thinks we're worth saving.

John Simon
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:

Amen, brother.
The Editor

=====

Deal with the Devil

To the Editor:

Sometimes the biggest threats to U.S. security are hiding in plain sight. Consider the co-dependent relationship between President Donald Trump and Fox News.

Many liberals charge the President with commanding his own state news network. It's true that Fox appears to be a haven where Trump and his team can openly reconstruct facts and re-frame issues to suit their whim. For that matter, the network does much of the President's homework for him. For example, note how they are currently flipping the results of the FBI's Clinton investigation to suggest Comey's actions helped rather than harmed Hillary Clinton's presidential bid.

However, it's not the President's or Fox's willingness to mangle the truth that pose the greatest threat to our democracy. Instead, it's the Trump Administration's heavy reliance on Fox to fuel its populist agenda and energize its base. It matters because this reliance literally hands Fox the journalistic power to unwrap the Trump presidency overnight. Fox News only

works for Donald J. Trump as long as the fox remains friendly, and that's a tremendous amount of clout for a single private-sector corporate entity to wield! Should the fox turn rabid and bite the President, he would have no good option for recovery.

Given the President's co-dependent reliance on Fox for his political survival, would anyone care to speculate what Donald J. Trump might be willing to do to keep Fox happy? It's food for thought, and possibly a very chilling prospect!

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:

On our list of this Administration's loathsome aspects, Dolt #45's relationship with the Goebbels Channel is near the top.

Fox is, as you say, in a perfect position to extort all kinds of favors. Let's turn that around, though—what if someone could find a way to force Fox to take down Trump? Hmmm ...

The Editor

=====

How Close is Too Close?

To the Editor:

There is a saying that applies to international affairs; Keep your friends close, but keep your enemies closer. Over the past eighteen months, Donald Trump has managed to insult and abandon our friends, while at the same time encouraging and supporting our enemies. Since taking office, Trump has been alienating our most trusted allies, England, France, Germany, Canada, Mexico, and the entire European Union, while coddling Russia, China and now North Korea.

First he decided to abandon the Paris Climate Accord, then he decided to leave the P5+1 Agreement with Iran, and at the recent G7 meeting in Canada, he has isolated America politically, economically and morally. He has initiated a possible trade war with some of our largest trading partners, Canada, Mexico and the EU, while starting petty insulting personal fights with the leaders of Canada and France.

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Spygate 1864

by William Marvel

The belief that the FBI planted a spy in Donald Trump's campaign organization to sabotage his candidacy may be unjustified, but to those with an eye to history it isn't all that incredible. The FBI was largely the creation of J. Edgar Hoover, who notoriously abused its vast investigative resources to manipulate the most senior public officials, and to retain power for 48 years. Under Hoover, the infiltration of political organizations was one of the FBI's principal functions.

Nor is it unthinkable that an outgoing president intent on the next election would use a government agency to help assure the desired outcome. We who once put our faith in Barack Obama hope he would not have sanctioned interference in the electoral process, but interactions as suspicious as Loretta Lynch's top-secret "grandchild-chat" with Bill Clinton weaken that confidence. After all, other presidents have allowed their minions to undermine competitors' campaigns behind a veil of plausible deniability, and

sometimes through partisan use of government agencies. In what may have been the most blatant example, the 1864 equivalent of the FBI was diverted almost entirely toward the goal of reelecting Abraham Lincoln.

Joseph Holt, the Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army, had been appointed in 1862 at least partly to encourage political orthodoxy among Union generals. Lincoln's Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, had served in James Buchanan's cabinet with Holt, and both abandoned their Democratic conservatism for Radical Republicanism when power shifted that way. Stanton, the most devious and disingenuous cabinet officer in Lincoln's administration, may have selected Holt in large part because he showed similar qualities. Stanton used Holt to prosecute personal and political enemies in and out of the Army, and on the eve of important elections he directed Holt to "investigate" alleged treasonable conspiracies that could be tied to Democratic candidates.

The presidential election of 1864 was their masterpiece. In July Stanton directed Holt to Louisville, near

his home, to gather information about subversive groups, and Holt relaxed there for more than a fortnight. His part in the investigation consisted mainly of picking up a packet of vague, occasionally anonymous accusations collected by what were essentially Stanton's political officers. According to those allegations, an army of up to 140,000 Confederate sympathizers lurked in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Missouri, ready to rise up against the government.

Had it not been for a chance to visit his home, and to create the impression that Holt had personally conducted an investigation, a War Department courier might have made the trip for him. In St. Louis, Holt was given a second packet, after which he returned to Washington to identify the chief traitor as Clement Vallandigham, a prominent Democrat and administration critic. Once George McClellan became the presumptive Democratic nominee, the political officer in St. Louis sent a supplemental report identifying one of the insurgent organizations as the "McClellan Minute Men."

One month before the election, in an early instance of the "October Surprise," Holt compiled all those allegations of insurrectionary Democratic conspiracies in a report oozing with prosecutorial innuendo. Stanton had it published immediately in pamphlet form at War Department expense for broad distribution, but he authorized no military measures to guard against the predicted uprising. Generals and governors pleaded for arms or men to quell it, but Stanton ignored them.

The only action Stanton and Holt undertook to allay the supposed threat was a series of show trials in the Midwest. Holt's assistants hauled several Democrats before military commissions, where the rules of evidence favored the prosecution, and newspapers reported daily on alarming testimony about planned mayhem. To prevent front-page contradiction, no defense witnesses were allowed to take the stand until after election day. The star government witness was a purported infiltrator named Felix Stidger, a chronically impoverished Kentuck-

ian. Stidger expected to be paid well for his testimony, and Holt was the subject of credible accusations that he suborned perjury in other cases.

The trials had to continue to their conclusions, or their partisan political motivation would have become obvious. Lincoln, who regarded the "plots" as the frustrated effusion of innocuous political clubs, did nothing to stop the charade. The trials prompted an 1866 Supreme Court decision declaring most such military commissions unconstitutional, but the pretended government concern about subversive societies ended abruptly with Lincoln's re-election.

It was neither the first nor the last political manipulation orchestrated by Holt, whose demise might offer some ammunition to those who believe in the transference of souls. He died August 1, 1894, at his home on C Street in Washington, D.C. Four blocks away on the same street lived Dickerson and Anna Hoover: Anna was then pregnant, and exactly five months after Holt's death she gave birth to her last child, future FBI director John Edgar Hoover.

from page five

In response, Sen. John McCain felt it necessary to Tweet; "To our allies: bipartisan majorities of Americans remain pro-free trade, pro-globalization, and supportive of alliances based on 70 years of shared values. Americans stand with you even if our president doesn't."

Throughout the long Cold War, the Korean War, the First Gulf War, and after 9/11, it was our long standing friends who were there to support and assist us. Russia, China, and North Korea on the other had were doing everything to harm America economically, militarily and politically. It was not our friends who attacked our electoral system,

but Trumps' best friend Putin. It was not our friends who supported North Vietnam in that horrible war, it was China and Russia. It is not our friends who support Assad in Syria, but it is Putin's Russia.

Keeping your enemies closer does not mean sacrificing your most basic traditions and values, or abandoning your closest long-time proven friends. You keep your enemies closer so as to better understand their motives, intentions and strategy, so as to better confront their attacks. Trump is not simply keep-

ing our enemies closer, he is in bed with them, and the consequences will be devastating to America and the world.

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAF Ret.

Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

He's Schrödinger's President: is he destroying the country because he's an inept buffoon not mentally equipped to properly govern a run-down motel? Or is he destroying the country because Vladimir Putin has something on

him that's so disgusting that its release would miraculously lower our opinion of him even further?

Only time and Bob Mueller will tell. The Editor

North Korea, Iran, and Nukes

To the Editor:

The bad news is that summit to end all summits between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un ended with little or nothing tangible to show for all the hype and theatrics; especially for America. The good news is that we have moved away



from the brink of nuclear war. The big winner was Kim, a ruthless dictator from a small poor nation, who was given prestige, recognition and status equal to Trump; exactly what he craved. Kim also received assurances from Trump that America will cease joint military exercises with South Korea, which was a surprise to our South Korean ally. Trump also all but ignored the rampant human rights violations being perpetrated by Kim.

The document signed by Trump and Kim contained a goal to establish new American and North Korean relationships, a commitment by North Korea to work toward "complete denuclearization" of the

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Help save America's Post Offices

by Jim Hightower

The U.S. Postal Service has 30,000 outlets serving every part of America, employs 630,000 people in good middle-class jobs, and proudly delivers letters and packages clear across the country for a pittance. It's a jewel of public service excellence.

Therefore, it must be destroyed. Such is the fevered logic of lais-

sez-fairyheaded corporate supremacists like the billionaire Koch brothers and the right-wing politicians who serve them. This malevolent gang of wrecking-ball privatizers includes such prominent Trumpsters as Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin (a former Wall Street huckster from Goldman Sachs), and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney (a former corporate-hugging Congress critter from South Carolina). Both were

involved in setting up Trump's shiny new task force to remake our US Postal Service. It's like asking two foxes to remodel the hen house.

Trump himself merely wanted to take a slap at his political enemy, Amazon chief Jeff Bezos, by jacking up the prices the Postal Service charges to deliver Amazon's packages. The cabal of far-right corporatizers, however, saw Trump's temper tantrum as a golden opportunity

to go after the Postal Service itself. So, instead of simply addressing the matter of package pricing—Shazam—the task force was trumped-up with an open-ended mandate to evaluate, dissect, and “restructure” the people's mail service, including carving it up and selling off the parts.

Who'd buy the pieces? For-profit shippers like FedEx, of course, but here's some serious irony for you: The one outfit with the cash and

clout to buy our nation's whole postal infrastructure and turn it into a monstrous corporate monopoly is none other than ... Amazon.

To help stop this sellout, become part of the Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service: www.AGrandAlliance.org.

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Korean Peninsular, and a return of American POW/MIA remains. What appears to be missing from this document is a peace treaty to end the Korean War, any time lines or milestones for compliance, no inspection/verification provisions by third party inspectors to assure that North Korea is actually “working toward total denuclearization,” or anything beyond promises. We also did not get a clear understanding of what “total denuclearization of the Korean Peninsular” means from North Korea's perspective. In sum, what North Korea has said it will do is much the same as they have been saying for the past ten years.

The hypocrisy of this Korean agreement is that it is not comprehensive, involving only North Korea and America, and contains no means for verifying compliance by North Korea. On the other hand, the P5+1 Agreement with Iran, that Trump called the worst agreement ever, involved America, England, France, Germany, Russia, and China. It contains multiple layers of inspections and verification processes to assure that Iran is actually complying with the Agreement, which to date it has been in every respect. The Trump Kim agreement does not even come close to the success of the P5+1 Agreement, except, it was negotiated by Obama not Trump, which is the real reason Trump abandoned it.

Are we better off with a less confrontational relationship with North Korea? Of course. Were we better off with America part of the P5+1 Agreement with Iran? Absolutely. Is the agreement between Trump and Kim as comprehensive and verifiable



as the P5+1 Agreement? Absolutely not. Will the same Republicans and right wing media that condemned Obama for the P5+1 Agreement give Trump unrestrained praise for accomplishing much less? You can bet the farm on it.

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAF Ret. Portsmouth, N.H.

So Gullible

To the Editor:

Alex Jones, the host of *InfoWars*, insists that the six-year-olds killed in the Newtown massacre were actors. He has millions of followers. They include Donald Trump and Roseanne Barr.

Donald Trump, who built his political reputation by lying that Barak Obama was not a U.S. citizen, has used the presidency to launch attacks on the courts, the intelligence agencies, individual citizens, the free press, the special counsel investigating Russian meddling in the U.S. election and due process of law. He has millions of followers, including Roseanne Barr and Alex Jones.

Roseanne Barr recently lost her job because of her racist tweets. In an earlier anti-Semitic tweet, she called George Soros a Nazi collaborator who rounded up other Jews and confiscated their property. Pure fabrication! Soros was 13 years old and in hiding when Barr claims this happened! Barr has millions of followers, including Donald Trump and Alex Jones.

I can understand why this threesome of liars and hate mongers fawn

over each other: they make millions from it; they provide each other an echo chamber for their hate.

What I can't understand are the millions of other American followers. Are they so gullible that they believe Jones' totally fabricated conspiracy theories? Do they nonchalantly accept Barr's racial slurs? Are they so enamored of Trump's rhetoric that they can't see that his attacks on the rule of law are Un-American?

Do they think it's acceptable that parents grieving for their murdered 6 year olds should receive death threats because of the lies of Jones, Trump and Barr?

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

Save the Post Office!

To the Editor:

I probably haven't been paying sufficiently close attention to developments in the city of late. Has an ordinance, perhaps, been passed eliminating from the downtown anything potentially useful?

Pharmacies left the city center long ago, the stationers, one by one, sometime thereafter. The downtown hardware store shut its doors several years ago. To fill a prescription or secure office supplies or a nail or screw one must drive to one of the outlying malls. Shoe repair? Forget it. First it migrated similarly to the periphery, now is departed altogether. To Hampton is where one must drive to get a pair of shoes resoled. As of mid-June, there will no longer be a

dry cleaner within a few blocks of Market Square. And now we're being threatened with the elimination of a centrally located Post Office. A kiosk, really, for bustling downtown Portsmouth?

Perhaps, though, it won't matter that nothing useful remains in the center of a city in which few can any longer afford to live.

John Simon
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:

We try not to get drawn in to too many local land-use issues, but Portsmouth losing its downtown Post Office? That's a hill we're ready to die on—metaphorically speaking, of course.

The Editor

Children Taken at our Mexican Border

To the Editor:

I'm sending this postcard message to our U.S. Senators: “an adapted question, learned from Bush's Iraq war—what is your exit strategy for holding children of asylum seekers? How will you know when it is time to stop? How will the thousands of children taken at our border with Mexico be handled ‘after?’ Please seek the answers.”

In the mid-2000s we were asking Sen. Judd Gregg this exit-strategy question, for which he never did have an answer. The Iraq people continue to suffer war; Bush and Cheney and Wolfowitz and all started it in 2003. Now I realize the same questions will be tough to answer about taking and holding children at our Mexican border. The thought

process, if any exists, MUST take the “end” into consideration.

Readers—please join me in asking this question of our representatives in D.C. Stop the insanity, the cruelty.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

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A Note Left at Ceres Bakery

To the Editor:

Have walked Portsmouth end to end in search of the *New Hampshire Gazette* offices to say “Thank you, for a breath of air every other week at this time of duress!”

Last October I sat in The Works and picked up a copy of the *Gazette* which I enjoyed even though it was my third day of seeing no person of color and feeling ready to leave the salmon shorts and tourist shops. But there are at least pockets of folks who are thinking and wondering, “What the Hell?”

So I took your paper home to Wisconsin and my friends and I/we got some relief. We [Wisconsin] gave the country Paul Ryan and Scott Walker and Reince Priebus—you're welcome. And that's just *this* decade. Because we also gave you the Republican Party and Joseph McCarthy. But we're not all in lockstep there in flyover country. We are out marching against gun violence, and reading and listening and crying together and calling our Representatives and hoping we live long enough to see better times. And just knowing we are not alone helps.

It especially helps to know that really smart people like you are writing and working for change.

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

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

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

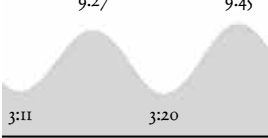
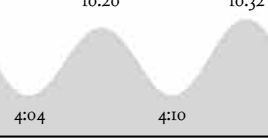
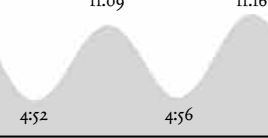
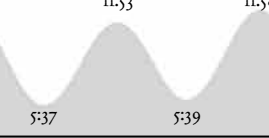
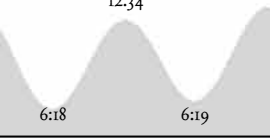
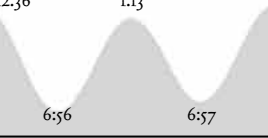
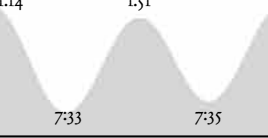
drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 24	MONDAY, JUNE 25	TUESDAY, JUNE 26	WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27	THURSDAY, JUNE 28	FRIDAY, JUNE 29	SATURDAY, JUNE 30
1994—Air Force Lt. Col Arthur Hol-land, hot-dogging during air-show practice maneuvers, crashes a B-52 at Fairchild AFB in Washington State. 1982—All engines fail on a British Airways 747 en route to Australia af-ter flying through a cloud of volcanic ash; 14 minutes later, pilots re-start the engines and land successfully. 1971—Nixon’s Special Counsel Charles Colson circulates the first White House “Enemies List.” 1970—Staging fails on the Kittery side of the Piscataqua River Bridge project. Four men fall 75 feet to their deaths, seven others are injured. 1968—Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, tells a Long Island audience, “The enemy has lost whatever chance he had of taking South Vietnam by military force.” 1968—Cops and the Guard shut down “Resurrection City U.S.A.” in D.C. with dogs and smoke grenades. 1947—Private pilot Kenneth Arnold reports “flying saucers” over Wash-ington state. 1924—The Democratic National Con-vention begins. It ends 17 days later, having voted down an anti-Klan plank. 1902—Deadline looming, Joseph Conrad upsets an oil lamp and ac-cidentally burns the second installment of <i>The End of the Tether</i>. 1524—Countess Helena von Lupfen orders Stühlingen peasants to collect snail shells for her maids, triggering the German Peasants War.	2005—Admiring Bob Kraft’s Super Bowl ring, Vladimir Putin says “I could kill someone with this,” as he puts it in his pocket. 1998—The Fed OKs a merger be-tween Travelers and Citicorp, meld-ing investment banking, insurance, and FDIC-insured deposits, abrogat-ing Glass-Steagall, and lighting a ten-year fuse on a financial bomb. 1996—Al-Qaeda kills 19 U.S. ser-vice-men in Saudi Arabia and wounds 372. Saudis and the CIA blame Iran. 1971—ITT lobbyist Dita M. Beard writes a memo noting that Pres. Richard “Dick” Nixon knew ITT was giving the Republican National Committee a \$400,000 bribe to get a favorable Justice Dept. decision. 1962—God is expelled from U.S. schools by the Supreme Court. 1938—FDR signs into law the mini-mum wage, the 44-hour week, while banning child labor. 1914—A factory full of volatile chem-icals explodes in Salem, Mass. The en-suing fire burns 1,376 buildings and leaves 18,000 homeless or jobless. 1906—At Madison Square Garden, which he had designed, Stanford White is shot dead by Harry Thaw, husband of Evelyn Nesbit, whom White had violated at the age of 16. 1876—The 7th Cavalry, including Gen. George Armstrong Custer and two of his brothers are killed by Na-tive Americans at the Little Big Horn. Mark Kellogg, AP reporter, dies too.	2015—The Supreme Court puts an end to marriage discrimination. 2013—Byron Low Tax Looper [ac-tual name], convicted of murdering in his political opponent, dies at 48, of a heart attack, hours after assaulting a pregnant prison guard. 2006—Rush Limbaugh’s illicit Viagra stash is confiscated on his re-tur-n from the Dominican Republic, a popular sex tourism destination. 2002—A Federal court edits “under God” out of the Pledge of Allegiance. 1995—In Golf Manor, Mich., EPA workers dismantle a homemade nu-clear reactor in the suburban backyard of David Hahn, 17. 1976—Gov. Kit Bond rescinds a predecessor’s “Extermination Order” banning Mormons from Missouri. 1954—Bao Dai, the feckless puppet Emperor of South Vietnam, appoints Ngo Dinh Diem as premier. 1947—Boston Mayor James Curley goes to federal prison for five months. 1940—At the Waldorf in NYC, Ger-hard Westrick hosts a gala celebration of the Fall of France to Nazi Germany. His former law partner, future Secre-tary of State John Foster Dulles, de-fends Westrick from critics. 1919—Dist. Atty. and future Con-gressman T. Webber Wilson cheers on a crowd of 10,000 at the lynching of John Hartfield in Ellenville, Miss. 1894—The American Railway Union strikes in solidarity with Pullman workers: U.S. rail traffic halts.	2011—A Robinson R22 helicopter goes “bang,” sheds parts, and crashes in Del Valle, Texas, killing the pilot. 2006—Guess pinko bastards in the Senate block a Flag Protection Amendment® by one vote. 2003—On the first day it’s possible, more than 735,000 people sign up for the “Do Not Call” list. 2000—“Until I’m the President,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “it’s going to be hard for me to verify that I think I’ll be more effective.” 1986—The International Court of Justice rules the U.S. was out of line in funding the Contras. 1972—Five MiG 21s shoot down five U.S. F4s over Vietnam. 1971—Col. David Hackworth, that war’s most decorated soldier, wrecks his career by saying on TV that the U.S. cannot win in Vietnam. 1954—CIA-sponsored rebels over-threw Guatemala’s democratically elected government, napalming a British cargo ship in the process. 1950—Syngman Rhee, U.S. ally and President of South Korean, orders military police to massacre leftists. Between 100,000 and 200,000 die; Rhee blames communists. 1905—In Chicago, 203 trade union-ists from 43 outfits assemble to found the Industrial Workers of the World. 1905—Russian sailors aboard the bat-tleship <i>Potemkin</i>, ordered to eat mag-goty borscht made from rotten beef or die, choose to mutiny instead.	2005—Operation Red Wings takes the lives of 19 U.S. special ops person-nel in Afghanistan’s Korengal Valley, including Special Operations Chief Daniel R. Healy of Exeter, N.H.—the single greatest loss of naval special ops forces since WWII. 2005—At a rest stop on the Kan-camagas Highway, Gary Moody, 45, is charged with criminally trespassing under the women’s outhouse. 1994—The Department of Energy admits hundreds of U.S. citizens were used as unwitting guinea pigs in radia-tion experiments during the Cold War. 1975—Rod Serling enters another dimension. 1972—Richard Nixon cleverly an-nounces that no new draftees will be sent to Vietnam, further eroding the anti-war movement already weakened by the lottery. 1971—Muhammad Ali’s conviction for draft evasion is overturned. 1969—Gays and lesbians battle cops at the Stonewall Inn in N.Y.C. 1968—LBJ OKs a Democratic bill converting Memorial and Veterans Days into three-day weekends. 1957—At 295 Broome St., New York City’s last known opium den is busted. 1943—The sub-chaser <i>U.S.S. PC-815</i> uses the Coronado Islands, 15 miles southwest of San Diego, for target practice. Mexico objects, since it has Coast Guard personnel there. Ship commander Lt. L. Ron Hubbard [yes, him] is relieved of duty.	2016—The 477-foot tanker <i>Chem Venus</i> runs aground off Goat Island, damaging itself and three boats at the Kittery Point Yacht Club. 2006—“It was not always certain,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “that the U.S. and America would have a close relationship.” 1992—A Robinson R22 helicopter falls apart 2,000 feet above San Pablo Bay, Calif., killing a flight instructor and a student. 1989—<i>The Washington Times</i> reports that high officials in the Reagan & Bush I administrations are under investigation for involvement in a ho-mosexual prostitution ring. The story quickly and conveniently evaporates. 1987—“We don’t care,” declares At-torney General Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese, “about the political or ideologi-cal allegiances of a prospective judge.” His audience bursts out laughing. 1966—U.S. starts bombing major oil facilities in Hanoi and Haiphong harbor. 1956—The U.S. Federal Highway Act OK’s 42,500 miles of new high-way so the Pentagon can move stuff around if the Cold War turns hot. 1940—The Smith Act, requiring aliens in the U.S. to register with the government, is enacted. 1897—The Chicago Cubs score 36 runs in one game against Louisville. 1620—Tobacco growing is banned in England, conveniently giving the Vir-ginia Company a lucrative monopoly.	2009—Oil futures prices hit an eight-month high when an unauthorized trader buys 7 million barrels during an epic drunk. 2003—<i>The Army Times</i> reports that the Bush administration wants to cut combat and family-separation pay for troops in combat zones. 2001—Surgeons find a little black thing in Dick “Dick” Cheney’s chest and attach a pacemaker to it. 1984—GOP Chairman Frank Fah-renkopf proposes adding Ronald Rea-gan’s face to Mt. Rushmore. 1973—Dwight E. Stone, a black, 24 year-old plumber’s assistant from Sac-ramento, is the last man drafted into the U.S. Army. 1971—Richard “I Am Not a Crook” Nixon orders his “Plumbers Unit” to break into the office of Daniel Ells-berg’s psychiatrist. 1956—Two airliners collide over the Grand Canyon, killing 128 and lead-ing to the creation of the FAA. 1908—A mysterious 40-megaton explosion flattens a huge area around Tunguska, Siberia. 1882—Charles Guiteau goes to the gallows for assassinating President Garfield, chanting “I am going to the Lordy, I am so glad.” 1864—N.H.-born Treasury Sec. Salmon P. Chase resigns, charging speculators are plotting to prolong the Civil War for monetary gain. 1704—Pirate John Quelch is hanged in Boston, without a jury trial.
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SUNDAY, JULY 1	MONDAY, JULY 2	TUESDAY, JULY 3	WEDNESDAY, JULY 4	THURSDAY, JULY 5	FRIDAY, JULY 6	SATURDAY, JULY 7

1991—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush nominates Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court.

1984—Piasecki’s experimental Heli-stat—four helicopters bolted to a 343-foot blimp—disassembles and crashes at Lakehurst, N.J., killing its pilot.

1973—The U.S. military draft ends. Henceforth, the ranks will be replen-ished by economic coercion.

1968—A chartered DC-8 carrying 214 U.S. soldiers to Vietnam strays into Soviet airspace lands in the USSR.

1956—On “The Steve Allen Show,” Elvis sings “Hound Dog” to a basset hound dressed in formal wear.

1946—The U.S. Army detonates the world’s 4th nuclear explosion at Bikini Atoll. U.S. Navy sailors board radio-active target ships the following day.

1943—Willem Arondeus, who blew up Amsterdam’s Public Records building to fight Nazi oppression, says before a firing squad, “Let it be known that homosexuals are not cowards.”

1917—In Boston, 8,000 march against the Great War.

1916—On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 19,240 British soldiers die and 35,493 go missing. On the plus side, the Brits take three square miles.

1898—Buffalo Soldiers take San Juan Hill, while T.R. takes the credit.

1884—Allan Pinkerton, founder of the eponymous strike-breaking, union-busting detective agency, dies from an infected tongue accidentally bitten in a fall.

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

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

1980—The Supreme Court rules that OSHA must consider corporate prof-its when protecting employees’ health.

1976—The Supreme Court rules it’s neither cruel nor unusual for the gov-ernment to kill certain people.

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

1964—L.B.J. signs the Civil Rights Act, telling Bill Moyers, “I think we just delivered the South to the Repub-lican Party for a long time to come.”

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

1894—Ex-railroad director & U.S. Attorney General Richard Olney en-joins Pullman workers from striking.

1881—“Stalwart” Republican Charles Guiteau shoots Pres. James Garfield, a “Half-Breed” Republican, in the back.

1822—Charged with plotting insur-rection, former slave and co-founder of Charleston, S.C.’s Emanuel Af-rican Methodist Episcopal Church Denmark Vesey is hanged after a se-cret trial.

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

1988—The *U.S.S. Vincennes*, in Ira-nian waters, shoots down an Iranian airliner ascending within a commer-cial air corridor; 290 civilians die.

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

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

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

1850—Australian newspaper pub-lisher James Harrison dooms New Hampshire’s then-thriving ice-expor-tation industry by demonstrating the first mechanical refrigeration plant.

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

1835—In Paterson, N.J., 2,000 mill girls strike for a shorter work week. Two months later they win.

1754—French forces, enraged by the recent killing of a French officer in Lieutenant Colonel George Wash-ington’s custody a month earlier, cap-ture Fort Necessity and force Wash-ington’s surrender.

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

1994—Nye County, Nev., Commis-sioner Dick Carver re-opens a Fed-erally-closed road with a bulldozer, reigniting the Sagebrush Rebellion.

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

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

1951—Baltimore’s fireworks display is preceded by a mock “atomic bomb” explosion complete with two collaps-ing houses, burst water and gas mains, and evacuation of the “wounded.”

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

1924—Thousands of Klansmen meet in New Jersey to burn crosses and cele-brate the Democratic Party’s refusal to condemn the KKK.

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

1895—At Hampton Beach, N.H., a tornado kills 3 and injures 120.

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

1835—A mob of 70 men gather in Canaan, N.H. carrying torches, clubs, and axes, but are dissuaded from de-stroying the bi-racial Noyes Academy.

2011—A Robinson R22 helicopter goes “bang,” sheds parts, and crashes into a Phoenix, Ariz., house. Every-thing burns; the pilot dies.

1968—Beseiged for 78 days at a cost of 737 Marine lives, Khe Sanh is aban-doned 90 days later.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1887—Hawaii’s King Kalakaua signs away his power when he inks the “Bay-onet Constitution” at gunpoint.

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

1954—As puppet Premier Diem ar-rives in Saigon, U.S. Gen. John W. O’Daniel, says “the war in Vietnam can be won without bringing in one single American soldier to fight.”

1950—FBI Chief J. Edgar “Mary” Hoover proposes the permanent de-tention of 12,000 people he deems “potentially dangerous to the internal security of the country.”

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

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

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

1863—The U.S. begins exempting certain men from the draft, provid-ing they cough up \$100 in cash.

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



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