

The Fortnightly Rant

Escalation in the War on Truth

Tuesday, June 24th, is a day which would live in infamy—if this country's mental health were better, and it had an attention span longer than a TV commercial.

Whenever previous Presidents have addressed conventions of veterans' organizations, they have been careful to leave their politics at the door. According to long-established custom, the only acceptable topics for such events are foreign policy, veterans' issues, and generalized patriotic hoo-hah.

On the Tuesday before last, though—and in the home state of World War I veteran Harry S. Truman—a man who used five deferments to dodge the draft stood before the Veterans of Foreign Wars and told them to trust neither the lying news media nor their own lying eyes.

For the violation of that norm alone, then, Trump's address was newsworthy under the man-bites-dog rule.

"Just stick with us," said the big-and-tall man with the extra-long necktie, "don't believe the crap you see from these people, the fake news ... CNN is the worst."

"Scores of veterans, right on cue from commander in chief, point to press riser and boo and hiss," tweeted the *Washington Post's* Philip Rucker.

In Kansas City, Mo., a television station's website ran a story headlined, "Trump turns veterans address in Missouri into political rally." In a remarkable instance of *lèse-majesté*, considering that the station is a Fox News affiliate, the source of that story was ... CNN's newswire.

Sensing it was time to set the hook and reel in his catch, the man with the preposterous hair reached his rhetorical pinnacle—or nadir.

"Just remember," he said, "what you're seeing and what you're reading is not what's happening."

Trust him, he said, and only him—and they, the fools, applauded.

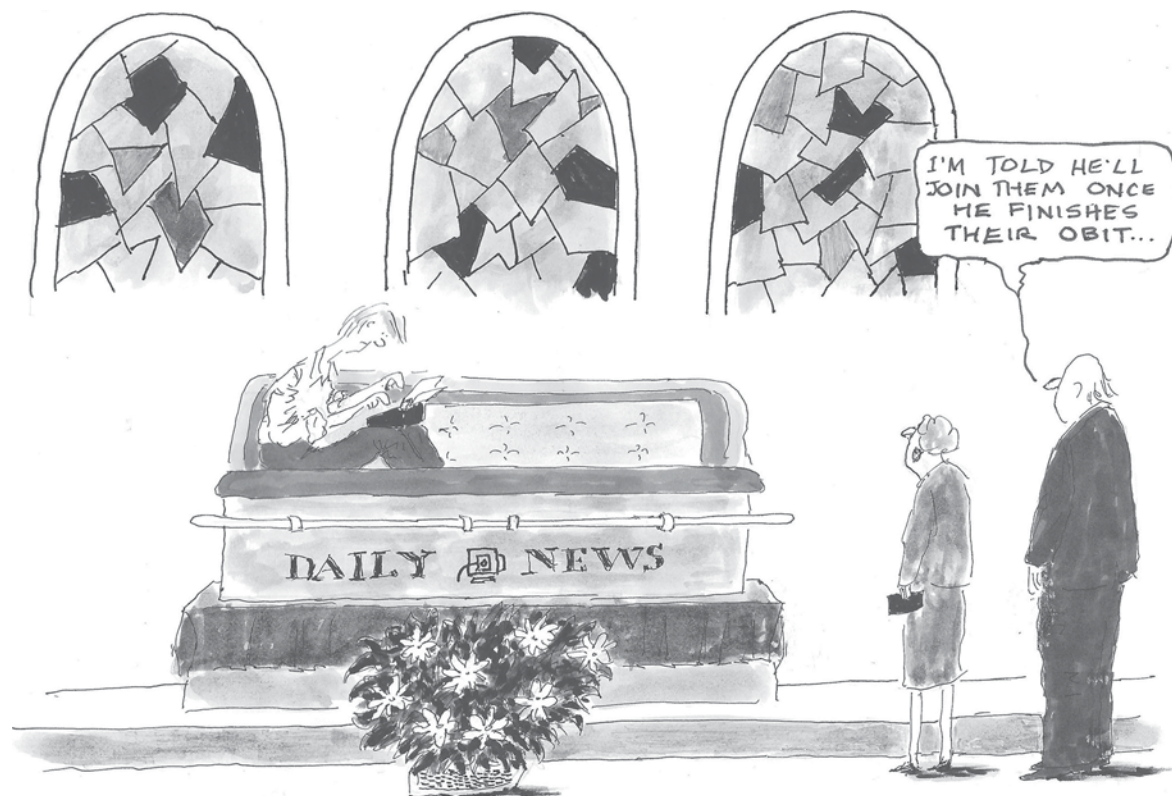
To the VFW's credit, its spokeswoman Randi Law issued an apology almost immediately: "We were disappointed to hear some of our members boo the press. We rely on the media to help spread the VFW message, and CNN, NBC, ABC, FOX, CBS, and others on site today were our invited guests. We were happy to have them there." The real shame is that no spokesperson for the White House apologized to members of the VFW for the boorish behavior of the President.

If Trump had stood in front of the room, firing indiscriminately with a semi-automatic weapon, it probably would cost him some votes. He is having the same effect, but more slowly, by leaving scores of important high-level VA posts vacant—not to mention his apparent acquiescence to the "neoliberal" agenda of pushing the VA further towards privatization.

That, it seems, makes all the difference. When a few dozen die in an outburst of random violence we shake our heads in disbelief. Mystified, we ask how such events could happen. Apparently it's a flaw in our allegedly intelligent design: *Homo sapiens* only respond when the carnage is immediate and obvious. When it's gradual and slow it's easy to pretend or believe that it isn't happening at all.

Now, in the third decade of the War on Truth, we can see the same principle working on reality itself. Kill it off gradually, over time, and no one will notice until it's too late.

A little over 20 years ago, Fox News, Newt Gingrich, and Frank Luntz all sprang up together, like a nasty little cluster of toxic mushrooms. They had the benefit of coming up through well-prepared soil—thanks to work begun two



Chris Breen © 3/18/2018
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE - NH 03802

decades earlier by future Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

A Member of the Board of cancer merchant Phillip Morris, Powell was being paid to argue that his company was being unjustly prevented from exercising its First Amendment right to deny that cigarette smoking is bad for you. A neighbor, the head propagandist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, apparently noticing Powell's indifference to facts and morality, asked him to write a screed countering the devil himself: consumer activist Ralph Nader.

Powell outdid himself, writing a Magna Carta for corporations. It outlined how they should band together, reverse the pernicious effects of the New Deal, and bring the nation back to its glory days: company towns, child labor, Pinkertons beating the hell out of strikers, and no income tax; back when robber barons could still buy Senators cheap from

easily-corrupted state legislatures.

By the time Rupert, Newt, and Frank came along in the mid-90s, a slew of corporate propaganda mills were already cranking out reams of professionally-packaged lies on a daily basis. Their unifying characteristic was that they skewed the truth in ways that just happened to tend towards generating higher profits.

Average Americans were understandably preoccupied, performing whatever tasks were required of them to avoid being hungry and having to sleep under a bridge. No one tried to direct their attention to the underlying pattern except the usual assortment of easily-dismissed malcontents.

The First Amendment being a double-edged sword—more lethal every day, thanks to the Federalist Society, whose members are now the Godfathers of the Supreme Court—a generation of America's Most Gullible has been raised on a

diet of corn syrup laced with partisan methamphetamine.

Twenty years dead, Powell grins from his grave. He and Gingrich and Luntz, and now McConnell, Ryan and Trump, have yanked the country back a century, well before that commie FDR. We've regressed to June 16, 1918, when Eugene V. Debs said in Canton, Ohio, "... it cannot be repeated too often: the working class who fight the battles, the working class who make the sacrifices, the working class who shed the blood, the working class who furnish the corpses, the working class have never yet had a voice in declaring war. The working class have never yet had a voice in making peace. It is the ruling class that does both. They declare war; they make peace."

For that, Debs was sentenced to ten years in prison. Undeterred, he ran for President from his cell, receiving nearly one million votes.

The Alleged News®

Does State Street Now Have a Libertarian [Virtual] Gun Shop?

If your idea of a good time is cosplaying the character Mitch Leary, the psycho-killer portrayed by John Malkovich's in *Line of Fire*, upgrading your costume just got easier—and legal.

In that quarter-century-old political thriller, Malkovich's disgruntled ex-CIA hit man laboriously casts a small two-shot pistol from epoxy resin, strolls past the Secret Service's metal detectors, and takes a shot or two at the President. [Spoiler alert: the villain Leary dies, the President and Clint Eastwood don't.]

Now it's not just possible but perfectly legal to download a digital file, plug it into a 3D printer, and produce a functioning, plastic, one-shot, .380 ACP handgun called "The Liberator"—undetectable and untraceable.

Who do we have to thank for this

bold step forward? The fun-loving U.S. State Department, which is now, apparently, a partially-owned subsidiary of Koch Industries.

Under the dour administration of Barack Obama, Foggy Bottom had nixed the publication of digital files for downloadable guns through a persnickety reading of an existing arms export law.

Under Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, whose entire career has been underwritten by America's least favorite Band of Libertarian Oligarchical Brothers, Charles and David Koch [you could look it up], that ruling was reversed in April.

That change—made by an un-elected bureaucrat, let's remember—set Texas anarcho-libertarian Cody Wilson free to make a literal arsenal available on the World Wide Web. Forget that kludgy-looking

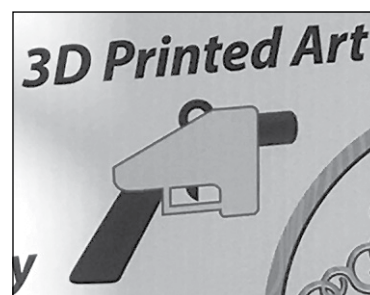
Liberator—he's got plans online for milling finished AR-15s out of readily-available castings!

Woops—Stop the Presses! Just hours before the fun started, a District Court judge in Seattle put the kibosh on his plan.

Goodness gracious, as Donald Rumsfeld used to say—it sure is exciting to be an American!

According to a July 27th story in the Award-Winning Local Daily, 3D printers are available for public use at the Portsmouth Public Library and the Port City Maker Space. The managers of those facilities, however, agree with Portsmouth Police Chief Robert Merner: home-made zip guns are a bad idea. Neither will allow them to be manufactured on their premises.

The A-frame sign in front of the Free State Bitcoin Shoppe on State



Street, though, suggests that not everyone is so persnickety. The sign plugs Libertarian-themed goods such as jewelry, watches, apparel, and "3D printed art"—that last item appearing adjacent to the unmistakable outline of Cody Wilson's "Liberator."

Exactly what all this might mean we cannot really say. By all rights, we should go over there and ask them. Have you ever tried to talk to a Libertarian, though? We hate to admit to bias, but ...

The Alleged News®

to page two



The Alleged News®

from page one

The Department of Alleged Justice

Attorney General Jeffrey Beauregard Sessions III recently spoke to members of the oligarch-sponsored, Right Wing student organization Turning Point USA. Referring to 2016 Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, he beamed as they chanted, "Lock Her Up."

In more constructive justice-related news, a nationwide prison strike has been called from August 21st to September 9th, demanding immediate improvements to prison conditions and an immediate end to prison slavery. The 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, it should be noted, bars slavery "except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted"—a loophole wide enough to drive approximately 2.2 million people through.

A similar strike began September 9, 2016, the 45th anniversary of the Attica uprising. More than 24,000 people incarcerated in 24 states took

part, making it the largest such event in U.S. history. Unfair use of prison labor, poor wages, and unsatisfactory living conditions were the primary complaints. *Wikipedia* notes that, "despite the high number of striking prisoners, the strike received little mainstream media coverage." To which we plead, guilty as charged. We'll try to do better this time.

The Republican position has been clear for decades: build more prisons—preferably private ones—and fill 'em up! (Giving priority, of course, to people of color who might be tempted to cast misguided votes for a non-Republican.) The Democratic position has been crickets, at least as one might judge from any positive changes. What keeps changing is the prison population, which has been rising inexorably. Under such conditions of repression and ineffectiveness, should we really be surprised that the only sign of real leadership in the right direction appears to be coming from inside the gulag?

For more information, see *prison-strike.com*.



In the vernacular peculiar to the world of customized motorcycles, we believe that bikes sporting extravagant, oversized luggage holders such as these are called either "baggers," or "tail draggers." If we're wrong about that, perhaps a reader more familiar with, and more persnickety about, the terminology will correct us. We'll just call them bustles. Whatever they are, our Wandering Photographer discovered these two spectacular examples last Saturday.



Hot Enough For Ya?

According to NOAA, 2015 was the 2nd warmest year on record, 2016 was the warmest, and 2017 was the 3rd warmest. The way 2018 is going, it seems certain that in 2019 we'll learn that we have just lived through the four hottest years on record.

For a damn hoax, Global Warming sure is overperforming.

Robinson Helicopters Claim Another Life

A New Zealand man, 39-year old Matthew Wallis, was missing for two days after his Robinson R44 helicopter crashed July 21st at Lake Wanaka in New Zealand. Wallis was from a family of aviation pioneers, and was flying "over a route he had taken thousands of times before," according to his brother.

The NTSB, investigating the Robinson helicopter that killed two people last month in Williamsburg, Va. has reported that the R44 "descended at a rate of greater than 10,000 feet per minute" before hitting the ground.

A Modest Proposal for a City Ordinance

People who live in recently constructed buildings with inadequate parking, who own more than one vehicle and park one of those vehicles on the street in un-metered areas, shall 1) be allowed to buy reduced-rate garage parking when they go on vacation, and 2) will have their cars towed after three days if they don't.

Dr. Fowle's Dept of Ornithology

A large flock of Portsmouth warblers is nesting along the southeastern shore of the North Mill Pond. These big, ungainly creatures are identifiable by their flat monotonous call. It is audible for half a second, then quiet for half a second, then audible again for half a second. It seems interminable, but, curiously, is only heard between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. According to our in-house expert, this infestation—these critters are obnoxious and without redeeming qualities—is expected to last for several more years, until all

their potential breeding grounds have been covered with their ... leavings.

Let's Tax the Rich, by Lawrence Wittner

Whatever happened to the notion that rich people should pay their fair share of the cost for their country's public programs?

Progressive income taxes—designed to fund government services and facilities—go back centuries, and are based on the idea that taxes should be levied most heavily on people with the ability to pay them. In the United States, the federal government introduced its first income tax in 1861, to cover the costs of the Civil War. Although new federal income tax legislation in the 1890s was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court, the resulting public controversy led, in 1913, to passage of the sixteenth amendment to the Constitution, firmly establishing the legality of an income tax.

The progressive income tax—

"As soon as the generals and the politicians can predict the motions of your mind, lose it."

— Wendell Berry

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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levied, at its inception, only on the wealthiest Americans—was a key demand and political success of the Populist and Progressive reformers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As might be expected, most of the wealthy regarded it with intense hostility, especially as the substantial costs of World War I sent their tax rates soaring. The development of jobs programs and other public services during the New Deal, capped by the vast costs of World War II and the early Cold War, meant that, by the 1950s, although most Americans paid income taxes at a modest rate, the official tax rate for Americans with the highest incomes stood at about 91 percent.

Of course, the richest Americans didn't actually pay at that rate, thanks to a variety of deductions, loopholes, and its application to only the highest increment of their income. Even so, like many of the wealthy throughout history, they deeply resented paying a portion of their income to benefit other people—people whom they often regarded as inferior to themselves. Consequently, cutting taxes for the rich became one of their top political priorities.

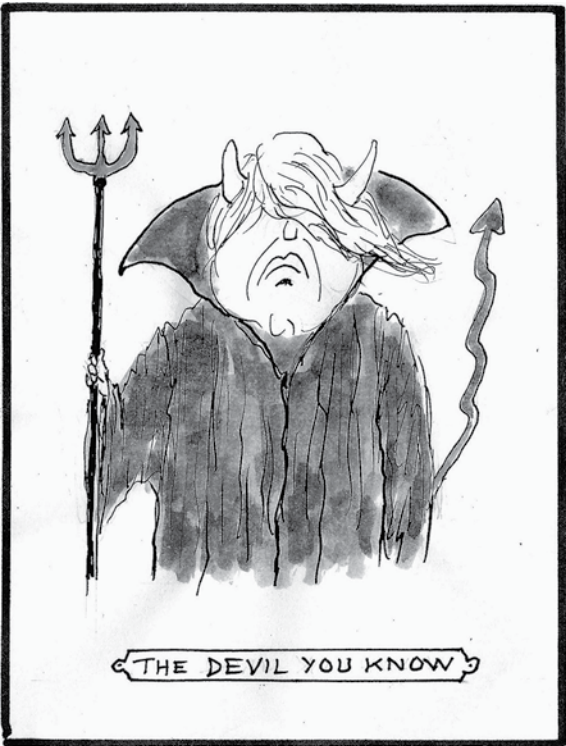
Facing a strong backlash from the

wealthiest Americans, their corporations, and conservative politicians, the federal government began a retreat. In 1964, the top marginal tax rate was reduced to 70 percent, in 1982 to 50 percent, and, in 1988, to 28 percent. Although it was raised somewhat during the Clinton presidency, it was reduced again during the reign of George W. Bush.

The Trump-GOP tax cut of \$1.5 trillion in December 2017 provided the latest payoff to the wealthy. It lowered the top tax rate, slashed the corporate tax rate from 35 to 21 percent, and doubled exemptions from the federal inheritance tax to \$22 million per married couple. Although not all of the tax benefits went to the richest Americans, the vast bulk of them did. An estimated 83 percent of the households among America's wealthiest one-tenth of one percent will receive a tax break, with an average benefit of \$193,380 per year.

Why did Americans support this new raid upon the Federal treasury that enriches the nation's millionaires and billionaires?

Actually, they didn't. A Gallup poll of April 2017 found that 63 percent of Americans believed that upper income people paid too little in taxes. That same month, the Pew



Research Center reported that 60 percent of Americans were bothered "a lot" by the fact that "some wealthy people don't pay their fair share" of taxes. In October 2017, a Reuters/Ipsos poll discovered that three-quarters of Americans thought that the wealthiest Americans should pay more in taxes. Furthermore, surveys taken at the time by U.S. polling agencies consistently found that public support for the regressive Trump-GOP tax legislation languished in the mid-20s.

A key reason why most Americans favor taxing the rich is the traditional one: the wealthiest have the greatest ability to shoulder the nation's tax burden. After all, America's richest one percent now possess nearly 40 percent of the nation's wealth—almost twice the wealth held by 90 percent of the public. Indeed, it's hard to imagine why they need to add anything to the enormous wealth they have already amassed. For example, Charles and David Koch, heirs to a vast fortune and, currently, the leading champions of tax-cutting and other right-wing schemes, have a combined net wealth of \$120 billion. If they simply stopped raking in additional income and, instead, each spent \$1 million per day, they could continue doing that for over 164 years.

Conversely, nearly half of all American households cannot afford the basics of existence like food,

housing, and medical care. Why should they be taxed heavily—or at all—to fund public facilities and services that the richest Americans, with their unprecedented wealth, can easily afford to cover?

Another reason to raise taxes on the rich is that it's good for the economy. Of course, this contradicts the unverified contention of their cheerleaders that such taxation leads to job loss and economic collapse. But, in fact, as even some leading businessmen have pointed out, taxing the rich to fund public programs increases investment, boosts productivity, and creates more and better jobs. Following World War II, when the wealthiest Americans had a 91 percent tax rate and top federal tax rates on stock dividends ran between 70 and 90 percent, America experienced an enormous economic boom. Another surge of rapid economic growth occurred in the late 1990s, following federal tax hikes on wealthy investors. Only after President George W. Bush pushed through sharp cuts in taxes for the wealthy did the American economy slow and then collapse in the Great Recession.

Much the same pattern has emerged in the states. In 2012, Kansas slashed its tax rates, while California raised taxes on its wealthiest residents. Five years later, the Kansas economy was on life support, while California was undergoing the

strongest economic growth in the nation.

Not surprisingly, states are turning increasingly to enacting a "millionaires tax," and the Trump-GOP tax cuts for the rich have become a potential political liability for the Republicans in the 2018 congressional elections.

Dr. Lawrence Wittner, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is Professor of History emeritus at SUNY/Albany. He is the author of *Confronting the Bomb* (Stanford University Press).

Victory Over Postal Drag!

We are pleased, relieved—hell, we're ecstatic at being able to announce that our new mailing system is apparently performing as desired. In response to our request for feedback, two New Hampshire subscribers, in Auburn and Northwood, reported next-day delivery of their papers. We apologize for any whiplash they may have sustained. A whole slew of subscribers from Massachusetts, western New York state, the 'burbs of Philadelphia, and locations as far-flung as Texas and North Carolina, said they received their papers on the Monday following our Friday mailing.

This recent change in our mailing practices may finally have eliminated undue delays. We won't know for sure unless people report back. Please tell us how we're doing by emailing editors@nhgazette.com.



Sail Portsmouth 2018 has now come and gone. The weather, always an important consideration for such events, was as peachy on Sunday as it was ghastly the day before. The Oliver Hazard Perry, shown here, was the largest vessel taking part in what formerly was known as the Tall Ships Festival. In 2009, the American Sail Training Association, whose lawyers had trademarked every conceivable combination of the words "tall" and "ship," threatened to sue the Piscataqua Maritime Commission unless it changed the name of the popular event to something else. Portsmouth Celebrates Floating Transportation Devices Powered by Impressively-Proportioned Vertical Spindles, perhaps.

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Our Best Mash Note Yet

To the Editor:
After reading the Mash Notes, &c. in your issue of Friday, June 22, 2018, I thought you might like to know a result of Ann Stevens of Wisconsin having read your paper and sharing it.

One of her wise friends sent a copy of your paper to a Minnesota aunt. The aunt sent it to me, I sent it on to my daughter in South Dakota.

The aunt ordered a subscription in November, so we continue to read and share.

It's good to read what you print for us.

Mary Levander
Ely, Minn.

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Dear Mary,

There are few things in life more gratifying than hearing about people spontaneously passing our paper around. Like a parent, an editor loves all his or her readers equally. Please don't tell anyone, but, you, your daughter, a Minnesota aunt, and Ann Stevens are now our four favorite readers.

The Editor

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Russia Innuendo Costs Much, Gains Nothing

To the Editor:

The July 20th edition of the *New Hampshire Gazette* perpetuates the foregone conclusion of "the near-certainty that Putin's crew meddled in the 2016 election," as its editor put it. Yet this reasoning confuses allegations for evidence and indictments for convictions. As *Politifact.com* put it: "U.S. intelligence agencies *have said* Putin ordered actions to interfere with the election ... to undermine public faith in the democratic process."

There are numerous reasons to lose faith in the U.S. process, and Russia is the least among them: the role of money in politics, gerrymandering and electronic voting machines to name a few. Yet it is the (ongoing?) role of U.S. intel agencies in overthrowing governments that disqualifies them as impartial sources who serve democratic ideals. While following the breathless articles about this for the last two years, I've seen no convincing evidence of election meddling by the

Russian government. It is the responsibility of those who present this as a fact to provide real evidence first. I doubt U.S. spies never make mistakes and are consistently unwilling to lie to Americans.

Clinton did run a "deplorable campaign" in the editor's words, but her actions were not just strategically flawed. An NBC News article ("Bernie Sanders Camp: The Fix Was in Against Us") describes how her campaign seized control of the DNC far before the primary election. This might not have been illegal, but was certainly unfair and contrary to the impartial role the parties are supposed to play. Did it change the outcome? Probably not, but whatever Russia may have done probably didn't change the outcome either. If Russia did play a role in exposing Clinton's misdeeds, maybe it strengthens our democracy to know the truth.

These half-baked allegations related to Russia are a distraction with real dangers and deep hypocrisy. Confrontational anti-diplomacy increases the risk of direct war, including nuclear war, and obstructs progress on shared issues including terrorism. Countless U.S.-funded covert actions and disinformation campaigns, possibly including helping to overthrow the freely elected (yet pro-Russian) President Yanukovich of Ukraine, are probably viewed by Russia's government as justification to respond in kind. It can take many years for the truth about dirty tricks to come out; We know for sure the U.S. overthrew democratic governments in Iran in 1953, Guatemala in 1954, and Chile in 1973. Attempts to violently overthrow Syria continue.

If you want Trump impeached, ensure it happens over a crime he actually committed, not over a smokescreen of dirt kicked up to prevent positive engagement with Russia.

For further information on this subject, please see fair.org/home/the-utility-of-the-russiagate-conspiracy/.

Steve Diamond
Barrington N.H.

Steve:

Although they are rarely acknowl-



edged, this country's imperial sins permeate the historical record like Penicillium roqueforti in blue cheese. Domestically, the government's various surveillance and law enforcement arms, in addition to their legitimate functions, have frequently trod on our civil rights—particularly among those on the left, and at the bottom, and among people of color. The existence of these violations, though, does not preclude the likelihood that this globe-spanning cloud of smoke in fact originates in a fire.

The Editor

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Still Waiting for the Evidence

To the Editor:

And the witch hunt continues after the useless indictment of twelve Russians who will never see the inside of an American courtroom, not only because they will not submit themselves to this travesty but because a no-show is just what the Democrats and Mr. Mueller want. It will give them the opportunity to try these individuals *in absentia* and to find them guilty. Furthermore, if the alleged perpetrators did appear their defense might want what was, prior to this investigation, the cornerstone of any trial—evidence.

Now imagine that your home was broken into and valuables were stolen and you refused to reveal to the police what was taken. In addition, you refused to permit the police to examine the scene of the crime. This is what happened with the Democrats and is the foundation for Mueller's ridiculous indictments. They are indictments that did not arise from any forensic evidence. And this is so because the alleged victims of this alleged crime refused then and refuse now to turn over the evidence. The last thing the Democrats want is for the public to know what is, or was, on those servers.

I would love to see such a trial with the lawyers demanding that the DNC turn over those servers. But, don't hold your breath.

With all this waste of time invested in the Mueller fiasco, why is it that the Democrats, the Deep State, and their propaganda apparatus—the media and the so-called entertainment industry—concentrate on Mr. Trump's real blunders—withdrawing from the Iranian deal, and moving the American embassy to Jerusalem? But, I suspect everyone knows the answer to that question.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.

John:

Ah, yes—the famous DNC servers. Well, just as you are free to follow every shiny object Sean Hannity produces from his voluminous sleeve, so are we free to ignore any Trumped-up distractions produced by stooges of the oligarchy. As for the rest of it, see reply above.

Bye the bye, you're dead right about Iran and Jerusalem. The anti-government-obsessed GOP doesn't give a damn about screwing up foreign policy, though, so they'll accept the ensuing global chaos.

The Editor

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Ewing on Justice

To the Editor:

The kind of Supreme Court Justice someone wants indicates the kind of country he or she wants. Does one want a government that abides by the consent of the governed, as envisioned by the authors of our Declaration of Independence, Constitution and laws passed by Congress, or a government controlled by a Judicial Oligarchy, five or more unelected, unaccountable, and fallible people that impose their will on the American people?

Donning a black robe doesn't confer wisdom or divinity. Supreme Court Justices made many bad decisions, e.g., approving slavery, "separate but equal," and internment Japanese-Americans during WW II. Recent decisions out-

rage Conservatives and Progressives, e.g., eminent domain (*Kelo*), *Citizens United*, gun control (*Heller*), and Obamacare.

[Deleted due to lack of space: 300 words worth of *Federalist Society*-generated claptrap defending the indefensible.—The Ed.]

When Supreme Court decisions are based on judicial activism, then the American people no longer control their government; we are being ruled by a judicial tyranny.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

There are none so blind as those who will not see.

The Editor

====

The NRA is Being Played!

To the Editor:

The NRA I grew up with promoted good sportsmanship and hunter safety. Now they promote hate, white supremacy, and social discord at the point of a gun using classic propaganda tactics spewed by populist action-figures like Dana Loesch.

Vladimir Putin and the Russian Federation love it because it's exactly the kind of social chaos they support to destabilize western society. The White House loves it because it plays to the more prurient instincts of Trump's base.

The Trump Administration is happy to champion the NRA for short-term political gain, but the bromance may go deeper. When the time is right, what authoritarian leader wouldn't welcome a few bouts of armed civil confrontation to justify the imposition of martial law?

NRA members might want to think about how private gun ownership would fare under martial law. It's a

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*"It requires wisdom to understand
wisdom: the music is nothing
if the audience is deaf."*

— Walter Lippman (1889-1974)
journalist



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battle the “good guys with guns” could easily lose—and one that would be exceedingly bloody and costly to win.

The NRA’s fantasies portraying chaos, division, and violence are all non-starters in a democratic republic. Unity is the single weapon Main Street America’s enemies fear most. Let’s show them how it works.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Republicans Flip-Flop on War and Debt
To the Editor:

Republicans certainly like to start unnecessary costly wars. First we had George W. Bush initiating an unnecessary war with Iraq which, in addition to costing almost 5,000 American lives and thousands of wounded, has already cost us \$1.7 trillion with an additional \$490 billion owed to war veterans, expenses that could grow to more than \$6 trillion over the next 4 decades (Reuters 3/14/13).

Now we are engaged in Donald Trump’s unnecessary trade war which will be another economic and geopolitical disaster. Mr. Trump has announced that he will provide 12 billion of our tax dollars to Mid-West farmers to compensate them for the losses they will experience because of his disastrous policy. Where are these unexpected and budgeted funds going to come from? Obviously, this expenditure will be added to our already exploding budget deficit and our national debt. What other sectors of the economy will also be harmed by the Trump Trade War that will also require our tax dollars to be used to compensate for their losses?

Where are the once fiscal conservative deficit hawks of the Republican Party? The same fiscal conservatives who go along with the Trump Trade

War and who recently passed a huge tax cut for the wealthy that the Congressional Budget Office states will require the government to borrow \$1 trillion this fiscal year, an 84 percent increase from the last fiscal year and will add \$1.9 trillion to our national debt. This, of course, is on top of the Bush Tax cuts of 2001 and 2003, which have added \$3.5 trillion to our debt since they were extended in 2010 (Congressional Research Service), and the Iraq War costs stated above, which, even before Trump’s tax cut and Trade War had already exploded our debt.

When it comes to providing funds for education, infrastructure, health care, the environment, social security etc. Republicans suddenly become fiscally conservative. However, whenever funds are needed for an unnecessary war, or for tax cuts for the wealthy, fiscal conservatism and concern about the deficit and national debt suddenly disappears. The Republican legacy of unnecessary debt which provided no tangible benefits, while ignoring our pressing social, infrastructure and health care needs, will haunt our nation for generations.

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

What Did Putin Tell Trump To Do?
To the Editor:

The first time Trump met Putin in the White House his aides were in the room. They let the world know Trump blurted out secret information the U.S. was given by Israel that Israel did not want shared with Russia.

What did Trump learn from this incident? If you intend to give away state secrets, do not have witnesses. Since then he and Putin have met privately with only a translator present. Not even his security advisors know what he discusses during these meetings.

Only the Russians are willing to say something about what Trump agreed to at the meeting.

Apparently, a two-hour meeting in Helsinki was not enough time to tell Putin everything or get all the marching orders from Putin so Trump invited Putin to the White House this fall. After so many in his own party complained publicly Trump put the meeting off until after the election. I hope the room is bugged so someone in America knows what secrets he is giving away and what new orders he received.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.

Walter:
Imagine if Obama pulled that stunt—or any of these stunts.
The Editor

Most Powerful Politician in the U.S.
To the Editor:

Whatever becomes of the Donald Trump presidency we are sure to live in a much different America than we have because of it. Mitch McConnell has been filling our highest courts with persons expected to rule on cases from an ideological bias. No one is entirely free of bias and prejudice but jurists are expected to set theirs aside and rule on the facts of matter and law. Not these jurists, they are being appointed because they will be informed by rather than set aside their prejudices.

Part of how we got here is the result of actions Senator McConnell took and failed to take during the Obama administration. While executing an extreme play of power politics blocking the confirmation of Merrick Garland, McConnell was informed about extensive meddling in the 2016 by the Russian Federation to swing the election in the republican parties favor. McConnell chose to personally benefit from this rather than plainly tell you and me. His power play was successful and he continues to remake the

administration of justice in the United States in other ways that further empower him.

McConnell is arguably the most powerful politician in the United States today. In my opinion no one else is even close. He neglected his duty to the country to pursue the goals of his insatiable greed for great power. What I have written about is public knowledge. When it benefits Mitch McConnell and the republicans they will disown and disgrace Donald Trump. They will not give back anything they got as a result of supporting him and even in disgrace he will be a useful distraction from what they are doing.

Thomas Laperriere
Milton, N.H.

The White Supremacy, Me First Party
To the Editor:

There is now a new and very recognizable political party. It could be called the Anarchist Helter Skelter party, or the Tea Freedom party—or the Trump-Putin party. Actually it is the “White Supremacy, Me First party.” It is exclusively of, by, and for the base Cluster Mob—headed by fake POTUS.

It initially began shortly after President Obama was elected. Alexandra Pelosi made a documentary interviewing the folks at Tea Party gatherings in various states. It was shocking to see the delirious hatred and revulsion spewing from most of them. One middle-aged man was sobbing in despair at the mere idea of a black man being President. That film should be shown again today so that the present disastrous Administration could be better understood as to one of its origins. Congressional invaders who exploited the extreme Tea Party sentiments now remain in the House of Representatives—creating Trump havoc—which they think are power plays. Racial bigotry is not the only prejudice being used as propaganda and provocateur tools—in order to stay on the path to the authoritarian autocracy that fake POTUS and St. Pence are aiming for.

Bigotry of every kind—political, religious, LGBTQ citizens, legal

safe abortions, gay marriage, military women—are all secretly harbored in proselytized, uncompromising, spiteful, fervent souls. They present many challenges to the spirit and strength of the peoples’ democracy. The White Supremacy, Me First Party contains some of the remnants of the Tea Caucus—now in the House of Representatives.

Fake POTUS is so immersed in his Me First world that he ignores or is bitterly critical of the rest of the intelligent population and saying governing. He fears people who are smarter than he is. Many brilliant FBI express are digging deep and thoroughly for undebatable truth. The trashy lies about them have no effect, as fake POTUS’ elderly dementia continues. Most of the world populations of many races have been evolving out of the same average savagery and self-centered defense fabrications. So there is hope that nature and Karma will even it all out someday.

But it will take time—lots of it, considering what took place on July 12, 2018 in the House of Representatives! The WSPCMF headhunters of the Tea Caucus tried to politically mangle a brilliant, experienced FBI official. As he very effectively stood his ground, the tea savages grew so flustered that they each showed it with hysterical anger at Mr. Strzok’s replies. The air was thick with it as America watched it. Surely there will be more so shocking eruptions occurring at every encounter where Fake POTUS touches down, here and on the world stage—showing off his arrogant feeble mind.

All of these challenges will certainly be very interesting!

Helen McKinney
Sapphire, N.C.

Win, or Be Won
To the Editor:

The Democratic leadership says the party needs to “win back” working Americans. You’ve got to be kidding. Do these snotty elitists plan to pat us on the head and speak soothingly or

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.
to page six

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Koch industries doesn't just lobby government, it's becoming the government

by Jim Hightower

The Koch brothers extremist political agenda of empowering multinational corporations to reign as sovereigns over the majority will of the people has always been inextricably entwined with the profiteering agenda of their wholly-owned, \$100-billion-a-year, industrial conglomerate.

The brothers' plutocratic view of business-as-government even has a name: Pompeo. As in Mike Pompeo, the Trump regime's latest Secretary of State.

Years ago, while living in the billionaire brothers' hometown of Wichita, Kansas, Mike got lucky when they pumped a load of Koch capital into a business he'd started, turning him into a millionaire. Then, they partnered with him in another business that essentially made him a Koch Industries subsidiary. In 2010, they turned this business asset they'd created into a political asset, providing the money from KOCHPAC and the backing of their right-wing front group to elect Pompeo to serve as "The Congressman from Koch." The brothers even installed a Koch

Industries lobbyist to run his congressional office.

So, Mike's been a loyal Koch-head, conferring with them and backing bills to advance their corporate and political fortunes. Their investment in Mike became a bonanza last year when he became Trump's yes-man as the head of the CIA. And now, they've hit the political jackpot, with Pompeo becoming head of the State Department. On everything from international oil deals that profit multinational giants like Koch Industries to supporting the brothers' relentless opposition to

all global efforts that would restrict fossil fuel profiteers from causing more climate change. The Koch's personal political insider is now their global corporate asset.

To keep up with how Mike converts Koch-headed corporatism into U.S. foreign policy, go to prwatch.org/topics/koch-exposed.

~~~~~

Populist author, public speaker, and radio commentator Jim Hightower writes The Hightower Lowdown, a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America's ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites.



Mike Pompeo

Sign up at [HightowerLowdown.org](http://HightowerLowdown.org).

from page six

wherein the corporation has replaced the king. Now that you have been informed, what are you going to do?

Rep. Dick Marple  
Merrimack [#24], N.H.  
Dick:  
*You've convinced us. This is neither a Republic nor a Democracy. It's an asylum.*

The Editor

~~~~~

Cicero and Khrushchev Warned Us
To the Editor:

Ancient Roman statesman and philosopher Marcus Tullius Cicero gave us more than sufficient time to prepare for and prevent the current major Constitutional crisis that America currently faces as he warned us (about 2000 years ago):

"A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly. But the traitor moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself."

It should be extremely obvious by now, to even the most casual of observers, where our President's loyalties lie after recently witnessing him perform Putin's work of berating our traditional Western allies and then siding with the Russian leader over the U.S. intelligence community, comprised of about 80,000 career professionals, who have unanimously



ly concluded that Russia interferred in our 2016 elections and will do the same in November.

#45 couldn't have possibly come this far, in committing what will be viewed as the most treasonous act in our nation's short history (conspiring with a foreign adversarial power to undermine our "free and fair elections" and Western Democracy), without the assistance of his many accomplices (i.e. his "angry white working class male" and Evangelical Christian base, the Right Wing Media and the Republican Party).

Sure, a tiny handful of Republican senators, including John McCain and Jeff Flake, have expressed disapproval towards #45, but even they have taken no action to hold him accountable. Congressional Republicans' refusal to execute checks and balances on #45 clearly demonstrates their willingness to tolerate treason as a price to achieve their agenda (obtaining a \$1.5 trillion tax scam for the wealthy oligarchs and filling the Supreme Court with Conservative extremists). Meanwhile, the Republican-led Congress has been plotting cuts to Social Security and Medicare in the 2019 Budget while we stare at the shiny object.

Soviet Union Premier Nikita Khrushchev warned us long after Cicero, "We do not have to invade the United States, we will destroy

you from within."

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

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**Happy August 2nd, Everybody!**  
To the Editor:

August 2, 1776, is the day our founders signed our Declaration of Independence. "On August 2, 1776, a parchment paper copy of the Declaration was signed by 56 persons. Many of these signers were not present when the original Declaration was adopted on July 4. Signer Matthew Thornton from New Hampshire was seated in the Continental Congress in November; he asked for and received the privilege of adding his signature at that time and signed on November 4, 1776. According to legal historian Wilfred Ritz, about thirty-four delegates signed the Declaration on July 4, and the others signed on or after August 2." (Wikipedia)

So here we are at August 2, 2018—with the current President doing deals that please his ego, and threatening to shut down government if he doesn't get his way and have that expensive Wall that's the butt of comedians' joke and the topic of critics who know the U.S. has thrived with our past practice of welcoming new-comers. Our grandparents and great-grandparents etc. came here for work and freedom. "But let's not

let in the Mexicans," is our sitting President's motto, despite that these newcomers are from dangerous Honduras and Guatemala and Colombia and other countries south of our border where we fostered tyrants who were and are anti-democracy.

The complications of fleeing for one's life don't register with President Trump, whose willfulness gets no curbing by Republicans at the trough, sensing good deals for themselves.

So, here's to our Declaration of Independence signers that long-ago August, and, alas, their ghosts wincing at our country's failings now.

Lynn Rudmin Chong  
Sanbornton, N.H.

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POTUS Candidate's Position on UFOs
To the Editor:

Do you believe UFOs are real? Yes, and I, myself, have seen a UFO. Do you believe that some of the reported UFOs are both intelligently controlled and extra-terrestrial in origin? Yes, but don't just take my word for it—thoroughly investigate the issue and come to your own conclusions. Have UFOs ever tampered with the launch readiness of U.S. nuclear weapons? Yes, and there is ample testimony from credible sources.

These are the kinds of honest questions and honest answers that we need in our country's political

system for a change. Candidates for U.S. Congress and for U.S. President, for example, should be asked these kinds of questions, and candidates should be expected to answer in a thoughtful, intelligent, and educated manner which shows that they take the issue seriously for a change.

We need to create a political environment in which honest, forthright discussion about the reality of UFOs and ET visitors does not result in political suicide. The stigma and ridicule surrounding this subject needs to be abolished, and politicians courageous enough to talk openly and honestly about UFOs and ETs—without being dismissive or denying the ongoing reality—should be rewarded with our votes.

I am running as a write-in candidate for U.S. President. I, myself, have seen UFOs, I have spoken in person with credible people who report having been abducted by ETs, and I furthermore believe the many credible witnesses, such as U.S. Air Force personnel in charge of ICBM nuclear missiles, who report UFOs hovering directly over nuclear missile silos and tampering with the launch readiness of those missiles.

We can do better than fear, ridicule, and denial. It's time we elect candidates who can face and speak the truth for a change. We owe it to ourselves, to future generations, and to Mother Earth to build a foundation of trust and respect for life.

Alex J. Boros
Rochester, N.H.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

| SUNDAY, AUGUST 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       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| <p><b>2011</b>—S&amp;P lowers the U.S.’s credit rating because the GOP says it might not let the government pay its bills.</p> <p><b>2007</b>—On Lake Winnepesaukee, the President of France, clad only in swim trunks, jumps into the boat of AP photographer Jim Cole and berates him for doing his job.</p> <p><b>2004</b>—“Our enemies,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we.”</p> <p><b>1981</b>—Ronald Reagan fires 12,700 air traffic controllers.</p> <p><b>1977</b>—The NRC admits it’s lost four tons of enriched uranium.</p> <p><b>1971</b>—ITT “donates” \$200,000 towards the Republican National Convention in return for a Justice Department reversal of an unfavorable antitrust ruling.</p> <p><b>1969</b>—The Army says eight Green Berets are under arrest for “terminating” a suspected South Vietnamese double agent “with extreme prejudice.”</p> <p><b>1962</b>—An official South African goon squad nabs fugitive anti-apartheid “terrorist” Nelson Mandela, thanks to a helpful tip from the CIA.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—When a B-29 hits a trailer park in California, 18 die. At least the nuke on board fails to explode.</p> <p><b>1949</b>—A wildfire “blows up” killing 13 smokejumpers in Mann Gulch, Mont.</p> <p><b>1912</b>—The Progressive Party is formed “to dissolve the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics.”</p> | <p><b>2016</b>—“One of my proudest moments,” says Sen. Mitch McConnell [R-KY], “was when I told President Obama, ‘You will not fill this Supreme Court vacancy.’”</p> <p><b>1991</b>—Tim Berners-Lee introduces the world to the World Wide Web.</p> <p><b>1970</b>—Disneyland shuts down early after 300 pot-smoking Yuppies invade, chanting Viet Cong slogans &amp; demanding freedom for Mickey Mouse.</p> <p><b>1957</b>—Carol Burnett becomes an overnight sensation by singing on the Jack Paar show, “I Made a Fool of Myself Over John Foster Dulles.”</p> <p><b>1945</b>—Sayonara, Hiroshima.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—N.Y. Supreme Court Justice and Democratic bigwig John Force Crater purges private files, cashes a large check, and disappears forever.</p> <p><b>1926</b>—Gertrude Ederle swims the English Channel two hours faster than any of the five men who had previously accomplished that feat.</p> <p><b>1895</b>—The socialist paper <i>Appeal to Reason</i> begins. By 1902 its circulation is the 4th highest in the U.S.</p> <p><b>1890</b>—New York State takes 8 minutes to execute William Kemmler, thrashing and smoking, in its new electric chair.</p> <p><b>1840</b>—Comanches, enraged by a massacre under a truce flag, kill 12 settlers in Victoria, Texas.</p> <p><b>1855</b>—Nativists in Louisville, egged on by a Know Nothing newspaper, torch Irish homes and shoot those who flee; 22 killed.</p> | <p><b>1998</b>—In retaliation for the rendition of four Egyptian jihadis, al-Qaeda bombs U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi; 224 die.</p> <p><b>1979</b>—A nuclear fuel plant leak near Erwin, Tenn., contaminates 1,000 people with 5 times a year’s normal background radiation.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—In New York, Phillipe Petit takes a stroll on a wire between the World Trade Center towers.</p> <p><b>1964</b>—Congress falls for Gulf of Tonkin hoax and gives L.B.J. unprecedented (and unconstitutional) power. Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) votes no, saying “I believe that within the next century, future generations will look with dismay and great disappointment upon a Congress which is now about to make such a historic mistake.”</p> <p><b>1957</b>—In Nevada, ZSG-3 becomes the first Goodyear Blimp to be brought down by a nuclear weapon.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Rep. Marion Zioncheck (D-Wash.), who once had a load of manure dumped on J. Edgar “Mary” Hoover’s lawn, defenestrates from the fifth floor of a Seattle office building.</p> <p><b>1930</b>—A mob drags three black men from the Marion, Id. jail to lynch them. A photo of two, dead, inspires the song, “Strange Fruit.” The third, rescued, later founds America’s Black Holocaust Museum.</p> <p><b>1890</b>—Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, “The Rebel Girl,” is born in Concord, N.H.</p> <p><b>1840</b>—Now warmed up, Comanches sack Linnville, Texas, killing 35.</p> | <p><b>2000</b>—The Confederate submarine <i>Hunley</i> is raised after 136 years.</p> <p><b>1991</b>—Guy wire replacement at the Warsaw Radio Mast goes wrong; the world’s tallest structure collapses.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—E. Robert Wallach, a close pal of Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese, is convicted of racketeering for accepting \$425,000 to influence Meese and others to win defense contracts for Wedtech Corp.</p> <p><b>1980</b>—Rep. Jon Hinson (R-Mich.), running for re-election, admits he’s been accused of committing an obscene act in a “gay haunt” in Virginia and once barely escaped a fire in a gay movie theatre; but he denies he’s gay.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Richard M. Nixon announces that yes, after all, he is a quitter.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Veep Spiro “Ted” Agnew calls the revelation that he took bribes as Governor of Maryland “damned lies.”</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Richard Nixon chooses Spiro “Ted” Agnew for a running mate.</p> <p><b>1963</b>—A British gang robs a Royal Mail train of £2.6 million.</p> <p><b>1925</b>—Imperial Wizard Hiram Evans leads 30,000 members of the Ku Klux Klan in full regalia down Pennsylvania Avenue to the Washington Monument.</p> <p><b>1899</b>—Albert T. Marshall is issued a patent for a refrigerator.</p> <p><b>1879</b>—Birth of Emiliano Zapata, future watermelon farmer and Mexican revolutionary.</p> <p><b>1296</b>—King Edward pilfers Scotland’s Stone of Scone.</p> | <p><b>2014</b>—Ferguson, Mo. cop Darren Wilson shoots Michael Brown, whose body is then left uncovered on the street for four hours.</p> <p><b>1997</b>—New York cop Justin Volpe sodomizes Haitian immigrant Abner Louima with a broomstick.</p> <p><b>1989</b>—George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush signs the Savings and Loan bailout. Among the bailees: his boys Neil and Jeb.</p> <p><b>1974</b>—Richard Milhous Nixon vacates the White House — finally.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—In Nagasaki, Hiroshima blast survivor Tsutomu Yamaguchi’s boss is skeptical of his story—until another A-bomb explodes.</p> <p><b>1936</b>—Lincoln Steffens, one of the original muckrakers, dies at 70.</p> <p><b>1892</b>—Reacting to a fatal disagreement two days earlier, a group of Hatfields tie three McCoy’s to a tree and shoot them.</p> <p><b>1874</b>—Paranormal chronicler Charles Fort materializes in Albany, N.Y.</p> <p><b>1872</b>—Fire destroys 547 buildings in Boston, killing 14.</p> <p><b>1842</b>—Herman Melville escapes from the Typee Valley in the Marquesas where he has been held captive by cannibals for a month.</p> <p><b>1842</b>—The Webster-Ashburton Treaty ends the Aroostook War.</p> <p><b>1610</b>—Under orders from Thomas West, 3rd and 12th Baron De La Warr, after whom Delaware is named, English settlers slaughter the Paspahgh, men, women, and children.</p> | <p><b>2005</b>—After playing online games fifty hours straight, Lee Seung Seop, 28, drops dead.</p> <p><b>2000</b>—“I want you to know,” George W.[MD] Bush tells farmers in Salinas, Calif., “that farmers are not going to be secondary thoughts to a Bush administration. They will be in the forefront of our thinking.”</p> <p><b>1993</b>—A Robinson R-22 helicopter falls apart about 1,000 feet above the Pacific, southeast of Honolulu, killing the pilot and a passenger, his wife.</p> <p><b>1973</b>—Free Marketeer Charles Koch writes Free Marketeer Friedrich von Hayek suggesting he move to the U.S. so he can collect Social[ist] Security.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Eight G.I.’s in Vietnam are killed by “friendly fire.”</p> <p><b>1961</b>—The U.S. Army begins using Agent Orange in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1959</b>—A B-52 crashes and burns in Fremont, N.H.; all eight crewmembers bail out and live.</p> <p><b>1950</b>—American military aid to the French begins arriving in Vietnam.</p> <p><b>1945</b>—The Japanese announce their intention to surrender.</p> <p><b>1887</b>—An engineer for the Toledo, Peoria &amp; Western, seeing a burning bridge ahead, uncouples his engine and crosses safely. His 81 passengers die when it collapses.</p> <p><b>1856</b>—Wind-driven waves drown 400 at a ball on Last Island, La.</p> <p><b>1680</b>—Pueblo Indians begin an 11-day revolt that will kill 400 Spaniards and drive them from New Mexico.</p> | <p><b>2017</b>—“Good people” rally for and against White Supremacy in Charlottesville, N.C. One of them commits vehicular homicide.</p> <p><b>2009</b>—President Obama speaks inside Portsmouth, N.H. High School. Outside, a Libertarian packing a 9-mm pistol carries a sign suggesting that it’s time to start shedding the “blood of patriots and tyrants.”</p> <p><b>1984</b>—Reagan “outlaws” Russia.</p> <p><b>1972</b>—The 3rd Battalion of the 21st Infantry Reg’t, the last U.S. ground combat unit in Vietnam, takes the Freedom Bird home.</p> <p><b>1968</b>—Pitcher Satchel Paige signs with the Braves. He’s 62.</p> <p><b>1966</b>—The first Coast Guardsmen (2) are killed in Vietnam when B-57s and F-4s attack the cutter <i>Point Welcome</i>.</p> <p><b>1965</b>—A white L.A. cop pulls over a black driver in Watts, triggering five days of riots costing 34 lives, mostly black, and causing \$200 million in property damage.</p> <p><b>1942</b>—Patent No. 2,292,387, using modified piano rolls to protect torpedoes from radio-jamming, goes to actress Hedy Lamarr.</p> <p><b>1921</b>—In Savanna, Georgia, E.R. Stephenson shoots Father James Coyle dead. Stephenson, a Southern Methodist minister, is acquitted; the judge and jury foreman are Klansmen.</p> <p><b>1894</b>—Charles “Hobo” Kelley and his 1,200 man “army” of unemployed are driven from Washington D.C. by Federal troops.</p> |
| <p>5:47 6:15 11:53</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 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| SUNDAY, AUGUST 12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      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**2004**—Tom McGreevy, the Democratic Governor of New Jersey, admits he’s been sleeping with a man who is not his wife, then resigns.

**2000**—The Russian sub *Kursk* is sunk in the Barents Sea, probably by its own torpedo; 112 crew members perish.

**1985**—A 747 with 524 on board, en route to Osaka, crashes after the tail falls off. Many survive but, due to delays, only four are rescued alive.

**1958**—Art Kane takes the photo known as “A Great Day in Harlem.” 57 jazz greats on a brownstone stoop.

**1955**—Ike raises the minimum wage from 75 cents to \$1 per hour.

**1953**—Russia tests an H-bomb.

**1935**—Babe Ruth plays his last game at Fenway.

**1898**—The U.S. annexes Hawaii and makes peace with Spain.

**1865**—Joseph Lister introduces a novel refinement to the art of surgery, which he calls “disinfectant.”

**1827**—William Blake is released from his earthly form.

**1806**—In Haverhill, N.H. 10,000 assemble to see Josiah Burnham hanged on his 63rd birthday. He had stabbed two fellow inmates in debtors prison.

**1676**—John Alderman, a “Praying Indian,” shoots and kills Metacomb, aka King Philip. Alderman is awarded the head and one hand. He sells the head to the town of Plymouth where it’s displayed atop a stake for 25 years. Metacom’s wife and child are sold to West Indian slave traders.

**2002**—“I promise you I will listen to what has been said here,” says George W.[MD] Bush at the President’s Economic Forum in Waco, Texas, “even though I wasn’t here.”

**1971**—So-called Attorney General John Mitchell announces that there will be no grand jury investigation of the May 4 shootings at Kent State.

**1966**—Chairman Mao’s Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution begins.

**1966**—“In two or three years, or even before” says S. Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Cao Ky, “the Communists will accept defeat.”

**1955**—Lamar Smith, a black WW I vet and voting activist, is shot dead at 10:00 a.m. on the lawn of the Lincoln County Courthouse in Brookhaven, Miss. No one is charged.

**1948**—Satchel Paige, 42, throws his first complete game for the Cleveland Indians; a 5-0 shutout.

**1925**—Baltimore’s Chamber of Commerce accuses H.L. Mencken of damaging the city’s trade with the south due to his reporting of the Scopes “monkey” trial.

**1906**—African-American soldiers raid Brownsville, Texas to avenge racial insults. One white man is killed, two are wounded.

**1899**—David Terry, former Chief Justice of the Calif. Supreme Court, assaults U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen J. Field. Terry is shot dead by Field’s bodyguard, a U.S. Marshal later cleared of wrongdoing.

**2003**—Untrimmed trees and a software bug knock out power to 55 million from Hudson’s Bay to New Jersey.

**1999**—George W.[MD] Bush “wins” a very Republican Iowa presidential straw poll: you can have all the votes you can afford, \$25 a pop.

**1968**—A Sikorski helicopter headed for Disneyland falls apart in mid-air, killing all 18 on board—84 days after a nearly identical catastrophe.

**1966**—“As long as the United States and our brave allies are in the field,” says Lyndon B. Johnson, “[a Communist takeover of South Vietnam] is impossible.”

**1945**—Japan surrenders, ending World War II.

**1936**—In Owensboro, Ky., at 5:30 a.m., 15,000 watch as Rainey Bethea becomes the last person publicly hanged in America. Arthur Hash, the assigned executioner, is so drunk a deputy sheriff has to pull the lever.

**1923**—“Felix the Cat” debuts.

**1912**—U.S. Marines invade Nicaragua to “protect American interests.”

**1908**—A would-be lynch mob in Springfield, Ill., frustrated that two black men had been removed from jail for their safety, begins to riot.

**1901**—In Fairfield, Conn., Gustave Whitehead pilots an acetylene-powered aircraft about half a mile.

**1862**—Abe Lincoln becomes the 1st President to meet a delegation of African-Americans, whom he offends by recommending they remove to Africa.

**1980**—The FAA announces an increase in sky marshals on commercial flights to stem the rising tide of hijackings.

**1977**—Ohio State’s Big Ear radio telescope records a 72-second burst suggesting there may be intelligent life . . . out there, somewhere.

**1971**—His budget busted by Vietnam, R. Nixon reneges on the U.S.’s promise to redeem dollars with gold.

**1969**—Half a million half-naked, drugged-up baby boomers begin a three-day mud wallow in Bethel, N.Y.

**1966**—*The New York Herald Tribune*, founded as the *Tribune* by N.H.-born Horace Greeley 125 years earlier, succumbs to a strike called by a labor union also founded by Greeley.

**1953**—TR’s grandson Kermit sends Iran’s Imperial Guard to arrest the Prime Minister, but they’re captured by his guards. The Shah flees to Rome.

**1945**—To celebrate the end of WW II, San Franciscans conduct a riot.

**1943**—About 35,000 Allied forces land on Kiska, one of the Rat Islands in the Aleutians. Though unopposed—the Japanese had evacuated two weeks earlier—300 end up missing in action or killed by friendly fire.

**1935**—Wiley Post and Will Rogers perish in a plane crash at Point Barrow, Alaska.

**1908**—The Illinois state militia subdues a mob of rioting whites. Seven people are dead; the black part of Springfield is a smoking ruin.

**1980**—Refugees hijack three jetliners to get back to Cuba.

**1977**—Elvis allegedly dies.

**1960**—USAF Col. Joe Kittinger exits a balloon-lofted gondola 19.4 miles over N.M., falls for 4.5 minutes, reaches 714 m.p.h., and lands safely.

**1956**—A target drone goes haywire over Los Angeles County. Two F-89s fail to down it but damage a station wagon and two houses, and cause three fires burning 800 acres.

**1951**—In France, Pont-Saint-Esprit suddenly seems to go mad. Ergot is blamed at first, but later evidence suggests CIA-administered LSD.

**1945**—Two State Dept. guys in their 30s use a *National Geographic* map to determine where to split Korea.

**1942**—Two Navy officers disappear off San Francisco, their unoccupied blimp crashes in Daly City.

**1938**—Hell hounds catch up to Robert Johnson, 27.

**1890**—Myron “Grim” Natwick, creator of “Betty Boop,” is born.

**1870**—After Alain de Monéys, a visiting aristocrat, tells Hautefaye, France villagers that the war against Prussia is going badly, they torture him for hours then burn him alive.

**1819**—Cavalry and Hussars attack a political meeting at St. Peter’s Field in Manchester, England, killing 15.

**1777**—General John Stark and 2,000 mostly New Hampshire militia defeat the “British” (mostly Germans, really) at Bennington.

**2008**—Maudie Hopkins, widow of Confederate Civil War veteran William M. Cantrell, dies. They married in 1934; he was 86, she 19.

**2002**—The U.S. Generals admit that the U.S. assisted Iraq during its war against Iran knowing that Saddam Hussein would “use chemical weapons against his own people.”

**1988**—A Pakistani C-130 explodes in mid-air killing President Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq. General Pervez Musharraf, also scheduled to be on-board, somehow misses the flight.

**1988**—J. Danforth Quayle informs the Republican National Convention, “in 1988 the question is whether we’re going forward to tomorrow or whether we’re going to go past to the back!”

**1965**—South of Chu Lai, U.S. Marines begin Operation Starline. The first major U.S. ground offensive of the Vietnam War was to have been called Satellite, but there was a typo.

**1962**—L.A. County Coroner declares Marilyn Monroe a suicide.

**1918**—In Chicago, IWW members go on trial; 95 will be sent to prison for up to 20 years.

**1910**—A New York City sweatshop opens despite a strike. Women strikers demolish the factory.

**1901**—During an excursion around New York on the side-wheeler *General Slocum*, some of a party of 900 intoxicated anarchists from Paterson, N.J. attempt unsuccessfully to take control of the ship.

**2000**—A Robinson R-22 disassembles itself over Watsonville, Calif., then crashes, killing an instructor and a student pilot on his first flight.

**1996**—The U.S. prison population hits 1,600,000, twice what it was 10 years earlier.

**1989**—Malcolm Forbes throws himself a \$2 million birthday party, flying 800 guests to his castle in Tangiers.

**1960**—Kindly old “Ike” OKs a CIA plot to assassinate Patrice Lumumba, Prime Minister of Congo.

**1959**—Sailors aboard the *U.S.S. Wasp* bring a severe fire under control, barely averting the need to flood the ship’s nuclear weapons storage space.

**1933**—Germany introduces the *Volksempfänger*, or Peoples’ Radio. Built to Joseph Goebbels’ specifications, it receives only local (Nazi-controlled) broadcasts.

**1634**—Urbain Grandier, a French priest whose sexual prowess earned him accusations from a scorned Mother Superior, is burned at the stake for witchcraft.

**1590**—Virginia Dare becomes the first missing white girl in the New World.

**1587**—In Roanoke, Virginia Dare becomes the first white child born in the New World.

**1503**—Death of Pope Alexander VI, host of the infamous Ballet of the Chestnuts, whose entertainments included fifty naked prostitutes writhing on the floor.

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