

The Fortnightly Rant

Reality Fails Stress Test

John Archibald Wheeler (1911–2008), a brilliant and highly influential theoretical physicist, defined time as “nature’s way of keeping everything from happening all at once.” That Wheeler cribbed the line from an obscure science fiction writer* made it no less true.

It used to be true, anyway. Judging from Monday we begin to suspect that time is now broken. American politics: toxic enough to fundamentally alter the very laws of physics.

For several hours during the middle of that day Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein did a splendid impression of Schrödinger’s cat: he was fired; he hadn’t been fired but he was going to be; he wasn’t going to be fired, he was going to quit; he wanted to quit but he wasn’t going to, he was going to make Trump fire him, instead.

Rosenstein’s job was put in jeopardy by a *New York Times* article which reported on Friday that he had offered to wear a wire and bug the President to facilitate a 25th Amendment effort to depose him. That alleged offer was initially perceived by some as dead-serious: exactly the sort of plot we’ve all been warned against by paranoid nut-jobs like Alex Jones and President Donald J. Trump. By late Monday the prevailing line seemed to have shifted. If the offer had, in fact, been made, it was done sarcastically. At the end of the day, Rosenstein was still employed, prompting Twitter wiseguy @pwnallthethings to note, “It appears that this time the child has spared the Rod”.

Ordinarily, no one would give a damn about Rosenstein. The No. 2 guy at Justice isn’t *that* big a deal—or wouldn’t be, except for one thing: he’s Robert Mueller’s job security. Mueller, of course, is the special

* Ray Cummings, (1887–1957), *The Girl in the Golden Atom*, 1922.

counsel who’s trying to determine the true nature of the curious relationship between President Trump’s election campaign and Vladimir Putin. Mueller’s been grilling and flipping Trump’s closest cronies as relentlessly as McDonalds churns out Big Macs, so that makes Rosenstein kind of a big deal.

The *real* Attorney General, Jefferson Beauregard “Jeff” Sessions III, would be in the hot seat if, as a former member of the campaign, he weren’t elbow deep in the can of worms himself.

If Trump were actually guilty of some sort of electoral shenanigans—hard to imagine, we know—he would feel a tremendous temptation to take out Rosenstein, just to get a clear shot at Mueller. Even Trump, though, has to understand that the consequences of that would be huuge—nearly as great as if he pushed that big beautiful button on his desk and obliterated North Korea.

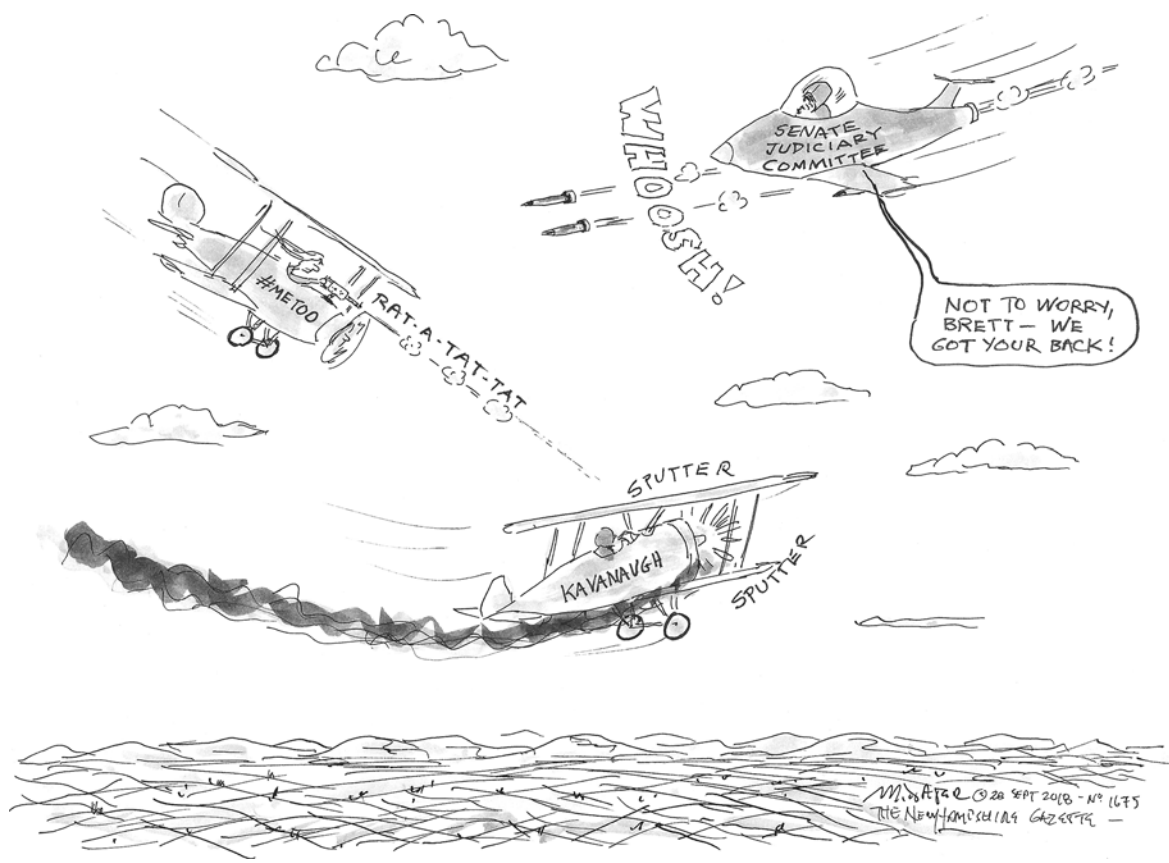
Fortunately the President is a stable genius, so there’s probably no need to worry about either of those things happening. At least, if you’re reading this paper, they hadn’t happened by Friday.

Time was—back when Ken Starr and some guy named Brett Kavanaugh were spending six years and 70 million dollars investigating Bill Clinton’s extramarital canoodlings, for example—when a potential replay of Nixon’s Saturday Night Massacre would have been a Major News Event.

In the context of the current Senate hearings on a U.S. Supreme Court nomination, though, it was ancient news by Wednesday.

Not to be overly cynical, but is it possible the Rosenstein kerfuffle was just a red herring, ginned up to distract from something else?

To distract, for example, from a



rapid-fire succession of sex scandals which began exploding at the very moment when a decades-long effort by the reactionary faction of the U.S. body politic to gain full control of the courts and the law was about to come to fruition?

As this chaotic flurry of flying factoids whirls about our heads, a couple of questions seem to merit particular attention.

Why is there even an opening on the court? The closer you look, the uglier the answer gets. Solid reporting presents a credible narrative describing a methodical effort by the President to induce Justice Anthony Kennedy to resign. Kennedy’s son Justin, a banker, lent Trump more than a billion dollars, when no other bank would touch him. Last year Deutsche Bank, Justin Kennedy’s employer, coughed up nearly half a billion in fines, for its role in a Russian money laundering scheme.

Why put Kavanaugh in that slot? Kavanaugh, as an attorney in *Bush*

v. Gore, helped a DKE *confrere* bully his way into the White House. He then spent several years as Staff Secretary in the Bush #43 White House. So, *ipso facto*, he has aided and abetted war criminals.

For many Republicans, those qualifications would be sufficient. For a man in Trump’s precarious position, though, Kavanaugh’s most salient legal qualification has got to be his stated conviction that sitting presidents must never be subpoenaed, or indicted, or otherwise annoyed. That view was going to waste on the Court of Appeals. Thanks to Justice Kennedy’s convenient retirement, the opportunity arose to put Kavanaugh’s carefully-considered legal position where it might actually do some good.

As if all that were not sufficient, Senator Patrick Leahy managed to demonstrate earlier this month that Kavanaugh also has the courage to commit perjury when the occasion requires.

Now comes Christine Blasey Ford with a charge that Kavanaugh attempted to rape her. And, days later, Deborah Ramirez. And, Julie Swetnik—all women who seem quite credible, except perhaps to Republicans and fervent evangelicals—one should pardon the redundancy. They are all coming forward, at considerable risk to themselves, asking to be allowed to testify.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, however, the top-ranking old white man running the Judiciary Committee, has a train to catch—or something. Suddenly he’s in a bigger hurry than Alice’s White Rabbit. Nothing to see here, folks. Just move along.

Wednesday, the President he’s protecting stood at the podium before the General Assembly, and the world literally laughed at him.

It’s enough to make one nostalgic for the days of yore. Remember when it was a scandal if the President wore a tan suit, or went to a particular church?

The Alleged News®

New Hampshire Democrats Transform Sununu Into Ratepayer Hero

New Hampshire Democrats have handed Governor Sununu a winning campaign theme: Democrats are enemies of Eversource ratepayers. By voting in near-lockstep to override the environmentally terrible SB 365 to fleece New Hampshire ratepayers out of more than \$60 million in hidden taxes, New Hampshire Democrats allowed the Governor to pretend to be the ratepayers’ champion.

If one more Democratic legislator had joined the Honorable Five who voted to sustain the Governor’s veto, Democrats could justifiably paint Sununu as the enemy of ratepayers that he is. One more Democrat!

SB 365 rewards polluters, clear-cutters, and major carbon emitters, while harming our health, the health of our forests, and exacerbating climate change. Worse, ratepayers

must pay these hidden taxes that will largely go to the wealthy elites who made bad investments in mega biomass and are now whining for bailouts to protect them from the cruel realities of their beloved “free markets.”

Governor Sununu is a friend of Eversource (one of his major campaign contributors), not its over-taxed ratepayers. While correctly calling SB 365 unfair to ratepayers, he was strangely silent about SB 577’s unfairness to ratepayers when he signed that huge subsidy to the Burgess biomass plant in Berlin* in late June. SB 577 is every bit as bad as SB 365. The difference is: SB 577’s roughly \$60 million ratepayer subsidies go to a biomass plant that Eversource loves, whereas SB 365’s

* Owned by Cate Street Capital, headquartered in Portsmouth.

subsidies go to six smaller biomass plants that Eversource has been trying to shed for decades.

An honorable, intelligent opposition party would have realized this and exploited the Governor’s hypocrisy regarding ratepayer rights and welfare. Instead, the Democratic Party enforced party loyalty to pass both boondoggles. Several Democratic legislators admitted either they had no idea what was in those two bills, or that they realized both bills were bad for the natural and human communities of New Hampshire, but were still going to override Sununu’s veto of SB 365 for political reasons.

If politicians are going to be cynical, they ought to be smart about it.

Imagine if the New Hampshire Democratic Party understood that “smart politics” means “abiding by

natural laws and limits” and that environmental protections also protect our communities, citizens, and voters. This hypothetical New Hampshire Democratic Party could easily have claimed the mantle of “defenders of the ratepayers” while calling out Governor Sununu for his insincere, concern for ratepayers. Here’s how:

1) New Hampshire Democrats should have opposed SB 365 and SB 577 this spring;

2) They should have helped sustain the veto of SB 365 on September 13;

3) They could then have called out Governor Sununu as an agent of Eversource, while Democrats were championing the rights of ratepayers, as well as protecting the health of our forests, keeping our air clean, and helping to curtail climate

change.

By adopting a benighted political strategy that hurts our forests, dirties our air, and undermines efforts to sequester carbon, Democrats have gained few votes, harmed their constituents, and handed the Governor a winning campaign theme.

In the spirit of such famous sayings as: “We had to destroy the village to save it” (Vietnam War), and “I was against the [Iraq] War before I was for it” (2004 Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry), I pass along an astute observation from one of my wise friends: “If Republicans ran unopposed, they’d lose every time.”

—Jamie Sayen,
North Stratford, N.H.

The Alleged News®

from page one

Portsmouthians Demand Downtown P.O.

For several years the City Council has been negotiating directly with real estate developers to produce a plan to redevelop the McIntyre building. Less directly involved have been the U.S. Postal Service—one of the building's few current tenants, and certainly the one that sees the most use—and the Post Office's myriad customers.

The proposed plans which have surfaced in recent months have been met with an increasing tide of dissatisfaction. The suggestion that the full-service Post Office might be replaced with a "kiosk" really seemed to set people off.

A couple of months ago it looked as if an agreement was about to be signed that would have left the Post Office's fate in limbo. A fortuitous phone call from Washington, D.C. seems to have derailed that process at the last possible moment.

On Wednesday evening, September 19th, the public at large finally got a chance to have a conversation with the Postal Service official whose job it is to oversee whatever it is that's going to happen. For an hour and a half, one speaker after another delivered a heart-felt plea to keep the Post Office right where it is.

Rather surprisingly, they found an ally of sorts behind the podium.

Richard Rouse, a Real Estate Specialist for the Postal Service said, "I waited about as long as I possibly could before having this meeting. I was hopeful that something would change that would allow us to stay, which would make this meeting not necessary."

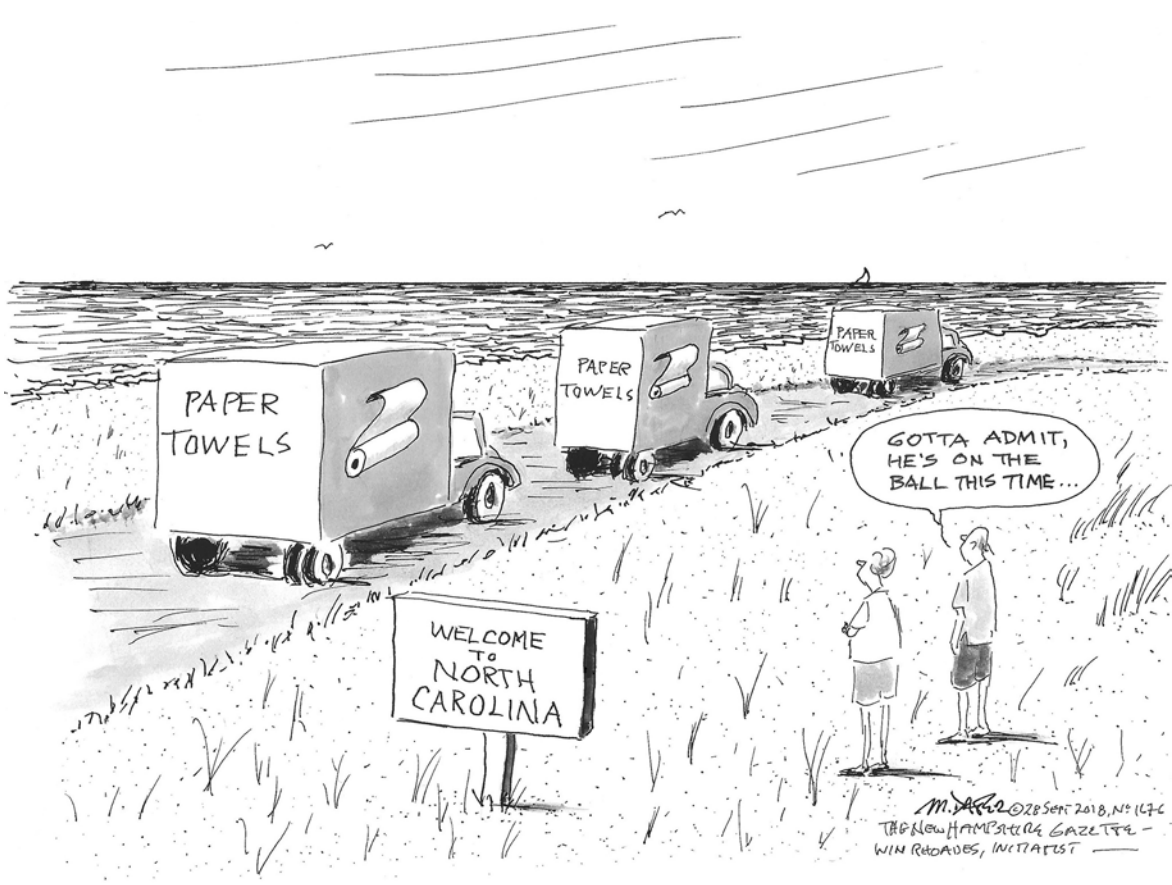
Former Historic District Commission member Richard Katz, after confessing to being "party to, or guilty of implementing most of the construction up to this point in the new areas," said he "also participated in the initial meeting of the public/private venture that was going to occur in the McIntyre Building."

"We seemed to spend a lot of time kow-towing to the private part of this [project]," he went on. "If accommodations have to be made, to make this work, the accommodations should be made by the developer and not the Post Office," he said, drawing hearty applause.

One woman seemed to speak for many when she said, "It seems as if the development team is running the process instead of the City Council."

Adam Irish asked Rouse to draw up a list of whatever the specific requirements might be for the Post Office to stay in, or return to, its current location. Rouse noted that the Post Office needs only about 5,000 square feet of space. There are 18,000 feet available in the one-story wing it now occupies.

By the end of the meeting the



discussion had turned into an informal charette, discussing how the Post Office might be able to stay in operation, on-site, right through the redevelopment of the McIntyre building.

The question now seems to be whether the citizen/Post Office partnership will prevail over the City Council/developer partnership.

PDA Performs Familiar Kabuki Ritual

The Peace Development Authority Board met on September 20th, to grapple once again with the dread which stems from knowing one's actions are completely mechanical, and thus devoid of meaning—or, perhaps, to derive satisfaction from being the tool of a larger, external power. Who knows? One would have to poll the individual Board members to learn on which side of that existential question they fall. We're not going to risk undermining their senses of self-worth by forcing them to ponder their meaningless positions.

The Board "voted" six to one in favor of "allowing" Seacoast Helicopters to expand its operations. FAA regulations—at least as interpreted by the Board's legal advisors—effectively precluded any other result. Peggy Lamson, representing the

Town of Newington, voted "No," making her the sole voice for all earthbound humans in the area who are tired of being audibly assaulted by overgrown lawnmowers overhead. Newington's Board of Selectmen submitted a letter taking the same position.

Some enterprising citizen has set up a petition on *Change.org*—"Too Many Tourist Helicopters on the Seacoast"—which as of Tuesday had collected 155 signatures.

It reads, "We, the undersigned, are very concerned about the noise and intrusion caused by repeated low-level tourist helicopter flights over the Seacoast area of NH and Maine. This kind of ill-considered commercial activity is totally inconsistent with the peace and beauty of the Seacoast. We appeal, once again, to our elected and appointed officials to do everything possible to improve this situation."

Inertia Carries Propaganda Forward

The 2018 Portsmouth Conference will take place next week, it appears, despite the withdrawal of financial support from the Council of the city whose name it bears. The event is being held at Wentworth by the Sea, in the Town of Rye, so naming it after Portsmouth was a bit of a misno-

mer, anyway. By the time one takes into account the misunderstanding of its actual content, the Conference begins to resemble the Holy Roman Empire, which, according to Voltaire, was "neither holy, nor Roman, nor an empire."

The sponsoring organization, Citizens Count, said on its website that the Conference would "leave the discussion of climate science to others and focus instead on the substantive effects of policies," and provide a "unique opportunity to explore improved public policy and investment strategies, as well as guidance on economic, regulatory and societal levels." What any of that means, we can't say.

Earlier this year the Portsmouth City Council put up \$2,500 to back the event, under the impression that the Conference would discuss innovative responses to climate change. It balked after learning more about some of the presenters.

Keynote speaker Bjorn Lomborg published *The Skeptical Environmentalist* in 2001. The book was criticised for drawing flawed conclusions through the misleading use of data. The Danish Committees on Scientific Dishonesty found the book to be scientifically dishonest through misrepresentation of scientific facts,



Citizens' dissatisfaction over the potential removal of the Post Office from downtown has been rising for months. The first signs of a positive solution arose from a direct discussion between those citizens and David Rouse, a Washington, D.C.-based Real Estate Specialist for the Postal Service.

"Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete?
Provin' nature's laws wrong, it learned to walk without havin' feet.
Funny it seems but, by keepin' its dreams, it learned to breathe fresh air.
Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else even cared."

Tupac Shakur (1971 – 1996), rap artist
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but Lomborg himself not guilty due to his lack of expertise in the fields in question, according to *Wikipedia*.

According to its website, "Citizens CountSM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to serve New Hampshire citizens." The site's URL, though, is *lfda.org*, derived from the organization's former name, the Live Free or Die Alliance. Those alleged services include "providing objective information about issues and candidates; promoting the civil exchange of opinions in a variety of forums, online and in person; and connecting citizens with their elected officials." With individual tickets to this bash pegged at \$250, and tables of 10 going for \$5,000, one has to wonder which citizens are being served.

One begins to suspect that, like so many others, this organization is constructed so as to maintain the status quo. "Solutions" deemed acceptable by corporations get a dignified hearing. Innovative solutions coming from the left, meanwhile, which might threaten vested interests, are subject to being characterized as "outside of the mainstream," and thus are dismissed or ignored.

12th Black New England Conference

The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire and the Center for the Humanities at UNH have released the program for the 12th Black New England Conference to be held October 19th and 20th.

Express Yourself: Identity, Style and Adornment will focus on how style—whether expressed through art, music, literature, performance, speech, or bodily adornment—operates as a visible and tangible marker of identity and group affiliation.

JerriAnne Boggis, Executive Director of the BHTNH, said of the event, "I am excited to be participating in what is sure to be a fun conference as we explore the significance of style in the creation of one's identity."

"Black stylistic expressions represent a creative journey through a history of marginalization, struggle, individuality and empowerment. People of Color have long been judged by Eurocentric ideals of beauty and made to feel inferior by those standards. However, today we are once again seeing a resurgence in afro-centric style that is reclaiming our voice and selfhood."



The Flag Police take no position on the Trump Administration per se; true monomaniacs, their only concern is rigorous adherence to the Flag Code. Ergo they take no official position regarding the self-styled Seacoast Deplorables' evident support for the politics of Dolt #45 [See right.], or the holstered pistol on the hip of the gent on the left. The Flag Police most definitely take issue, though, with his handling of Old Glory. The banner he's toting is too large for display by any individual less than eight feet tall. That offense is minor in comparison to his contemptuously casual bearing. Neither of those infractions compares to that of the woman holding the First Navy Jack (red and white stripes with a yellow and red snake and the words, "Don't Tread On Me") the fly end of which rests on the ground at her feet. The Flag Police are simply rendered speechless.



The conference will begin Friday, the 19th, with a walking tour of the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail, with a particular emphasis on the intriguing story of Ona Marie Judge. Formerly enslaved by George and Martha Washington, she escaped and—with the collusion of some of Portsmouth's most famous families—lived out the rest of her life as a free woman.

A full slate of events, and a link for registration, is online at <http://blackheritagetrailnh.org/2018-black-new-england-conference/>.

Dueling Protests

This past Sunday, for the second week in a row, a group calling itself the Seacoast Deplorables set up shop in Market Square. [See left.]

Their numbers had doubled in just a week, their head count rising from three to six. If their intent was to offset Occupy N.H. Seacoast, whose Sunday afternoon protest goes back, we believe, to the Trump inauguration, it seems to have backfired. That group, standing directly in front of the North Church, appears to have quadrupled in size in the same period.

Etty Tham, an Indonesian woman

currently being held at the Strafford County House of Corrections and threatened with deportation, was a particular focus of the protestors on Sunday.

Tham, a grandmother of two U.S. citizens, was detained at an ICE checkpoint in Lincoln, N.H.

"They stopped every car and asked you, 'are you a U.S. citizen?'" Tham's daughter Silvia Parker told *Foster's*. "If they see you're white, they let you go. (If) you're not white, they're going to ask for your ID, they're going to stop you and put you on the side of the road." In Tham's case, the next step may be deportation to Indonesia, where her Christian religion will likely mean she'll be subject to discrimination, if not oppression.

Signs in evidence included "Annul ICE, Deport Trump," "Taking Children From Their Parents — America Can Do Better," and "Jailers — Let Our Neighbor Go!"

One Seacoast Deplorable sign read, "Mollie Tibbetts Had Dreams Too." Tibbetts disappeared in July and was found dead in Iowa one month later. Iowa authorities have charged Crishtian Bahena Rivera, 24, a native of Mexico, with her murder.

President Trump cited Tibbetts' death to justify his proposed border wall and tightened immigration laws. In response, her father wrote an op-ed asking others not to "callously distort and corrupt Mollie's tragic death to advance a cause she vehemently opposed. ... [D]o not appropriate Mollie's soul in advancing views she believed were profoundly racist."

Perhaps the Seacoast Deplorables haven't gotten that message. Or maybe they don't really care.

The New Hampshire Gazette Goes Global

Our Fulfillment Department is tickled to report that after turning away literally several would-be subscribers over the years, we can now offer subscriptions anywhere on Earth. Since the cost of postage is more than double, there is a surcharge, of course; the International Rate is \$40 per year.

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We're About to Will Reveal Ourselves
To the Editor:

In a recent e-mail missive directed to MoveOn members, Michael Moore writes that his forthcoming film, *Fahrenheit 11/9*, is not about "what a jerk Trump is, or what a buffoon Trump is, or what a liar Trump is," but is rather "a much more important story ... about hope ... about deception and betrayal ... about who we are as a people and what it means to be an American in the era of Trump ... about where we might be heading as a society."

Who we are and where we're heading might be influenced by whom we adulate and lionize. We learn from Tanya Edwards, in a Yahoo Lifestyle piece published on September 3, 2018, for example, that fashion blogger Chiara Ferragni's wedding to Italian rapper Fedez, born Federico Leonardo Lucia, which involved three Dior gowns and private Alitalia flights for friends and family to Sicily, was dissed by high end Italian designer Stefano Gabbana. Why is that even news? We've got WTF; we need WGF ("who gives a f...").

"Could we stop worshipping rich men who are jerks?" asked Jennifer Wright a couple of days earlier in an opinion piece in the *New York Post* for September 1, 2018, titled "Stop treating tech jerks like gods." Singling out Elon Musk and Steve Jobs, she acknowledges that "it's possible to be both brilliant and cruel, innovative and un-self-aware, successful and miserly," offering by way of contrast Microsoft founder Bill Gates, who, she observes, "has devoted his money to curing malaria, and, now, combating Alzheimer's." Whereas Musk complained in a *New York Times* interview about having to work on his birthday, and *Salon*, in 2015, "wrote that Jobs ... was a 'messiah to jerks,'" Gates' tweets, Ms. Wright observed, "appear to focus on doing good around the world and teachers he admires." "His most fiery tweet," she continued, "might be 'I hate mosquitos' (he goes on to explain it is because they spread malaria, perhaps to show he's not the kind of guy who would just go around hating a universally despised bug for no good

reason.)" Acknowledging that "Jobs made a device I use every day," Ms. Wright adds: "I also use my toaster pretty much every day. I do not hang out on Twitter talking about how the inventor of the toaster is an amazing genius who should have been allowed to treat anyone else however he wanted." Her point: "Despite tremendous financial security, success and personal comfort, these men gained a reputation for being petty and ungenerous whenever possible. They don't exemplify very many personality traits we associate with a good person ... But you wouldn't know that from their fan bases. It's not that they're grappling with the idea of their heroes being complex individuals, it's that they see these men as wholly aspirational. ... When fans worship people like Elon Musk and Steve Jobs and aspire to be like them, they're not saying that they'd like to make a device that the world uses. They're not even saying that they'd like to be very wealthy. They're saying that they'd like to achieve a level of wealth and power where no one can judge them and they can behave as horribly as they like. ... And the world quite honestly doesn't need any more of those guys."

Regarding the likes of Mr. Gates, Ms. Wright laments: "Tech founders more deserving of acclaim seem to pass utterly under the radar." So do many in other disciplines who warrant gratitude for striving, often unsuccessfully thanks largely to ignorance, denial, and greed, to save us from ourselves. Consider, for example, historian Rafe Pomerance who spent decades trying to promulgate mounting evidence of climate change (Swedish chemist and Nobel laureate Svante Arrhenius deduced in 1896 that combustion of coal and petroleum could noticeably raise global temperatures in a few centuries, sooner if consumption of fossil fuels continued to increase, and British steam engineer Guy Stewart Callendar, in a paper published in 1939 that reported the previous five years to have been the hottest in recorded history, wrote that human activity was "able to speed up the processes of Nature").



Mr. Pomerance figures prominently in "Losing Earth: The Decade We Almost Stopped Climate Change," a two-part article by Nathaniel Rich in *The New York Times Magazine* for August 1, 2018, which also highlights the efforts of Gordon MacDonald, who in 1968, while science adviser to Lyndon Johnson, wrote an essay titled, "How to Wreck the Environment," which predicted a near future in which "the weapons of mass destruction were those of environmental catastrophe," NASA scientist James Hansen, who forced the issue of global warming onto the national agenda in the 1980s, and Daniel Becker, director of the Sierra Club's Global Warming Program between 1989 and 2007, among others who attempted, ultimately without effect, to educate elected leaders about the inevitability and perils of climate change and global warming.

And then there is pediatrician, child psychiatrist, researcher, and University of Pittsburgh professor, the late Dr. Herbert Leroy Needleman, whose selfless, decades-long battle waged against vested interests and the lawmakers they influenced, according to *Wikipedia*, "played the key role in triggering environmental safety measures that have reduced average blood lead levels by an estimated 78 percent between 1976 and 1991."

What we're presently up against is put into perspective by poet and social commentator Wendell Berry, who, reflecting on the event from which Michael Moore derives the title for his latest film, wrote: "It is understandable that we should have reacted to the attacks of September 11, 2001 by curtailment of civil rights, by defiance of laws, and by resort to overwhelming force, for those actions are the ready products of fear and hasty thought. But they cannot protect us against the destruction of our own land by ourselves. They cannot protect us against the selfishness, wastefulness, and greed

that we have legitimized here as economic virtues, and have taught to the world."

Christians are directed to Mark 7: 14-15, 21-22: "Jesus called the crowd to him and said, 'Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them ... For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.'" Which says to me that, save, perhaps, for psychopaths and other chemically unbalanced individuals, we are responsible for what we believe and the actions those beliefs precipitate.

The behaviors, characteristics, and qualities one admires should correlate with a desire to elevate those who exhibit them, and thus inform choice in the forthcoming midterm elections. Who prevails in that election will reveal who we are and where we are heading.

John Simon
Portsmouth, N.H.

John:
We would only add, what is revealed on that day will depend entirely on who shows up.

The Editor

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The American Dream

To the Editor:

A neighbor across the street from me has a bumper sticker on his brand new vehicle that says, "The American dream is not a handout." Rest assured, if he ever had a disability that prevented him from supporting himself financially, he successfully pulled himself up by the bootstraps.

This is the same neighbor whom I wrote about before, only he had a

different bumper sticker on his previous vehicle that said, "Liberalism is a mental disorder." I find the new bumper sticker equally disturbing and objectionable.

The day before Labor Day I attended a church service. After the service I conversed with a fellow believer about how, according to divine scripture, we're saved by God's grace, not by our works.

During that conversation, it occurred to me that salvation is like a handout, as we can do nothing to earn it. It's given freely for the asking, as long as we believe in the Christ within us and we unconditionally surrender to a loving God's will.

As true believers, we don't have to labor 40 hours per week in order to be saved by God. We don't even have to work part-time. In fact, we can be completely unemployed, eking by on Social Security Disability and food stamps, such as I am, and still be saved. Being gainfully employed doesn't count.

How different that is from the American dream! God's saving grace and the American dream are not, in fact, perfectly aligned. Imagine that!

Alex J. Boros
Rochester, N.H.

Alex:

Careful — such heresy will get you accused of blasphemy.

The Editor

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Kim Jong Un Given Much to Celebrate

To the Editor:

It doesn't take a background in human resource intelligence to see that the 45th POTUS is a cultivated asset for Russia and is being played like a drum by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean President Kim

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"... what happens at Georgetown Prep,
stays at Georgetown Prep.
That's been a good thing for all of us."

— Brett Kavanaugh (1965-)
U.S. Circuit Court judge, from a 2015 speech



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Jong Un.
My theory was substantiated upon learning about North Korea holding a military parade, to celebrate 70 years of Kim Dynasty rule, at almost the same time Russia began its largest military exercise since 1981; the Vostok-2018 drills which included 300,000 Russian troops and 36,000 armored vehicles. Even more significantly, Russia was joined in their massive exercise by China, a long-time former adversary.

One might recall that #45 spent the weekend immediately prior to his Singapore Summit (with the North Korean leader) alienating our NATO allies. Meanwhile Putin was in China, that very same weekend, receiving the prestigious Chinese Order of Friendship from President Xi. It's also worth mentioning that Xi had just been paid a rare state visit from Kim and that Kim had very recently been visited by a high level Russian emissary as Kim was preparing (and obviously receiving assurances) for his summit with #45.

When #45 returned to Washington following his meeting with Kim, he couldn't resist declaring in a Tweet, "There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea. Sleep well tonight," despite his meeting having produced no tangible evidence that North Korea would be discontinuing its nuclear weapons program. There is still no such evidence and I've heard credible reports that North Korea is still wholeheartedly pursuing its nuclear ambitions.

In short, #45 received no concessions from Kim while Kim received legitimacy, his desired photo op with the "Leader of the Free World" and a promise from #45, which has been largely ignored by Secretary of Defense Mattis, that the U.S. would cancel upcoming joint U.S./South

Korea exercises, which have served as a deterrent against North Korean aggression. On top of it all, Russia and China stuck their thumbs in our eyes with their own massive joint exercise. Kim Jong Un, no doubt, enjoyed his parade.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:
We're sure that if there were any truth to this, the Republican Party would sort it all out.

The Editor

Questions About Kavanaugh

To the Editor:

One day after Senator Feinstein announced she had received an anonymous letter alleging Brett Kavanaugh had assaulted a girl in high school the Republicans on the judiciary committee announced they had statements from 65 women who knew Mr. Kavanaugh from his high school days. This raises several questions.

Mr. Kavanaugh went to an all boys' school. How many high schoolers have serious contact with 65 members of the opposite sex that do not go to their school? How much contact did these women have with him? Where was this contact?

What caused the GOP senators to seek statements from these women? Was this because they knew about the anonymous allegation and did not share their knowledge with the Democrats on the committee? Is there another allegation they were trying to fend off that has not been made public? What else are they hiding?

Why were these women selected, but not the woman he is alleged to have assaulted?

Given that the assault is alleged to have occurred at a party with alcohol, were these 65 women people who par-

ried with Mr. Kavanaugh where alcohol was served or just knew him from events where adults were around?

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Walter:
To the astonishment of approximately no one, that letter seems no longer to be operative.

The Editor

The Prescient Rep. Barbara Lee

To the Editor:

Your almanac shows 9/15 as the date on which Barbara Lee cast the lone vote against Public Law 107-40, giving Dubya his unlimited war powers.

Actually, Congress passed this law on 9/14.

Thanks for your great paper. Now that I'm a subscriber, I can report that it's regularly been delivered (Rochester) on the Mondays following publication.

Keep up the good work!

Paul Fischler
Rochester, N.H.

Paul:
Thank you — we're always grateful to readers who help us expunge factual errors.

The Editor

Have a Real Say about Granite Bridge

To the Editor:

On Thursday, September 27th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Epping's Harvey-Mitchell Memorial Library, the people of New Hampshire can learn how to have a real say about Granite Bridge. Why would they need to learn this?

New Hampshire residents of Manchester, Candia, Auburn, Epping, Brentwood, Raymond, Exeter, and Stratham have not been asked if they want the Granite Bridge Pipeline—a 27 mile, high pressure, fracked "natural" gas pipeline.

They have not been asked if they

want it running along Route 101, through their towns, near their water supplies and schools and homes, and twice crossing the Lamprey River.

Epping residents have not been asked if they want to host a 200-billion-cubic-foot gas storage tank and plant to move fracked gas from pipe to distribution.

Residents throughout New Hampshire have not been asked if they want to be party to yet more Granite State fossil fuel infrastructure whose heart beat is kept going by the toxic blood-letting of frack fields further south of us in Pennsylvania, across the Midwest, and beyond.

When did Live Free or Die believers find a way to morally defend using unsustainable energy that is killing our fellow Americans? When the harm seemed far off? What about now that we've had recent pipeline explosions close to home?

I've heard the argument that we already have so many pipelines—why not one more? Because hundreds of wrongs don't make a right.

Sadly, the Granite Bridge Story is a common one. People all across the country are not asked if they want the corporate projects that are permitted in their communities. To have a voice, they are forced to try fighting projects via the regulatory system or with direction action. But townspeople quickly discover that fighting corporate projects like pipelines via regulation and direct action is blocked by more regulation and court decisions favoring corporations over people's civil rights.

Yet I still hear that all we have to do is air our concerns to the PUC and then to DES and the SEC. With all due respect, these bodies regulate projects—they do not stop them, and submitted public opinions have zero legal influence on decisions of these bodies.

But didn't public opinion determine the SEC's decision to deny Eversource's Northern Pass application? No.

Had it, then the project could have been denied at any point during the past eight year flood of public opinion against it. The SEC denied the

application because one of its four application criteria was not adequately fulfilled by Eversource, whose deep pockets are now appealing the unanimous SEC denial.

The fact is that in this Citizens United era, the claimed "rights" of corporations are serviced, conveyor-belt style, in a regulatory system set up to permit projects, not to protect people and planet.

Regulatory agencies might change a corporation's course a bit, but rarely is the course of harm wholly stopped, and nowhere do the people's voices actually have a meaningful and enforceable place in this discussion. In response, people must raise their voices to change the system. Enter the Community Rights movement growing throughout New Hampshire and around the country.

To learn more about this event, email info@nhcommunityrights.org or visit NHCRN on Facebook or at www.nhcommunityrights.org where you can look further into NHCRN's statewide, grassroots non-profit work.

Monica Christofili
NHCRN Coordinator
Newmarket, N.H.

New Item For the Calendar

To the Editor:

All my life, I never thought to investigate how the White House came by that name. After all, the exterior is white.

Turns out there's a story...

President Theodore Roosevelt, with his wife and daughter, dined with Booker T. Washington on the evening of October 16, 1901.

The story is that Roosevelt was impulsive. He learned that Mr. Washington was in town and thought it would be nice to invite him to dine. By one account, Roosevelt hesitated a moment, thinking of the implications of inviting a Negro to dine with his family in the Executive Mansion, then berated himself for his hesitation and sent the invitation. Apparently Washington also considered the implication

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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The Fechheimer Building, one of the finest examples of a cast-iron facade in Portland, Oregon, was built in 1885. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it was restored in 1981 by Russell Fellows Properties, the principals of which enjoy a subscription to this newspaper.

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The shame of climate-change deniers

by Jim Hightower

Shame is that queasy feeling you get when you realize you've done something improper, ridiculous ... or just flat-out contemptible. But it's socially invaluable, for feeling ashamed is a built-in jerk alarm, keeping most of us from doing the same embarrassing thing again.

But what if you're not embarrassed by being a jerk? Sure

enough, some individuals who rise to high places are so consumed by self-importance, self-righteousness, self-aggrandizement, and all things selfish that they feel no shame—even when their narcissism does gross harm to others. One example is the clique of prominent polluters, politicians, and propagandists who are climate-change deniers. They shamefully use their prominence to enhance their own fame and for-

tune—while glaciers melt, oceans rise, extreme weather expands, species perish, and Earth itself spins toward being unlivable.

Unable to acknowledge shame, they need help. Luckily, a feisty group called Cowboys for Liberty has stepped forward to acknowledge it for them by establishing a "Climate Deniers Hall of Shame." Among the first class of infamous deniers are Charles and David Koch,

who've dumped more than \$100 million into front groups opposing efforts to halt climate change; Sen. Jim Inhofe, the dotty old dean of deniers, who has called global warming a conspiracy spawned by the Weather Channel; and the former CEO of Exxon Mobil, who secretly funded hoked-up "academic" reports to discredit the science of climate change.

The Hall of Shame is fun, but it's not a prank. It points out that cli-

mate change is not only caused by human action, but also by human inaction—and putting names and faces to the small group of humans selfishly preventing progress can help the majority of us see that we can (and must) rise up to stop them.

—==—

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from page six

with just the willingness to Be There.

Showing your support can be as simple as sending a Veteran a text message—inviting someone over to catch up or sharing a positive thought are both great ways to communicate that you care. Your words could be exactly what a Veteran in crisis needs to hear, and could be a reminder of the many people out there who are willing to listen.

When you sense that a Veteran is not doing well, your words can help. You can make a difference by just starting a conversation. Although it can seem challenging, it is important to talk about difficult feelings and experiences. Keep in mind: Asking questions about thoughts of suicide does not increase a person's suicide risk. Instead, an open conversation can help someone feel less alone and let others into the Veteran's experience. Feeling connected is shown to reduce suicide risk.

Simply reaching out to a Veteran in need and opening the door for a discussion could make all the difference. Learn more ways to show your support and Be There by visiting VeteransCrisisLine.net/BeThere to find more resources and information.

Suicide prevention is VA's highest priority. Every death by suicide is a tragedy, and we will not relent in our efforts to connect Veterans who are experiencing an emotional or mental health crisis with lifesaving support. If you believe a Veteran in your life may be contemplating suicide, call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and PRESS 1, send a text message to 838255, or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net.



net. Qualified and compassionate VA responders are on call 24/7/365 to provide guidance on how to connect Veterans with support and help them from harm.

Suicide is preventable. VA's goal is to reduce suicide and suicidal behavior among all Veterans—even those who do not, and may never, seek care within our system.

Brett Rusch, MD
Acting Medical Center Director
White River Junction VAMC,
Vermont

Who Gets the Benefit of the Doubt?

To the Editor:

Christine Blasey Ford said Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when she was 15 and he 17. She said Mark Judge was also in the room when it happened. Mr. Kavanaugh says it did not happen and is willing to state so under oath. Mark Judge said it did not happen, but is not willing to say so under oath.

If the assault really did not happen, Mr. Kavanaugh, the White House and the eleven GOP members on the Judiciary Committee would be moving heaven and earth to get Mark Judge to back him up. Two denials would cause increased doubt of Ms. Ford's story. Instead the GOP run committee is not asking Mr. Judge to testify and is not allowing Ms. Ford to bring anyone who might testify in her favor.

Mr. Kavanaugh has reason to lie. He wants to be on the Supreme Court. Mr. Judge has no reward for lying and could face perjury charges

if someone else came forward. Ms. Ford took a lie detector test and asked for the FBI to investigate her charges. Mr. Kavanaugh has not taken a lie detector test and does not want the FBI to get involved.

I give the benefit of the doubt to Christine Blasey Ford.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

—==—

The Classic Question

To the Editor:

The best political sign I have seen so far is a simple black and white one on a lawn in Exeter, "Have you no decency, Sir?"

To each of the candidates running as Trump supporters, I would like to say, "Sir or Madam, have you no decency?"

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.

—==—

It's The Economy, Stupid!

To the Editor:

In 1992, Bill Clinton rode to victory with the phrase, "It's the economy, stupid!"

In 2018, the election is not so much about personality as it is about policy ... and it's still about the economy, stupid!

Under the present Trump Administration and Republican policies, Americans have procured more personal income and more jobs through less regulation and lower taxes.

The Democrat [sic] Platform calls for policies which spell out higher taxes to the tune of \$2,500 per

family, more regulation, legalization of marijuana (in New Hampshire, where we have an opioid crisis!), open borders ultimately leading to virtually "no country" (now known as the United States of America) and lots of "free stuff" to everybody. This reckless Democrat [sic] policy will lead to economic bankruptcy (healthcare alone will cost upwards of \$42 Trillion within 10 years!). All one has to do is look to the country of Venezuela to witness the disastrous consequences of what the Democrats are promoting ... socialism! Venezuela's inflation rate presently stands at 1,000 percent, and it is rising. Grocery store shelves are empty, and Venezuelans are stealing food from delivery trucks. Venezuela has a rich supply of oil beneath the waters of Lake Maracaibo, yet the socialist policies of Nicolas Maduro have left Venezuela a Third World country! Under Democrat [sic] policies, we will have the same here in the USA.

Don't be sucker-punched by Democrat [sic] rhetoric calling for impeachment and investigations into President Trump. These are diversionary tactics (like sideshows at a circus) taking your attention from the main event, and ignoring what President Trump is actually doing through his policies of prosperity. President Trump is getting things done to make America great again. President Trump is fulfilling promises made. Jobs are back in America. American factories are humming once again! Trade dealing with other countries is equalizing! Peace

with North Korea is on the horizon. America is respected once again ... no more apologies. And yes, Mr. Obama, President Trump does seem to wield a magic wand!

We, Americans, are so used to Washington politicians doing nothing during their terms, that we are unaccustomed for a President to actually do something for the people rather than doing something for themselves! President Trump has been working feverishly since Day One in the Oval Office to make his policies count for the American people. We have a "Do-Nothing" Congress, especially with our New Hampshire delegation. Our two Senators and two Congresswomen seem to be following the Democrat [sic] Party line, and do everything to obstruct everything President Trump is trying to accomplish with reputable nominees to his Cabinet and the Supreme Court. Term limits is the answer for Congressional members, but they won't impose those limits on themselves for loss of power and lucrative salaries and pensions! It's up to the voters to "churn the Congress" every so often to keep costs low!

Nick De Mayo
Sugar Hill, N.H.

Nick:

Apparently you've decided to give Don Erving a run for his money. He, too, loves to cite random factoids in the construction of superficial arguments that paint a rosy picture of a catastrophe.

Those vaunted wage gains among people who actually work for a living are no more substantial than were the President's wedding vows.

The Editor

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Admiral Fowle’s Piscataqua River Tidal Guide (Not for Navigational Purposes)						
Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua’s ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising. Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of Badger’s Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.						
Sunday, September 30	Monday, October 1	Tuesday, October 2	Wednesday, October 3	Thursday, October 4	Friday, October 5	Saturday, October 6
2011—U.S. citizen Anwar al-Awlaki is smote by a drone in Yemen. Trial? We don’t need no stinkin’ trial! 2005—<i>NY Times</i> reporter Judith Miller tells a Grand Jury that Dick “Dick” Cheney leaked Valerie Plame’s name to her. 1998—The GAO reports that Ken Starr had spent \$40 million in a failed effort to nail Bill Clinton. 1992—A Robinson R22 helicopter over Martinez, Calif. emits a loud bang and disassembles. Two people die in the crash. 1982—A Robinson R22 helicopter over Paige, Texas emits a loud bang and disassembles. Two people die in the crash. 1962—César Chávez founds what becomes the United Farm Workers. 1954—<i>U.S.S. Nautilus</i>, the first atomic-powered ship, is launched. 1950—Pres. Harry S Truman signs NSC-68, a blueprint to contain Communism—and reap presumed Keynesian economic benefits. 1919—A white man dies in a shootout in Elaine, Ark. Over the next three days, 240 blacks and five whites die in the U.S.’s worst single racial conflict. 1864—Black Union soldiers capture Confederate entrenchments at battle of New Market Heights. 1630—John Billington becomes the first Pilgrim hanged for murder. 1542—Johannes Gutenberg publishes <i>The Bible</i>. No royalties for the presumed author. 3:143:30 9:169:52	2013—In the name of fiscal discipline, Republicans shut down the government. Cost to the economy: \$24 billion. 2011—The main rotor falls off a Robinson R66 helicopter near Philip, S.D. The pilot dies in the inevitable crash. 2003—With Governor Benson’s blessing, Free Staters choose New Hampshire as their libertarian paradise. 2002—The U.S. Northern Command is established to “Defend America’s Homeland”—<i>posse comitatus</i> be damned. 2002—George W.[MD] Bush claims he hasn’t “made up his mind we’re going to war with Iraq.” 1993—Caving under pressure, the IRS grants tax-free status to the “Church” of Scientology. 1973—Despite many failures to meet service requirements, George W.[MD] Bush is discharged honorably from the Texas Air National Guard. 1964—Campus cops at U.C. Berkeley arrest Jack Weinberg; big mistake. The Free Speech Movement ensues. 1952—The first issue of <i>Mad</i> is unleashed on an unsuspecting world. 1917—Arabs led by T.E. Lawrence capture Damascus. 1903—Fred Van Wormer’s autopsy is halted because he’s breathing. Taken back to Sing Sing’s electric chair, he is found to have died. He is electrocuted again anyway, just for good measure. 1860—San Francisco’s Emperor Norton, by decree, bans Congress from meeting in Washington, D.C. 4:064:24 10:0710:49	2003—Survey chief David Kay reports that his three-month, \$300 million search for Saddam Hussein’s WMD has turned up squat. 2002—George W.[MD] Bush calls Iraq “a threat of unique urgency,” because of its WMDs. 1990—Three Texans in a Cessna come within 30 feet of clearing Mt. Washington. Their bodies are brought down on the Cog Railway. 1980—Senior members of the Reagan campaign team meet in D.C. with a representative of the Ayatollah, who offers to release U.S. hostages. 1980—Michael Myers (D-Pa.) becomes the first Rep. expelled in 120 years, for bribe-taking and conspiracy. Why only him? Who knows. 1978—With the Yankees and Red Sox tied for the season, a playoff game is held; it’s decided by a three-run homer hit by New York’s Bucky F. Dent. 1967—Thurgood Marshall becomes the first black Supreme Court Justice. 1965—In Natchez, Miss., 500 people are sent without trial to the Parchman Penitentiary for protesting the denial of their right to register to vote. 1941—On Malta, Major-General Clifford Thomason Beckett of the Royal Artillery tells Major H.S. Fowle he is “not fit to command anything.” 1919—Woodrow Wilson has a stroke; the U.S. gets a woman president. 1918—In the Argonne, the Lost Battalion gets cut off behind German lines; in a week, ⅓ are KIA or WIA. 5:055:25 11:0511:50	2009—Combat Outpost Keating, in Nuristan, badly-sited and scheduled for abandonment, is mostly overrun by Taliban fighters who capture weapons and ammunition, leaving eight Americans dead and 27 wounded. 2006—Republicans in Congress try to “roll over” \$20 million set aside for a celebration of victory in Iraq. 2003—<i>The National Enquirer</i> reports that Rush Limbaugh is being investigated for illegally procuring prescription opioids. 1993—Berlin, N.H. native Michael Durant’s helicopter is one of two shot down in the First Battle of Mogadishu. He’s played by Ron Eldard in <i>Black Hawk Down</i>. 1986—A fire breaks out aboard the Soviet missile sub <i>K-219</i>. The Reds blame an alleged collision with the <i>U.S.S. Augusta</i>. The Pentagon blames sloppy Commie work habits. 1980—Moral Majority co-founder and U.S. Rep. Bob Bauman (R-Md.) is charged with making sexual solicitations to an under-aged boy. 1973—Donald Segretti testifies before the Senate about dirty tricks he used to get Nixon re-elected. 1968—Gen. Curtis LeMay, former Strategic Air Command chief and American Independent Party Vice Presidential Candidate, advocates use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam. 1955—CIA HQ gets a cable from the Caracas Station: a former SS trooper says Hitler is alive in Argentina. 6:106:31 12:09	2010—Germany is finally free of its WW I reparations debt. 2004—<i>SpaceShipOne</i>, Burt Rutan’s tourist rocket, wins the Ansari X Prize by making a second trip above the atmosphere in five days. 2002—Knight-Ridder reports that “The White House and the Pentagon ... are pressuring intelligence analysts to highlight information that supports Bush’s Iraq policy.” Only one paper prints the story. 1992—An El Al crash dumps depleted uranium and sarin gas precursors in Amsterdam, killing 47. 1986—Dan Rather is attacked on the streets of New York by two men yelling, “What’s the frequency, Ken?” 1971—Pres. Nguyen Van Thieu, unopposed, is reelected. He says it’s “an achievement for democracy” in ‘Nam. 1958—At 12:45 a.m., Thomas “Fitz” Fitzpatrick wins a bar bet by landing a “borrowed” Cessna on Amsterdam Ave. and 187th St in Manhattan, just as he had done two years earlier. 1957—Two bombs wound 13 GIs in Saigon—the first announced U.S. casualties in Vietnam. 1946—On President Truman’s orders, the Navy seizes American oil refineries to break a 20-state strike. 1918—The world’s largest munitions factory explodes in South Amboy, N.J. About 80 die immediately, and thousands are displaced. Among them, 300 more die from the flu, caused by exposure. 7:187:38 12:561:16	2010—Cribbing from the <i>Weekly World-News</i>, Fox and Friends reports that Los Angeles has bought \$1 billion worth of jet packs for its Police and Fire Departments. 2003—Timothy Treadwell and girlfriend Amie Huguenard discover the hard way that the grizzly bears they’ve been associating with in Alaska are not vegetarians. 2002—George W.[MD] Bush tells N.H. Guardsmen that Saddam could inflict “massive and sudden horror” on the U.S. It’s not true. 2001—Robert Stevens, photo editor of the supermarket tabloid <i>The Sun</i>, dies of anthrax. The terrorist who inflicted him remains at large. 1995—Rush Limbaugh says, “if people are violating the law by doing drugs, they ... ought to be sent up.” After his own arrest in 2003 his position becomes more nuanced. 1988—In a Vice-Presidential debate, Lloyd Bbentsen informs Dan Quayle he’s “no Jack Kennedy.” 1986—Nicaraguans shoot down a U.S. plane illegally supplying Contras with arms bought with the proceeds of illegal U.S. arms sales to Iran. 1971—Advisor Pat Buchanan tells Richard Nixon, “If we tear the country in half, we can pick up the bigger half.” 1969—Undetected by U.S. radar, a Cuban defector lands his MiG-17 at Homestead AFB, where <i>Air Force One</i> is waiting to take Richard Nixon back to Washington. 8:238:43 2:012:22	2004—The top U.S. arms inspector in Iraq says there is no evidence Saddam Hussein had tried to manufacture any WMDs after 1991. 1989—RIP Bette Davis. Years earlier, told she was rumored to have died, she said, “During a newspaper strike? I wouldn’t dream of it.” 1982—A Robinson R22 helicopter sheds parts over Santa Ana, Calif., then crashes, killing the pilot. 1976—Cubana Flight 455 is bombed over Barbados, killing 73. Miami resident Luis Posada Carriles is wanted in Cuba and Venezuela for the crime, but the U.S. won’t extradite him. 1973—Egypt and Syria attack Israel on Yom Kippur. This backfires. 1961—President Kennedy recommends that, in case of nuclear war, American families get ready to live for a while in holes in the ground. 1917—“In time of war,” says Sen. Robert LaFollette, “the citizen must be more alert to his right to control his government.” 1886—After spotting a 75-foot sea serpent near the mouth of the Piscataqua, its head four feet above the surface, two Kittery men “[ply] their oars lustily for the shore.” 1856—Portsmouth celebrates the centennial of the founding of <i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i>; the railroad lays on extra trains to accommodate the crush of visitors from around New England. 1536—William Tyndale is burned for printing a Bible people could read. 9:229:43 3:013:23
Sunday, October 7	Monday, October 8	Tuesday, October 9	Wednesday, October 10	Thursday, October 11	Friday, October 12	Saturday, October 13
2016—The <i>Washington Post</i> releases a videotape on which the GOP Presidential candidate brags about grabbing women by their genitals. Hours later hacked emails of his opponent’s campaign chairman are released. 2011—On her 62nd birthday, Wal-Mart heir Alice Walton gets her 2nd DWI; but no charges were filed. The second wealthiest woman on Earth, she killed a woman in a 1989 car wreck, but no charges were filed. 2007—Bangor, Maine celebrates the death of Al Brady, Public Enemy No. 1, in a 1937 shootout downtown. 2001—U.S. forces invade Afghanistan. George W.[MD] Bush writes his Poppy, “I feel no sense of the so-called heavy burden of the office.” 1996—Fox News begins broadcasting mass quantities of insidious swill. 1985—Attorney General Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese explains that “Miranda only helps guilty defendants,” because “if a person is innocent of a crime, then he is not a suspect.” 1980—Rep. John Jenrette, Jr. [D-S.C.] is convicted of conspiracy and bribery. 1955—Allen Ginsberg reads “Howl” at the Six Gallery in San Francisco. 1917—Relief forces reach the Lost Battalion in the Argonne Forest. 1756—Daniel Fowle and enslaved pressman Primus X begin printing <i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> in Portsmouth. It achieves national seniority in 1839 when the <i>Maryland Gazette</i> folds. 10:1610:38 3:574:19	2006—A Robinson R66 helicopter makes weird noises, spins, then plummets into Lake Tapps, Wash. A lucky passenger survives with injuries. 2004—American warplanes miss Abu Musab al Zarqawi but kill 13 people at a wedding instead. 1991—Speaker of the House Tom Foley [D-Wash.] announces that the House’s sergeant-at-arms will no longer fix traffic tickets for Members. 1974—The Franklin National Bank collapses, undermined by Mafioso Michele Sindona, a close buddy of President Nixon’s Treasury Secretary David Kennedy. 1969—A three-day riot branded “Days of Rage” begins in Chicago. 1968—Washington, D.C. riots after police shoot a black man. 1967—Ernesto “Che” Guevara is captured by Bolivian troops led by the CIA’s Felix Rodriguez. 1955—“The nations of the world will have to unite” warns Gen. D. MacArthur, “for the next war will be an interplanetary war.” 1942—Shot down on a mission for which he volunteered, Capt. Earl Pease, of Plymouth, N.H., is beheaded by his Japanese captors. 1918—In the Argonne, ex-pacifist Cpl. Alvin C. York kills 25 German soldiers and captures 132. 1871—According to myth, a cow starts a fire that burns Chicago and kills 200. Meanwhile, Peshtigo, Wisc. burns completely and 600 die. 11:0611:30 4:485:12	2005—Four die as the Cold River floods Alstead, N.H. 2001—Two Democratic Senators receive letters carrying anthrax spores. 1998—In “a mockery of the regulatory process” that “brazenly violates existing law,” Citicorp and Travelers Group merge into Citigroup, enriching Sandy Weill and Jamie Dimon but costing taxpayers billions. 1992—Hearing a loud bang, Michelle Knapp of Peckskill, N.Y. goes outside and finds a hole punched through the trunk of her 1980 Chevy Malibu and a warm 26-pound meteorite lying on the pavement beneath it. 1985—“We should declare war on North Vietnam,” says Ronald Reagan. “We could pave the whole country and put parking strips on it, and still be home by Christmas.” 1974—Rep. Wilbur Mills [D-Ark.] is stopped at 2 a.m. for speeding with his headlights off. His passenger, Fanne [sic] Foxe, aka “The Argentine Firecracker,” hops into the Tidal Basin. 1967—Dr. Ernesto “Che” Guevara taunts a hesitant executioner, saying “Just shoot, you coward. You are only killing a man.” 1966—Lt. JG William T. Patton, flying a prop-driven Douglas A1 Skyraider, downs a MiG-17 jet fighter over Vietnam. 1963—In Italy, a landslide sends 13 billion gallons of water over an 86 foot-tall dam. An 820-foot wave erases five villages and kills 2,000. 11:53 5:366:01	2002—In an unusually craven display, the U.S. Senate votes 77-23 to let George W.[MD] Bush have his way with Saddam Hussein. 1991—Seven of New Hampshire’s largest banks, holding 25% of all deposits and 60% of all commercial loans, are closed by regulators. 1973—Vice President Spiro “Ted” Agnew resigns in disgrace, pleading <i>nolo</i> to charges he dodged taxes on bribes and kickbacks. 1969—Richard Nixon, putting his “madman theory” into practice, orders a gratuitous global nuclear alert for all U.S. military. 1957—A fire in a British nuclear facility causes a radiation leak contaminating milk over a 200 mile radius. The contaminated milk is dumped in the Irish Sea. 1933—A Boeing 247 airliner is destroyed by a bomb over Indiana. Seven passengers and three crew die in the first such act in history. 1911—Jasper “Jack” Daniel, distiller, dies of blood poisoning from an infected toe injured by kicking a safe whose combination he’d forgotten. 1888—Two trains leaving an abstinence rally collide in Pa.; 66 die. Newspaper accounts suggest many survivors abandoned their pledges. 1871—Octavius Valentine Catto, 32, a teacher at Philadelphia’s Institute for Colored Youth, is shot dead by Frank Kelly for having the temerity to vote while black. Kelly is acquitted. 12:1912:38 6:216:48	2012—Three die in Blanco, Texas in a Robinson R44 helicopter crash. 2003—Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez gives Yankee coach Don Zimmer a shove, knocking the 72-year old Zimmer to the ground. 1991—Anita Hill testifies before Congress that her former boss, Supreme Court Justice-to-be Clarence Thomas sexually harassed her. 1988—As Pope John Paul II addresses the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Rev. Ian Paisley shouts, “I renounce you as the Antichrist!” 1973—Henry Kissinger tells Brent Scowcroft that President Nixon can’t take a call from the British Prime Minister because he’s too “loaded.” 1960—Nikita Khrushchev employs footwear to make his point at the podium of the UN. 1954—The Viet Minh take over North Vietnam. 1945—Mao’s Red Army goes to war against Chiang Kai-Shek’s kleptocracy. 1937—Physicians warn the AMA that Massengil’s new miracle drug “Elixir Sulfanilamide” is causing their patients to die in agony. 1906—The City of San Francisco decrees that Japanese children must go to segregated schools. 1868—Thomas Edison gets his first patent, for an electric voting machine. 1809—At Grinder’s Stand, a tavern, Meriwether Lewis cuts his wrists and shoots himself twice—according to the official version of events. 1:061:22 7:067:35	2004—Computers are stolen from Democratic HQ in Toledo, Ohio. 1972—A race riot aboard the <i>U.S.S. Kitty Hawk</i> injures 47. 1970—Lieut. William Calley is court-martialled for 102 murders. 1969—Navy nurse Susan Schnell drops anti-war leaflets from a plane onto a California military base. 1964—JFK’s very close friend Mary Pinchot Meyer is murdered under the murkiest of circumstances. 1961—The FBI launches a “Socialist Worker Disruption Program.” 1960—Otoya Yamaguchi, 17, a right-winger, runs a sword through Inejiro Asanuma, leader of the Socialists, during a televised debate. 1945—Corporal Desmond Doss, a medic and conscientious objector, becomes the first non-combatant to receive the Medal of Honor. 1943—Combat medic Willi Graf is guillotined by the Wehrmacht for undermining the war effort. 1929—Black Diamond, a nine-ton elephant in the Al G. Barnes Circus, breaks from a parade in Corsicana, Texas and kills Eva Speed Donohoo. 1923—Thousands of Ku Klux Klansmen hold a rally in Portland, Maine. 1917—Passchendaele begins: 13,000 Allied casualties, no advance. 1902—Mine owners in Pana, Ill. import strike-breakers. Violence ensues. Fourteen die and 25 are wounded. 1492—A lost European begins oppressing native Americans. 1:522:06 7:498:21	2004—Andrea Mackris sues her former boss, Bill O’Reilly, for making lewd phones calls. Two weeks later O’Reilly pays her to shut up. 2004—George W.[MD] Bush claims during a televised debate, “Gosh, I don’t think I ever said I’m not worried about Osama bin Laden. That’s kind of one of those exaggerations,” directly contradicting his own statement of March 3, 2002 that he’s “not that much concerned about him.” 1991—A lie detector test suggests Anita Hill is telling the truth about Clarence Thomas. 1988—Experts call the Shroud of Turin a 13th century fake. 1972—Seventy-five years after the land for it was allocated, the Burns Paiute Indian reservation in Oregon is created. 1972—A plane carrying a Uruguayan rugby team crashes high in the Andes, leading to culinary experimentation. 1967—Two Marines die and 21 are wounded when a Marine pilot accidentally bombs them at Con Thien. 1925—Birth of Lenny Bruce. 1812—U.S. Gen. Van Rensselaer sends his regulars across the Canadian border. Those who aren’t shot are forced to surrender. A troop of U.S. militia then refuses orders to invade. 1660—Major General Thomas Harrison goes to his hanging, drawing, and quartering “looking as cheerful as any man could do in that condition,” according to diarist Samuel Pepys. 2:402:52 8:359:10

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