

The Fortnightly Rant

Angry Left-Wing Mob Threatens to Vote

No sooner had the nation's only functioning political party won its Holy Grail—conversion of the Supreme Court into a theocratic tribunal through the swearing in of a serial perjurer—than it turned its attention to the next item on its agenda: eliminating, if possible, the last vestiges of its competition.

The operation just concluded had been jeweler's work, a miniature, accomplished mostly by a single committee, a relative handful of people—and a ruthless will.

The operation now underway is more like D-Day: a vast armada of resources are in play, with whole armies deployed across the country. Despite the scale being so much grander, the supply of ruthlessness seems more than adequate. Like an evil version of a Biblical miracle, it seems to spring from some inexhaustible source.

A contest more unequal could scarcely be imagined. One party places its faith in the righteousness of its amoral leader, salutes, and goes to work. The other places its faith in the sanctity of the rules on which their antagonist wipes his feet, and expends half its energy conducting interminable internal arguments.

Finley Peter Dunne* wrote 123 years ago that politics ain't beanbag. He should see it now.

These days politics is a live performance of the famous line from *Conan the Barbarian*: what is good in life is to crush your enemies, see them driven before you, and to hear the lamentation of their women.

Especially that last part.

* Dunne, the son of Irish immigrants and a Chicago newspaper columnist, was the true author of many good lines which have since been ascribed to others, e.g., "All politics is local," and "It is the job of a newspaper to comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable."

As the Chief Executive was crowing over gaining his objective, he praised the Senate Majority Leader for "staring down an angry left-wing mob."

In case anyone didn't get the message, he tweeted, "You don't hand matches to an arsonist, and you don't give power to an angry left-wing mob. Democrats have become too EXTREME and TOO DANGEROUS to govern. Republicans believe in the rule of law—not the rule of the mob. VOTE REPUBLICAN!"

Sen. Lindsey Graham, who once accurately called the President "a race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot" and "a jackass," has since gotten with the program. He told Fox News, "If you elect Democrats to run the House, you know exactly what you're going to get. You're rewarding mob rule...don't give these people power."

Suspicious minds may be thinking by now there's a fell hand directing this chorus. They're right, of course.

Frank Luntz confessed to NPR—though to him it was bragging—that he had told GOP candidates to use [the term mob] when talking about protesters and those who opposed Kavanaugh ... when you have videos of people chasing after senators and screaming at them, it really is an angry mob. It is accurate and it accurately describes what happens."

This comes as no surprise to anyone who has watched the career of Newt Gingrich. Luntz was Gingrich's propagandist when the Representative from Georgia rose to power, became Speaker of the House, and steered that body, and American politics with it, down the path that led us here.



In a brilliant if nauseating article in the latest *Atlantic*, McKay Coppins makes the case that "[d]uring his two decades in Congress, [Gingrich] pioneered a style of partisan combat—replete with name-calling, conspiracy theories, and strategic obstructionism—that poisoned America's political culture and plunged Washington into permanent dysfunction. Gingrich's career can perhaps be best understood as a grand exercise in devolution—an effort to strip American politics of the civilizing traits it had developed over time and return it to its most primal essence."

Without Gingrich's lead would the Bush campaign have dared to stage the Brooks Brothers Riot? Where might we be if the Florida recount had continued?

It's impossible to say, but here's where we are: the President recently went to Montana where he campaigned for Rep. Greg Gianforte. The Congressman was elected despite a recent assault conviction for

throwing a reporter to the ground. Lest any dullards in the audience miss his point, the President said, "Anybody that can do a body-slam, that's my kind of guy."

While the President encourages Members of Congress to commit assault against members of the press, the Senate Majority Leader is expressing his indignation that members of the public have been intruding in the Capitol building, petitioning their government for a redress of their grievances.

"I want to make it clear to these people who are chasing my members around the hall here, or harassing them at the airports, or going to their homes, we will not be intimidated by these people," he said on the floor of the Senate.

Meanwhile, the President is taking no chances. His Administration is proposing to close 80 percent of the White House sidewalk, put new limits on spontaneous demonstrations there, and begin charging fees for protesting.

The main event, though, is the coming election. With their ranks dwindling, Republicans know that the only way they can stay in power is by suppressing the Democratic vote. Judging from news reports, every Republican official in the country is devoting every waking hour to that task.

If they're challenged on their actions, their verbal responses will vary, ranging from pious civic platitudes to pugnacious snarls. In effect, though, their messages are all the same: "what are you going to do about it, punk?"

This all fits neatly into a familiar pattern. It is a classic example of the behavior of bullies. As always, it carries an implicit threat.

Bombs, or objects intended to look like bombs, began showing up on Wednesday, at the homes and offices of individuals who have been the frequent target of the Bully-in-Chief's ire.

In response, Wednesday evening, he blamed the victims.

The Alleged News®

Light at the End of the Tunnel? The F-35 takes on the Taliban

The U.S. has been fighting in Afghanistan for 17 years now, but finally—maybe—there's light at the end of the tunnel. In late September, a Marine Corps F-35B—the first operational supersonic stealth fighter—carried out its first combat mission against the Taliban. *Military Times* reported that U.S. Naval Forces Central Command issued a statement declaring the September 27th mission a success.

Representing a new pinnacle of high-tech engineering, the F-35 originated in a joint project of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the United States Navy called CALF, for Common Affordable Light-weight Fighter.

CALF's core concept was to lower the unit cost of a new vertical and/

or short take-off and landing (V/STOL) aircraft by making the plane adaptable to the needs of the U.S. Marine Corps and the British Royal Navy. Somewhat controversially, a decision was made, somewhere in the bowels of the Pentagon, to run the design and construction processes concurrently. At some point in the ensuing 25 years, that economic objective seems to have eluded the Pentagon's procurement arm. Each F-35B costs \$115 million—six times the cost of an A-10 Warthog, one of the planes it's supposed to replace.

The troubles don't end with the cost. The plane takes off vertically by directing the exhaust from its turbofan engine downwards. One problem is that its exhaust gas is so hot it destroys asphalt, or concrete,

or the steel deck of an aircraft carrier.

The solution was a special ceramic pad 100 feet in diameter—which created another problem. How do you deliver a hundred-foot disk which must weigh tons to some god-forsaken beachhead or jungle?

Journalist Dave Lindorff asked Franklin "Chuck" Spinney, "why did the Pentagon pull this stunt of sending into combat a plane that is actually still in development and not ready for prime time—a plane whose stealth function and Mach 1.6 speed is completely unneeded in Afghanistan?"

Spinney, a former Pentagon analyst, told Lindorff, "It's budget time. The 2019 fiscal year budget was just signed by the President, so now the Pentagon's gearing up to present its FY 2020 budget proposal to Con-

gress."

The Pentagon has not released any details about who or what exactly its F-35B destroyed on September 27th, so there's no telling what that operation might have cost the Taliban in terms of men and matériel. It can't have been much, though. Kalashnikovs go for about \$600 in Afghanistan—that's 1/250,000th the cost of an F-35.

The same is true for personnel. As we might have learned in Vietnam, had we been paying attention, you don't start running out of combatants in foreign countries you're invading until the population gets close to zero. Currently the population of Afghanistan is 34.6 million.

At least the F-35B deployed last month made it back to its ceramic disk safely. In October, 2016, aboard

an F-35B flying off South Carolina, a faulty bracket rubbing against an electrical wire caused a spark near a leaking hydraulic line, resulting in a fire that forced the pilot to land. After studying the problem for more than a year and a half, the Corps concluded it would cost too much to fix the plane so they'd just have to write it off.

The day after the successful Afghanistan mission, an F-35B crashed near the Marine Corps Air Station at Beaufort, S.C. The pilot ejected safely, but the plane is toast.

Speaking of toast, how about some coffee in a special \$1,280 mug? Congress just learned that the Air Force spent at least \$326,785 since 2016 buying replacements for special plug-in mugs used on air-refueling tankers.

Enjoy the Postal Service While You Can

This newspaper was present for the creation of the United States Postal Service in 1775. The way things look now, we may well soon be reporting on its demise.

To be clear, here, we're not referring just to the Post Office on Daniel Street, the continued existence of which seems to hinge on the City's ability to manage successfully a complex negotiation with the USPS's real estate division in Wash-

ington, D.C. Let's hope the City has better luck with the PO's David Rouse than they have with a certain local car dealer

No, we refer here to the entire Federal system currently known as the Postal Service, which was created on July 26, 1775 by an act of the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia.

That act called for a Postmaster, a Secretary, and a Comptroller to



Emilio V. Maddaloni, who died October 14th, shown here in his natural environment on March 29, 2002: serving up memorable Italian food with a side of philosophy. Born in Springfield, Mass. in 1940, Emilio was a schoolteacher before coming to Portsmouth in 1975. His one-room store and restaurant on Daniel Street had, in lieu of a phone, a reversible sign on the door which said either "Yes, We're Closed," or "Sorry, We're Open." We ran one-inch ads for Emilio's, back in the day, carrying messages like, "We're too busy! Emilio's. Uptown Portsmouth since 1975," "He's never open!!", and the immortal favorite, "If the robot makes it, let the robot buy it." He paid in food; we got the better deal. Requiescat in pace, Emilio.



oversee a line of post offices "from Falmouth in New England to Savannah in Georgia, with as many cross posts as he shall think fit." The first Postmaster, some guy named Benjamin Franklin, knocked down a cool \$1,000 per annum, worth \$32,784.29 today, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"This simple statement," says the USPS's online history, "signaled the birth of the Post Office Department, the predecessor of the United States Postal Service and the second oldest federal department or agency of the United States of America." We tried The Google but could not determine to which senior department or agency the USPS was deferring. The State Department makes a big deal of being the oldest Cabinet Department, but that parvenu didn't come along until 1789.

"Universal Service and the Postal Monopoly: A Brief History," published by the USPS in October, 2008, provides a concise explanation of what sets the postal system apart: "To enable the Post Office Depart-

ment to serve all Americans, no matter how remote, yet still finance its operations largely from its revenue, [in 1792] Congress gave the Department a monopoly over the carriage of letter-mail by a group of federal laws known as the Private Express Statutes.

"Without such protection, Congress reckoned that private companies would siphon off high-profit delivery routes, leaving only money-losing routes to the Department, which then would be forced to rely on tax-payers to continue operations. In the past two centuries, Congress has held to this belief."

That belief may be tested again soon.

The White House issued a 132-page document in June entitled "Delivering Government Solutions in the 21st Century: Reform Plans and Reorganization Recommendations." Its introduction is titled, "The Mandate for Reform," a bold claim for an administration which lost the popular vote.

In a section titled "Mission

Alignment Imperatives," section B. Changes to Refocus, Reduce, or Expand the Mission, part 15, deals with "Devolution of Activities from the Federal Government."

Item a) would sell chunks of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Department of Energy, and the Bonneville Power Administration, for the pious purpose of encouraging "a more efficient allocation of economic resources and mitigate unnecessary risk to taxpayers."

Item c) would reorganize the Department of Transportation to achieve vague promises expressed in opaque jargon and bafflebagg, in part by "spinning off Federal responsibility for operating air traffic control services," and a few other other potentially-profitable assets.

It is Item b) which concerns us most, though. That would "[r]estructure the U.S. Postal System to return it to a sustainable business model or prepare it for future conversion from a Government agency into a privately-held corporation."

The obvious result would be exact-

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ly what “Universal Service and the Postal Monopoly” predicts, except that there’s no way in hell Congress would ever subsidize the operation. That would violate the GOP’s only principle: if any operation can’t make someone a profit, preferably them, it has no right to exist. The most obvious losers would be people living in rural areas—which is to say, Republican voters. It’s a vicious, stupid proposal, but, relatively speaking, at least they’re up front about it.

The President’s Task Force on the United States Postal System made recommendations in August 2018, but they’re being kept under wraps until after the election.

No sane person would doubt the White House’s willingness to privatize—which is to say, destroy—the Postal Service.

The question is, what about Congress? And, more to the point, what Congress will we have after November 6th?

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The Press Room Saga Continues

We had hoped—particularly after touting its purported opening date of October 26th in our previous is-

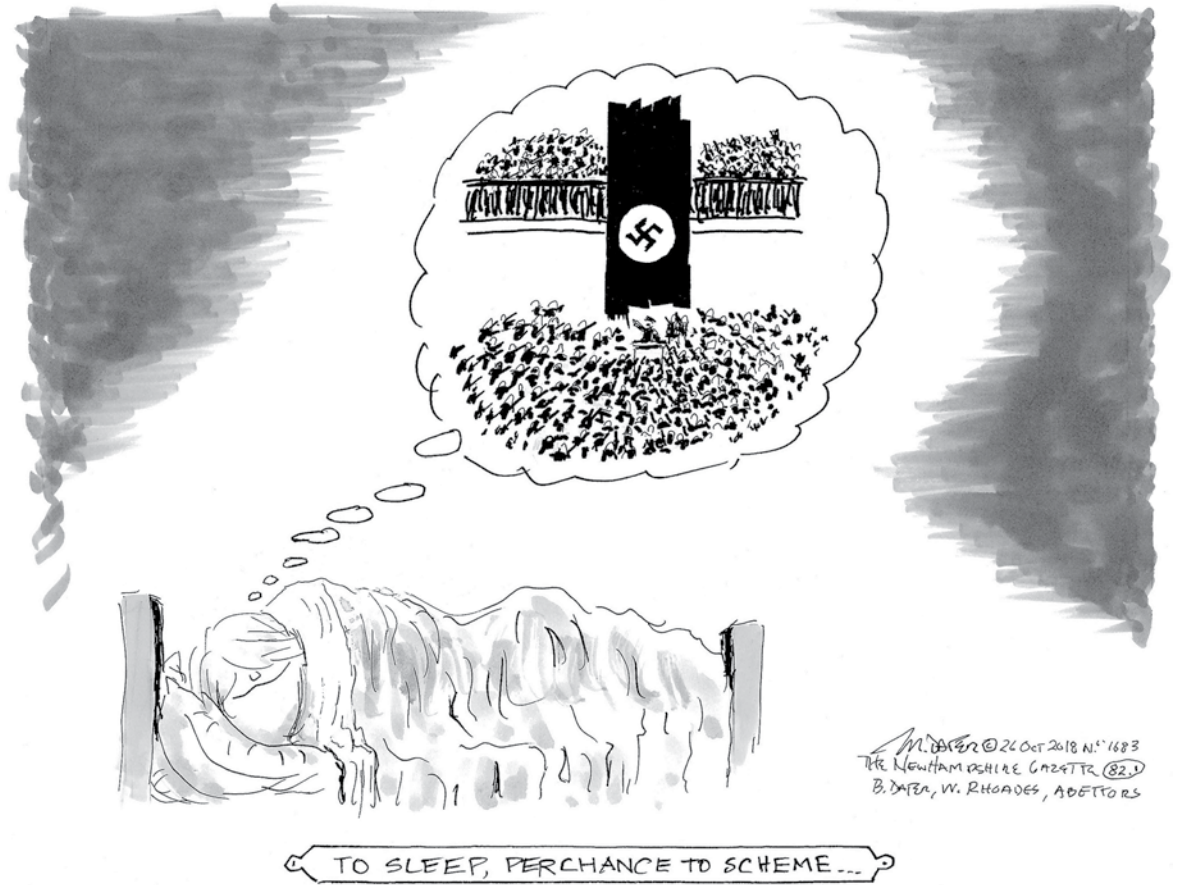
sue—to end this week with a cold one at the Press Room. Alas, it is not to be. The management posted the following message on its website [pressroomnh.com/opening-announcement/] about a week ago.

“Well, construction sucks. We know you’ve been waiting—and we hate to say it—but due to uncontrollable circumstances, we’ve all got to wait a bit longer before we open our doors, now on Wednesday, October 31 (for real).

“Break out your costume and join us on Halloween night for our reopening party with Dr. Gasp & The Eeks! ...” If, in fact, the place is ready for business that night, we predict that for all practical purposes, the Halloween Parade will end on that block of Daniel Street.

A warning for the hopelessly nostalgic: our sources tell us that, sadly, the old shower curtain with the reproduction of *The New York Times*’ front page, announcing the end of prohibition, more or less disintegrated as it was being taken down from the wall.

What we’ll be looking for, in particular, is whether the original street



The City of Portsmouth recently installed one of its excellent historical markers in front of the Portsmouth Athenaeum—certainly a deserving location. The placement of the marker happens to coincide with the inauguration of the Portsmouth Genome Project. The Project asks, what do these markers signify and what do they say, collectively, about Portsmouth? We’re proud to welcome the Portsmouth Genome Project to our community of advertisers—see page five.

sign, the one with the old typewriter in the center of it, is anywhere on the premises.

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The Gazette Reaches Iceland!

Judith Andrews is a brilliant painter, a seller of books at RiverRun Bookstore, and a fortnightly distributor of the *New Hampshire Gazette* to several locations in the semi-immediate area. Last month, she and a friend took the Nation’s Oldest Newspaper™ considerably further afield, to a place that’s very special indeed.

Pingvellir is a spot in southwestern Iceland, 25 miles northeast of Reykjavík which—unique on Earth for locations above sea level—sits on the boundary between tectonic plates. There, the North American and Eurasian plates move apart another .8 of an inch every year.

That fact was no doubt lost on the Icelanders when they first formed their national parliament at Pingvellir 1,088 years ago. In an early case of eminent domain, the land was

confiscated for that purpose from a convicted murderer. The island nation’s legislators met at Pingvellir until 1798, when it moved to another location, presumably less exposed to the elements.

Ásatrúarfélagið, as the followers of the native Icelandic pagan religion

are known, celebrated at Pingvellir in the year 2000, in commemoration of the passage of a millenium since the banning of their religion. While the National Church of Iceland is reportedly losing members, Ásatrúarfélagið grew by eight percent during the first nine months of 2018.

Judith and her friend left a number of papers at several locations in Iceland which are visited by people from all around the world. Now that we are able to offer subscriptions virtually anywhere on the planet—we’re not too sure about Pitcairn’s Island or Antarctica yet, but we’ll burn that bridge when we get to it—spontaneous *ad hoc* distribution efforts are more meaningful than ever.

We’re grateful to Judith and her friend, and to all those who take similar spontaneous measures to extend the geographical reach of our intentionally-portable paper. See below for a cunningly-placed commercial announcement.



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“... it is important that awake people be awake ...
the darkness around us is deep.”

— William Stafford

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

N.H.'s #1 Concern Troll Weighs In
To the Editor:
If Democrat[ic] politicians and leaders actually cared about children, they must consider children a very low priority. If they considered children a high priority, Democrats would pursue policies that make the children's lives better, but they don't. Democrat[ic] politicians are only "for the children" when it advances their other political goals.

If Democrats cared about children, they wouldn't tolerate poor public schools that cheat over 2 million children annually of the educations they need for successful lives. Instead, Democrats protect and fight to reward failing public schools.

[Eight paragraphs of pedantic drivel excised to ameliorate the tedium. — The Ed.]

If Democrats actually cared about children, they'd fight for balanced budgets rather than continually increasing our national and state debts that will burden the lives of current children and unborn generations.

Democrats only "care" about children when children can be used to promote other Democrat[ic] priorities.

Republicans fight for a good, safe education for every child, for instilling responsible behavior, for enforcing all laws to protect Americans and immigrants, and for a growing economy allowing parents to provide for their families and everyone to pursue their American Dream.

If you really care about children, then you must vote for Republicans.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:
If you and other Republicans cared about children, you wouldn't support the Goon-in-Chief's policy of taking them from their parents and putting them in cages.

If you and other Republicans cared about children, you wouldn't deny them healthcare to protect a vile and unnecessary insurance racket.

If you and other Republicans cared about children, you wouldn't be destroying public schools with crackpot schemes to

turn them into profit centers.
If you and other Republicans cared about children, you wouldn't destroy their future by destroying the climate.
The Editor:

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Do It For Your Country
To the Editor:
If we are all tired of the juvenile drama coming out of the White House, let our votes for the midterm elections mark a starting point to end a Republican Congress that insists on enabling a divisive leader that may have colluded with the Russians to win the 2016 election. It does not matter whether you voted for Donald Trump, or, you are Democrat, Republican, Independent, or first time voter, it is time for you to take responsibility as a citizen in a mature democracy to correct the horrible mistake made when the Electoral College made Donald Trump President. Let me be clear, no one can afford to sit out the 2018 midterm elections if he or she believes in decency, global warming, political fairness, inclusiveness and the respect for women. I quote, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country," John Fitzgerald Kennedy. What will we do for our country on November 6, 2018?

Alfred Waddell
Marstons Mills, Mass.

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It's Not a Bug, It's a Feature
To the Editor:

I have often stated that nations, states, or localities get the type of government they deserve. When people elect, or allow others to elect by not voting, amoral, unethical, greedy, racist, sexist, ignorant people and liars to positions of public trust, we get a government that reflects these traits. This is expressed in the legislation they draft and pass or fail to draft and pass, in the policies they enforce or do not enforce, by the people they hire and surround themselves with, by the judges they appoint, and by their own personal behavior.

While we may get the type of government we deserve because of our republic system of government, it is not the type of government the majority



of Americans actually choose or desire. Currently, all three branches of the American Federal Government, the Executive, Legislative and Judicial, are controlled by the minority, and reflect the views and policies of the minority of the most extreme Americans.

Donald Trump was "elected" by a minority of the popular vote. Democratic House candidates received a greater share of the votes in 2016 than seats in the House of Representatives (Cook Political Report). In the Senate, the 47 Democratic Senators (not including the two Independents) represent vastly more Americans than do the 51 Republican Senators. For example, liberal California, with a population of 39 million, has two Senators, while seven conservative states in the northwest and mid-west, with a total population of 6.2 million, have 14 Senators. By 2040, 66 percent of Americans will be represented by only 30 percent of the Senators (Washington Post). And as a result of the Trump minority election win and the Senate representing a minority of the total populations views, we now have a Supreme Court that also reflects the views of the very conservative minority of Americans.

America is now controlled and governed by the minority. While most Americans support a woman's choice regarding reproduction, believe in climate change, want improved access to health care, support Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, want to protect the environment, want quality public education, support equal rights, want fair tax laws, want more gun safety legislation, and oppose much of what our government is doing in our name, it is the views of the most extreme of the minority of our country who are directing our policies and our future. No nation which calls itself a Democratic Republic can long survive under such control over the large majority by the minority. Only in a dictatorship or

a monarchy can such a system survive. Is this where we are heading?

Rich DiPentima
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:
You spooked us with that opening line: few things strike fear into the editor's heart like the thought he might get what he deserves.

More and more these days we agree with the argument that the Revolution and the Constitution were a bait and switch. The colonial one percent riled up the base with a lot of loose talk, then ginned up a Constitution designed to assure that things didn't get too small-d democratic. From that perspective, this mess is less startling.

According to political scientist Erica Chenoweth, who studied 200 violent revolutions and over 100 nonviolent campaigns, it usually only takes 3.5 percent of a population engaged in sustained nonviolent resistance to topple a brutal dictatorship.

Compared to that, we've got a head start. At least the Constitution pays lip service to our right to have a say in what goes on.

The Editor

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Clear Choice on Climate Change
To the Editor:

Chris Pappas, candidate for Congress in District 1, has something in common with a Nobel Prize winner and thousands of scientists: He believes that climate change is a threat to human existence and wants to do something about it. His opponent, Eddie Edwards, has been notably silent on the subject.

One of this year's winners of the Economics Nobel Prize, William Nordhaus, is being honored for his contributions to understanding the financial costs of uncontrolled climate change and suggesting affordable ways

to limit its worst effects. On the day his award was announced, the UN panel on Climate Change released an updated report calling for a crash program to address this unprecedented World emergency.

Chris Pappas, along with these two notable examples, takes climate change seriously. He has called climate change an "existential threat" to New Hampshire's economy and way of life. He has promised to promote reducing greenhouse gas emissions through regulations such as increased mileage standards for vehicles and economic stimulus packages that encourage job-creating investment in renewable energy.

Voters in New Hampshire Congressional District 1 have a clear choice between supporting attempts to address threats affecting all of us now that will only worsen for our children and grandchildren. Or doing nothing. I'm opting to support Chris Pappas' efforts and I hope you will join me in voting for him on November 6.

Ron Lawler
Center Sandwich, N.H.

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Vote Democratic While They Still Let Us
To the Editor:

The Republicans in Congress are cutting Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security to finance the \$1.5 trillion deficit caused by their tax cuts for billionaires. These programs are not "welfare entitlements," they are insurance plans we have paid into our entire lives. We need a Democratic majority in Congress to reverse this disaster.

Senate Republicans just shoved through another trillion dollar gift to the richest of the rich. We will have to pay for it with deep cuts to programs that protect our health, environment, schools, roads, and water. A few ordi-

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nary citizens get some crumbs off the table while Republican financiers take away the whole table. A Democratic majority can restore these necessary programs.

The Republican leader of the House Intelligence Committee, Devil [sic] Nunes, forced the committee to issue a dishonest, incomplete report that shields the President from legitimate investigation into his collusion with Russia and his manipulating U.S. policies for personal profit. Nunes (R-Moscow) and his party can be defeated if we vote for Democrats, now. Our votes count, as never before.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Vote Democratic on Nov. 6th (or Absentee)
To the Editor:

As I hear President Trump inciting the Mexican military and police to rough up the Hondurans trying to get their families to our Southern border, I realize that if he were President of Italy or Spain he'd probably have refugees coming in boats from Africa and the Middle East meet their demise with torpedoes. He's that kind of mean spirit. I wonder why Melania doesn't work on her husband to "be best."

It's time, because Trump is making the November election an endorsement (or not) of him, to get to the polling place and vote. Vote for the Democrats. They are preferable to the Republicans who have thrown in their lot with Trump. We had a Candidates' Night recently in Sanbornton's Old Town Hall, and when asked to "raise your hand if you support President Trump" every Republican's hand went up and every Democrat's hand stayed down. So in our town we don't want Dennis Fields any more; we don't want Tim Lang, as fine a Town Moderator

and as likeable as he is. We don't want Dave Devoy for County Commissioner. Who are those Republicans in your town to defeat?

It's a referendum on Trump and his mean-spirited, all-about-him, decency-be-damned doings as President. Make sure your young family members who can vote get out there on November 6th. Make sure friends and family who think the midterm elections are less important know that his midterm election is the most important one of this first half of the 21st century.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

Vote Chris Pappas for my Daughters
To the Editor:

The Parkland shooting was the final straw for our two teenage daughters, whose home was filled with dinner conversations about gun violence. As some neighbors rushed to buy automatic weapons, our family spent Saturdays standing in peaceful protest against gun violence, and in support of gun safety legislation. Our protest at a busy intersection evoked mixed reactions, including disturbingly negative ones from members of our own school and greater community.

Despite the increasing vitriol over weeks of protesting, both daughters continued to show up on Saturdays, sometimes alone, sometimes with friends, to exercise their First Amendment rights, and to question those of the Second. They organized walk-outs at school, traveled to Washington for the Student March, struck up conversations and discussions among friends.

In the months since the Valentine's Day shooting in Parkland, nothing has been done to address the concerns and fears of the millions in our country who want safer schools, safer commu-

nities, and fewer guns. My daughters are scared.

Chris Pappas will support universal background checks for all gun purchases, a ban on the sale of assault weapons including the AR-15, a ban on the sale of bump stocks and high capacity magazines, a red flag law that would allow family members and the justice system to intervene and prevent someone from doing harm to themselves or others.

I will vote for Chris Pappas to show my girls that I hear them, and that he does too. I hope you will join me.

Ashley Bullard
North Sandwich, N.H.

Eddie Edwards vs. Social Security
To the Editor:

GOP Congressional candidate Eddie Edwards said, on New Hampshire Public Radio, he wanted old folks to have their Social Security, but future generations should be weaned off of it. I guess he worked out that old people vote, but not that the money for their Social Security checks comes from those "future generations" paying into the system.

Mr. Edwards said he wants people to have more control over their own lives. I am not sure how taking away their only guaranteed pension would give anyone more control over their life. Maybe Mr. Edwards should demonstrate how to do this by giving up his State and police pensions. If going without a government controlled pension is good enough for his grandchildren it should be good enough for Eddie Edwards.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth, N.H.

Horse's Rights Dismissed by Horse's Ass
To the Editor:

A reality TV "celebrity" as President, heads of regulatory agencies recruited from the industries being regulated, and a sexist, partisan bully

unable both to hold his liquor and to maintain his composure, and likely to have committed perjury, as a Supreme Court justice. The qualifications for government service can certainly sink no lower. The nation is being governed by bad actors, a preponderance on the conservative side. And what's worse, they're not acting.

Recently, according to ABC news journalists Mark Osborne, Brad Mielke, and Pavni Mittal, Washington County [Oregon] Circuit Court Judge John Knowles dismissed a case alleging neglect by his owner brought by a horse. The horse, named, ironically, Justice, was reported by Matthew Liebman, a lawyer from the Animal Legal Defense Fund, to be "extremely emaciated—about 300 pounds below body weight for a horse—and most significantly ... suffered from penile frostbite as a result of his exposure to the cold and that was left untreated for months."

Despite the defendant having pled guilty to first-degree animal neglect in criminal court in July 2017, the court ruling maintained that: "There are profound implications of a judicial finding that a horse, or any non-human animal for that matter, is a legal entity that has the legal right to assert a claim in a court of law. Such a finding would likely lead to a flood of lawsuits whereby non-human animals could assert claims we now reserve just for humans and human creations such as business and other entities."

So a horse, a living creature with which we share the ecosystem, is not, but corporations, lifeless fabrications engaged in the business of amassing wealth, the actions of which often entail exploiting workers and degrading that ecosystem, are, entitled to protection under the law. Perverse.

What if "non-human animals" were to be acknowledged as legal entities that have "a legal right to assert a claim in a court of law"? Cases brought by pigs and cows alleging exploitation and inhumane treatment could hardly be decided otherwise than in favor of the animals, resulting in such a decline in meat consumption that rain forests might be preserved, and cases of dia-

betes and obesity and the generation of methane dramatically reduced. Cases brought by deer, bear, elephants, big cats, ducks and geese, and other wildlife alleging murder and destruction of habitat could help to curb indiscriminate development and reduce demand for guns (the latter probably not significantly, our predilection for using them to kill one another far exceeding their use in hunting). The oceans might be become rather less bloody and cleansed of waste consequent to lawsuits brought by whales, dolphins, fish, and corals. In the aggregate, our planet's ecosystem's sustainability might be considerably prolonged and our health substantially improved by acknowledging that all life has a right to exist.

Here's to the judge who opens those floodgates by becoming the first to hear a case brought by an animal; the rest can wait in line for a seat on the bench with (I can't bring myself to as-sociate the word "honorable" with an individual who gives the lie to notion of "august justices") Brett Kavanaugh.

John Simon
Portsmouth, N.H.

Democratic Campaign Slogan for 2020
To the Editor:

First it was TTP, then the Paris Accords. The Iran nuclear protocol and NAFTA followed. Bashing NATO and calling into question whether we would come to the aid of our NATO allies was next.

Most recently, withdrawing from the Postal Agreement and now the threat to withdraw from the intermediate range nuclear weapons treaty.

That doesn't even cover the tariffs, the "shit hole countries" remarks or the bromance with Putin, Kim, Duterte, and MSB.

And we haven't even mentioned the domestic debacles, the kleptocracy, the nepotism or the emolument clause.

These are just the obvious things. Don't forget the threats to journalism, people of color, migrants or opposition politicians.

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

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The Northcountry Chronicle

Hating Conway

by William Marvel

My best friend from high school now lives in Somersworth. He likes it down there better than here, where we allegedly grew up—likes Somersworth better than Conway, no less. He had nearly as much connection to Conway as I did, with a grandfather who once served as a selectman, but he has said numerous times that there's nothing for him in this town.

A very successful and prosperous restaurateur who rode the school bus to South Conway with me until he graduated from Kennett now lives somewhere on the other side of Interstate 93. He, too, is happier over there than he was here, as I intuited when I encountered him at one of his restaurants in Ashland a few years back. As generous and polite as he is, I heard recently that he declined to make a donation to some Conway fund-seekers with a remark to the effect that he didn't care if he ever saw Conway again.

A much younger friend of mine who lived here for several years, and was even willing to participate in the drudgework of town government, recently moved to Laconia. A few weeks ago she apprised me that she isn't sad at all to be away. She doesn't miss Conway a bit.

As rooted as I feel here, I still find it easy to understand how others could turn their backs on this town. I've thought of it myself, after all, despite the lifetime of memories evoked by the view from any window in my house. Wages and salaries in most occupations have always been lower here than anywhere else in the state, and lower than in the rest of the country generally. Living costs have always been higher than elsewhere, too, because of the extra distance goods have to be transported and the influence of tourism, which subsists mainly by scalping the necessities of life to visitors from more affluent areas. That scheme would be too obvious if there were a discount for local residents.

The insidious economic impact of tourism began to burden residents directly as soon as subsistence farming gave way to grocery stores and gas stations. Now it exerts numerous indirect pressures as well.

First came out-of-reach housing costs. After our revered chamber of commerce started promoting this place as a vacation spot, the second-home boom began driving the cost of housing higher than local people could afford. Increasing demand for land and materials raised prices sharply, as did costly new regulations advocated by a constituency anxious to shield squeamish tourists from the sight of poorer residents' tarpaper shacks and deteriorating houses.

While rising housing prices carried the additional benefit of pushing those poor folks with the bad teeth and junky cars out of town, it created a shortage of cheap labor, and that's something tourism can't survive without. Now the gnomes of the tourist trade wish those yo-

kels would come back, and they militate for affordable warehousing where such potential workers can be discreetly hidden away when not operating the cash registers. Such warehouses usually entail a combination of tax breaks and zoning exemptions that help add to the taxpayer burden.

“Affordable” worker warehousing may be the hue and cry for the servant class, but the soaring cost of living is cited as a reason to pay much higher salaries for the throngs of public employees to which our tourism-dependent population seems addicted. Imagine the horror, after all, if a new teacher fresh out of college were still expected to accept an entry-level salary that required sharing an apartment. By their sheer numbers and their appetites, the indirect expense such public employees incur for local residents now rivals the impact of the direct costs of living in a tourist town. We’re now expected to pay more for them to work here, besides already paying

more to live here ourselves.

For me, and for others who remember when Conway was quiet and peaceful, a soaring cost of living is not the worst aspect of living here. Even for those of us whom gentrification and an expanded public work force have pushed to the bottom rung of the local income ladder, the most objectionable part of Conway is the deliberate encouragement of unsustainable development. The mountains now sparkle with the lights of trophy homes, and the scarcity of water is the big problem no one will acknowledge. The main draw now is selling trinkets, and the lust for potential shoppers exceeds the capacity of the state highways or local roads.

Over the long term, the economy and the natural resources of any area can support only so many people, but in the same two centuries that saw Fryeburg's population triple, Conway's has exploded tenfold. The only direction for Conway now is downhill.

from page five

What's in store for the next two years? Hard to imagine. Maybe even war with China, or Russia or Canada or Mexico.

After all that Trump has done and what he may do to our country, I think that by 2020 the Democrats should (this time truly) run to “Make

America Great Again.” They probably can pick up the hats made in China pretty cheaply.

Dan Mannschreck
Barrington, N.H.

The 1956 Uprising and Hungary Today

This month marks the 62nd anniversary of the 1956 uprising referred to as the Hungarian Revolution, when that country attempted to

overthrow a Russian-supported government.

The Hungarian Freedom Fighters (both men and women) were praised worldwide for their courage to rebel against their dictator in support of freedom and democracy. Roughly 200,000 Hungarians (2 percent of its population) left their country after the uprising failed, with 47,000 settling in the United States. My family was among those emigrants to the U.S., and we are greatly indebted to many Americans who helped us. When 1989 ended with the collapse of the Iron Curtain and new democratic governments appeared in Eastern Europe, including Hungary, I was overjoyed and proud

of the new Hungary. One of the young leaders of that new country was Victor Orban, who had received much support, including financial, from George Soros, the Hungarian-born American philanthropist. Mr. Soros funded an organization called the Open Society, which among other things funded and operated the new Central European University to promote democracy in eastern European countries.

Since 1989 Hungary has become a member of both the European Union and NATO and was developing democratic institutions. Unfortunately, since the European migrant crisis, Prime Minister

Orban has become increasingly authoritarian. Instead of honoring Hungary's strong relationship to freedom as expressed by their national poet, Petoefi Sandor in his famous poem, "Freedom and love, these we can not live without ...", he has increasingly limited freedoms in Hungary. He has attacked media and political critics, encouraged anti-Semitism and fascist views, and now blames all of Hungary's problems on Mr. Soros.

Before it is too late, Hungarian-Americans have to raise their voices in protest and demand that their country of birth remains democratic and live up to the higher ideals demanded of common decency.

Now Hungary needs our voices to ensure the freedoms that were lost in 1956.

New Hampshire Friends of Hungary, c/o N.H. State Representative
Peter Somssich, 34 Swett Ave.,
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The "Invisible Hand" is In Your Pocket

To the Editor:

Here is some additional info regarding the price increases of Hydroxychloroquine/Plaquenil. Both versions of the drug have been around for a long time. Plaquenil was released in 1955 and Hydroxychloroquine in 1995 and the drug had become a reliable, mature staple in the treatment for a variety of ills. The market had driven the price of a tablet down to about \$0.10 to phar-

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What if we made voting fun?

by Jim Hightower

The shameful truth about America's democratic process is that it's become so un-democratic that they don't want you to vote.

By "they" I mean the power elites who benefit by restricting the vote as tightly as possible to people who support their candidates and policies. We can wring our hands about the voter suppression that's suffocating the people's will ... or, we could

join hands to support common sense measures for voter expansion.

It's an abomination that politicians rig the system to exclude legitimate voters, and those who do so should be publicly shamed and mocked for their pretension that they're "protecting the integrity" of the ballot box. All they're protecting is their political posteriors.

It's time to unlock the voting booth doors: Some six million fellows who've paid their dues should

be restored to full citizenship; provide automatic voter registration for every 18 year old; stop mass purges of voter rolls; vote by mail; provide extended and easy absentee voting; have election week, rather than election day; accept any valid ID; vote where you live; restore the Voting Rights Act; pass a Constitutional Amendment to assure every eligible individual's right to vote; and invest fully in our nation's democratic infrastructure, including verifiable

voting machines, multiple polling places within easy reach of all, an abundance of trained poll workers to eliminate lines and quickly resolve problems.

And here's a crazy idea: Make voting fun, a festive occasion for the whole community! In Australia, for example, most polling places have barbecues. Why not add music, art, games, and other enjoyment to make voting a truly civic activity? America's democratic pageant doesn't have

to be a grinding obstacle course, an intimidating experience—or boring. After all, it belongs to us. Let's make it better.

—==—

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. Sign up at HightowerLowdown.org.

—==—

from page six

macies. In 2014, the stable market went south. Although there were several producers of Hydroxychloroquine, the market was dominated by one producer, Ranbaxy Laboratories (one source stated that they controlled 71 percent of production). In 2014, Ranbaxy ran afoul of the FDA. The agency shut down Ranbaxy's distribution of Hydroxychloroquine in the U.S. due to "significant violations of current good manufacturing practice" in their overseas plants. The removal of so large of a supply of the drug blew up prices for Hydroxychloroquine and Plaquenil. Prices increased by 2,500 percent in some instances.

Here is the anomaly regarding Hydroxychloroquine and Plaquenil. Market forces did kick in and competitors ramped up production so that by 2018 the per tablet price from manufacturers was reduced to \$0.39 per tablet. So, problem solved, right?

Wrong! The market price for these drugs appears to be "sticky"—in some areas, the consumer price of Hydroxychloroquine and Plaquenil has declined (e.g. in some state managed care programs) while in others the price remains high. Apparently, someone in the distribution chain is extracting profit from the manufacturing cost reductions although it is not clear who that may be.

Apparently, in pharmaceuticals, the "invisible hand" is more like a fist that bashes the consumer! I will continue to explore this issue and will let you know what more I come up with.

In the meanwhile, if you want

to get into the weeds of the matter, here is an article dealing with Hydroxychloroquine pricing: <https://bit.ly/2q7kvCz>.

Robert D. Russell, Ph.D.
Harrisburg, Pa.

—==—

Democrats = Pure Evil

To the Editor:

Prominent Democrats, politicians, media, and others, claim to care about women but they only care about women they can use for political advantage.

Prominent Democrats have been protected despite decades of known, substantiated abuse of women. Bill Clinton remains a Democrat[ic] rock star; his victims were/are ridiculed and attacked. Ted Kennedy's career flourished despite his rampant female abuse and his abandoning Mary Jo Kopechne to die. Hillary and Oprah were friends with, and introduced women to (the finally indicted) Harvey Weinstein despite his decades of abuse of women. Democrat[ic] Congressman Ellison's campaign is on track despite the evidence of his recent domestic abuse.

[Brutally ripped from the beating heart of this letter: another 140 words worth of predictably disingenuous Republican talking points, thrown overboard to make room for more valuable cargo. — The Ed., in a jaunty, nautical, near-piratical frame of mind.]

Democrats vilely and outrageously attacked Judge Kavanaugh to stoke emotions, since evidence and reason supported him. Democrats

didn't care about the ridicule, harassment, and/or threats they incited against Dr. Ford, Kavanaugh's wife and daughters, Senators, Senators' families and staffs, or anyone else.

Out of their lust for power, not out of concern for women or justice, Democrats inflicted pain on Dr. Ford, Judge Kavanaugh, and others.

The last few weeks have been shameful but illustrative. Democrats abandoned all sense of decency, honesty, and the presumption of evidence for their political objectives. Democrats used Soviet style "justice," mob rule, harassment, lies, and threats to try to destroy an esteemed man, husband, and father with an exemplary record.

Republicans condemn abuse of all women without regard for who the perpetrator is. But Republicans believe in the American justice system which requires evidence, the rule of law, and proof of guilt; this system protects women and children and their husbands, fathers, brothers, etc.

In November, voters who only care about women when it provides political advantage and who want a Soviet style justice system, should vote for Democrats. Voters who care about all women and the American system of justice should vote for Republicans.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

So, the Democrats are to blame for "the threats they incited against Dr. Ford." Thanks for clearing that up.

Since you live in District One, we assume you'll be voting for Eddie Edwards, who opposes abortion under any circumstances.

Raped and pregnant? No abortion for you. Pregnant and consequently in danger of dying? No abortion for you, either. Have some thoughts and prayers.

God and Republican logic move in mysterious ways indeed.

The Editor

—==—

American Power in Jeopardy

To the Editor:

Throughout history we have seen many great and powerful civilizations and empires dissolve. Some, like the Romans took 1,000 years; others like the British, Spanish, Ottoman, the Soviets and the Greeks took much less time to loose their power.

The common elements in the destruction of almost all of these powerful empires are seen repeatedly. These include; greed, lust for power, corruption, control of the many by the few, abuse of power, excessive militarization, and arrogance. It was the decay from within, more than external forces, that destroyed many past powers. The vision of the Emperor Nero playing his fiddle while Rome burned comes to mind as the most vivid example of this phenomenon. This image may be replaced in history by that of Donald Trump playing his Twitter phone as America figuratively burns.

The policies of greed, the disgraceful behavior, and total absence of morality and integrity of Trump

and the Republican Congress, proves that we have not learned from the mistakes of previous fallen empires, and that we may be doomed to repeat them and suffer the same fate. While we may wish to think otherwise, America is not immune from the same forces of history and human failings of its leaders that brought down other civilizations. Unless we make some major course corrections very quickly, America will soon join that list of fallen empires. In fact, it is already happening right in front of our eyes. If you think this is hyperbole, just consider this fact, Mr. Putin last week was openly celebrating the demise of American power and influence throughout the world.

We have the power to control our own history and destiny. The big question is, do we have the will, courage and intelligence to do so?

Rich DiPentima, LTC USAF, Ret.

Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:

Let's not make the error of assuming that American hegemony has been an entirely good thing. Our record since the late 19th century has been, shall we say, mixed.

We're not advocating letting Vladimir Putin or some lineup of Chinese bureaucrats rule the world. Rather, we'd argue that America's first priority ought to be to demonstrate the principles in which we profess to believe. Maybe then, after everybody's got food, a roof, health care, and all the education their brains can hold, we'd be in a better position to go around telling other people how to live.

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, OCTOBER 28	MONDAY, OCTOBER 29	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3
2016—Disregarding advice from Justice Dept. lawyers, Director James Comey announces that the FBI has re-opened its investigation of the Democratic Presidential candidate 10 days before the election. 2007—The Red Sox take the World Series in four from the Rockies — second time in three years. 2005—Cheney henchman “Scooter” Libby resigns after he’s indicted. 2003— “[A]s you know,” explains George W.[MD] Bush, “these are open forums, you’re able to come and listen to what I have to say.” 1988—In Tacoma, a jury awards \$147,000 to a woman seduced by her minister. 1984—OPEC decides to produce less oil and make more money. 1962—Russkie Premier Nikita Khrushchev agrees to dismantle the Soviet missile bases in Cuba and remove the weapons. 1922—Benito Mussolini, “sent by divine providence,” according to Pope Pius XI, takes over in Rome. 1921—Argentine workers revolt under the black flag of anarchism. The army kills 1,500. 1906—Ivy Lee issues the world’s first press release, deflecting blame from the Pennsylvania Railroad for the deaths of 50 passengers. 1793—Eli Whitney applies for a patent for his cotton gin. It will revive chattel slavery in the South and help bring wage slavery to the North.	2004—Osama bin Laden explains: 9/11 was retaliation for the U.S. backing Israel’s 1982 invasion of Lebanon. 2003—George W.[MD] Bush explains: “The war on terror involves Saddam Hussein because of the nature of Saddam Hussein, the history of Saddam Hussein, and his willingness to terrorize himself.” 1987—Ronald Reagan nominates Douglas H. Ginsburg for the Supreme Court, but his pot-smoking past puts the kibosh on that. 1984—New York City policemen kill African American Eleanor Bumpurs, 66, with two rounds from a 12 gauge. She was behind in her rent. 1981—A British Parliamentarian asks Maggie Thatcher whether European governments were “free to veto [a] push on the final button by that incoherent cretin President Reagan?” 1979—On Wall Street, 1,000 people are arrested for disrupting business on the 50th Anniversary of the Crash. 1969—Chicago 8 defendant Bobby Seale is gagged and bound to a chair. 1969—ARPANET goes live—two computers communicate for the first time—10,166 days later SKYNET becomes self-aware. 1958—A radioactive cloud drifts over Los Angeles after the explosion of an A-bomb in Nevada. 1940—First U.S. peacetime draft. 1929—“Black Tuesday”—16 million shares sell on Wall Street, at ever declining prices; \$26 billion evaporates.	2012—For the first time since the Ice Age, public access to the sea at Sandeys Poynt in Rye is cut off by would-be Senator Bill Binnie. 2005—Pastor Kyle Lake, 33, standing in water to perform a baptism before 800 people at a Waco, Texas Baptist church, reaches for a microphone and is electrocuted. 1995—Quebec votes not to secede, but just barely. 1990—For the first time since the Ice Age, England and Europe are connected; this time by chunnel. 1967—Martin Luther King, Jr. is arrested in Birmingham, Ala. 1961—The Soviet Union air-drops a 58-megaton H-bomb: the largest explosion in human history. 1950—Puerto Ricans rebel against U.S. rule. 1948—Smog deaths in Donora, Pa. reach 20, and 6,000 are sick. 1938—CBS Radio broadcasts “War of the Worlds.” Irresponsible newspapers spin a few isolated overreactions into a mythical national panic. 1838—A mob led by three Missouri Militia captains attacks a colony of Mormons at Huan’s Mill, killing 21. 1831—Rebel slave leader Nat Turner is arrested in Virginia. 1501—At Pope Alexander VI’s palace, as 50 naked whores scramble for chestnuts strewn on the floor, church officials vie for prizes for virility by coupling with as many of them as possible.	1973—Three IRA men make an unauthorized exit from Dublin’s Mountjoy jail on a hijacked helicopter. 1968—President Johnson stops the bombing of North Vietnam. 1967—Gov. Ronald Reagan denies a “homosexual ring” is operating out of his office in Sacramento. 1963—“I can safely say,” says Gen. Paul Harkin, U.S. commander in South Vietnam, “that the end of the war is in sight.” 1964—China explodes an A-bomb. 1941—The destroyer <i>U.S.S. Reuben James</i> is sunk by a U-Boat while on convoy duty on the North Atlantic. 1939—FDR moves the date of Thanksgiving ahead by one week to boost Christmas retail sales. 1938—Convicted murderer John Deering’s heart rate is monitored by an EKG as he’s executed by a Utah firing squad: 180 beats per minute. 1926—In Bologna, an anarchist shoots at Benito Mussolini. He survives; Anteo Zamboni, 15, is lynched. 1926—Ehrlich “Harry Houdini” Weiss dies of a punch to the stomach. 1918—In a single week, Spanish Flu kills 21,000 Americans. 1893—The World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago closes; Daniel Fowle’s printing press, which had been on display, is seen no more. 1765—The <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i> is printed “in mourning” for lost liberty, in protest of the Stamp Act, to take effect the following day.	2004—Polling places in Franklin Co., Ohio get voting machines delivered; higher-income areas get more of them than lower-income areas. 2002— “[T]hat’s what you expect here in New Hampshire,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “somebody who tells you what’s on your mind.” 1972—The Piscataqua River Bridge opens to traffic. 1968—At My Tho, two limpet mines kill 26 aboard the <i>U.S.S. Westchester County</i>—the Navy’s deadliest single incident of the Vietnam War. 1966—Lyndon Johnson, lying, tells U.S. troops in Korea that his great-great granddaddy died at the Alamo. 1963—Generals in Saigon lay siege to the Presidential Palace—with U.S. government approval, of course. 1955—Angry with his mother, who left him in an orphanage, Jack Graham kills her and 43 other people. He’s only charged for her murder since it’s not yet illegal to blow up airliners. 1951—Six thousand soldiers are exposed to an A-bomb explosion in Nevada “for training purposes.” 1950—Puerto Rican nationalists try to kill Harry S Truman. 1918—A scab motorman causes the Malbone Tunnel disaster in New York City; 97 die, 255 are injured. 1789—George Washington attends two church services in Portsmouth. 1777—The <i>Ranger</i>, Captain John Paul Jones commanding, leaves Portsmouth for France.	2008—Odd noises, then a Robinson R44 helicopter crashes into the Cumberland River. The pilot drowns. 2004—Warren Co., Ohio, officials say a “terrorist threat” is why they’re counting votes behind locked doors. 2002—“We know he [Saddam Hussein] has chemical weapons,” says George W.[MD] Bush. 2000—A Maine TV station reports that George W.[MD] Bush got busted for drunk driving in 1976. 1988—A Cornell grad student nukes the ‘net by releasing an experimental Morris Worm into MIT computers. MIT grants him tenure 18 years later. 1972—The Seafarers International Union [SIU] gives \$100K to Nixon’s campaign. The Justice Dept. drops an indictment of the SIU for making illegal campaign contributions. 1967—Pres. Johnson and his “Wise Men” decide what the Vietnam War needs is more upbeat coverage. 1965—Norman Morrison, a Quaker, 31, immolates himself below Robert McNamara’s Pentagon window. 1963—The U.S.-ordered coup in Vietnam goes awry: a major and a captain assassinate President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Din Nhu. 1929—“The Wall Street crash,” says <i>Business Week</i>, “doesn’t mean that there will be any general or serious business depression.” 1920—Socialist Eugene V. Debs gets 913,693 votes for President, despite being in prison for sedition.	1998—Charlotte Burks [D] is elected to succeed her late husband, Tennessee Senator Tommy Burks. Without campaigning, she gets 95 percent of the votes cast. Byron Low Tax Looper, a Republican who murdered Burks two weeks earlier, gets five percent. 1987—While hovering 400 feet over Moraga, Calif., the main rotor of a Robinson R22 strikes its tailboom; parts fall “like sparklers,” a flight instructor and his student die. 1979—Communists are fired on by Klansmen and Nazis in Greensboro, N.C.. Five die and 11 are wounded, but three trials yield no convictions. 1969—Richard Nixon announces “Vietnamization” of Vietnam War. 1964—Lyndon Johnson is elected as the peace candidate. 1948—“Dewey Defeats Truman,” according to the <i>Chicago Tribune</i>. 1903—The Colombian province of Panama secedes, backed by Teddy Roosevelt, whose Republican party recently received \$60,000 from the New Panama Canal Company. 1874—Election Day in Eufala, Ala.: The White League murders seven black Republicans, wounds 70 more, and says the Democrats won. 1848—In Revere, Mass, a train full of Whigs collides with a train full of Democrats; six die and 40 are injured. 1755—Mass. sets bounties for Indian scalps, ranging from £50 for male Penobscots over 12 years old, to £20 for female Indians under 12.
2:09 2:20 8:07 8:43	2:58 3:11 8:56 9:35	3:53 4:07 9:50 10:33	4:53 5:09 10:50 11:34	5:58 6:16 11:56	7:04 7:25 12:39 1:04	8:07 8:30 1:42 2:11
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5	TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

2008—As Americans elect Barack Obama President, Californians restrict LGBT rights.

2001—An experienced helicopter pilot who told his mother the machines “hardly ever go down” is killed, along with his girl friend, when his Robinson R22 crashes 100 yards from his home helipad near Escondido, Calif.

1979—Militant Shi’ite Muslims take 66 Americans hostage in Teheran, dooming the Carter administration.

1964—Lenny Bruce is found guilty of obscenity in New York City.

1960—In Dallas, a vicious “Mink Coat Mob” angrily confronts Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson. Revulsion at its tactics cost Nixon Texas.

1958—A U.S. B-47 bomber carrying nukes crashes near Abilene, Texas. High explosives detonate. Nuclear materials are recovered later.

1955—CIA HQ responds to Caracas Station re: report that Adolf Hitler has been seen in Argentina — “we suggest that this matter be dropped.”

1928—Asked who shot him, the dying gangster Arnold Rothstein tells police, “My mudder did it.”

1924—Nellie Rayloe Ross becomes first female governor of a U.S. state, Wyoming.

1798—Vermont elects Matthew Lyon, in jail for sedition, to Congress.

1791—Native Americans destroy one quarter of the U.S. Army in the Battle of the Wabash—896 of 1,000 soldiers are killed, wounded, or captured.

2004—A Franklin Co. Ohio official reports that Pres. Bush’s 3,893 vote total in one district is erroneous—only 638 ballots were cast.

1994—File this under “Non-News:” Ronald Reagan announces he has Alzheimer’s.

1986—Nam vet Ron McIntosh hijacks a helicopter and uses it to free his girlfriend from the Federal prison he escaped from six days earlier.

1975—Dick “Dick” Cheney becomes White House Chief of Staff, Donald Rumsfeld becomes Secretary of Defense, and George H.[H.]W. Bush becomes Director of the CIA. Gerry Ford is allowed to stay on as President.

1964—A loaded KC-97 crashes on takeoff at Pease: five crewmen die.

1949—Deranged WW II veteran and daily churchgoer Howard Unruh (1921—2009) shoots 16 people, killing 13, in Camden, N.J.

1930—Told over the phone by a Swedish reporter that he’s won the Nobel Prize, Sinclair Lewis, thinking it’s a hoax, imitates the man’s accent.

1916—Vigilantes fire on IWW members in Everett, Wash. They kill two of their own and five Wobblies.

1872—Susan B. Anthony and 14 less-notorious women vote in Rochester, N.Y. Nine days later, only Anthony is arrested.

1765—Two Boston days forego their usual Guy Fawkes gang ruckus and join up to demonstrate against the Stamp Act.

2000—Saddam Hussein stops accepting dollars for oil, thus undermining U.S. hegemony and possibly shortening his own life.

1998—Newt Gingrich says he’s resigning as Speaker of the House because he’s “not willing to preside over people who are cannibals.”

1984—Reagan defeats Mondale—it’s mourning in America.

1977—A dam owned and modified by the Toccoa Falls Bible Institute in Georgia fails, killing 39 people.

1975—The Sex Pistols perform in public for the first time.

1971—The Atomic Energy Commission detonates a 5-megaton nuke—the largest ever exploded in the U.S.—one mile below Amchitka Island in Alaska, about 87 miles from a Soviet naval base in Siberia.

1965—In Times Square, five men burn their draft cards, the first such protest of the Vietnam War.

1963—In Midland, Texas, the future Mrs. George W.[MD] Bush runs a stop sign with fatal results.

1944—The Zionist Stern Gang assassinates Britain’s Lord Moyne in Cairo. Israel honors the assassins with a stamp in 1982.

1928—Herbert Hoover beats Alfred E. Smith for president.

1917—After three months of fighting in mud, Canadians take Passchendaele, ending the Third Battle of Ypres; Allies gain five miles at a cost of 250,000 casualties.

2007—Private Jessica Lynch accuses the Pentagon of exploiting her capture for propaganda purposes.

2000—The American people go to the polls and vote for a president. The Supreme Court gives them George W.[MD] Bush, instead.

1962—Richard Nixon tells the press they won’t have him to kick around any more. (It’s a lie.)

1961—Under Sec. of State George Ball warns JFK, “Within five years, we’ll have 300,000 men in the paddies and jungles and you’ll never find them again.” JFK tells Ball he’s “crazier than hell. That just isn’t going to happen.”

1957—Ike tells close aides that in the event of nuclear war, “You might as well go out and shoot everyone you see and then shoot yourself.”

1940—The mile-long Tacoma Narrows bridge wiggles, wobbles, and then falls down. Washington State can’t collect on its insurance, because its agent pocketed the premiums.

1931—Fisk U.’s Dean of Women Juliette Derricotte and a student, injured when a white man’s car drives hers into a ditch, die after being refused hospital treatment because they’re black.

1919—3,000 anarchists are held without bail on Ellis Island as the Palmer Raids begin.

1917—Revolutionary peasants lost in the Winter Palace stumble upon the remnants of Kerensky’s government. Being illiterate, they force the officials to write their own arrest warrants.

2016—Donald J. Trump wins. Everybody else is a loser.

2013—The Navy suspends the security clearance of Admiral Ted “Twig” Branch, Director of Naval Intelligence. Though unable to view classified material, he’s still in office.

2010—George W.[MD] Bush reveals on TV that his mother once showed him a jar containing the fetus of a miscarried sibling and asked him to drive her to the hospital.

2000—At 2:16 a.m., Fox News “reporter” John Ellis calls Fla. in favor of his cousin, George W.[MD] Bush.

1994—Serial philanderer Newt Gingrich and the GOP take Congress.

1983—Moscow puts its nukes on high alert and flash-telegrams its embassies that a nuclear strike on the USSR may come at any time.

1965—Dorothy Kilgallen’s investigation into JFK’s assassination ends due to an allegedly accidental overdose.

1932—Socialist Norman Thomas gets 884,885 votes for President.

1923—Disgruntled corporal A. Hitler, with help from disgruntled general E. von Ludendorff, stages the “Beer Hall Putsch” in Munich.

1897—Birth of Dorothy Day, anarchist founder of *Catholic Worker*.

1876—The editor of *The New York Times* and the chairman of the Republican National Committee conspire to bribe election officials in Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana to “elect” Hayes president.

1998—Brokers who rigged the game at NASDAQ are compelled to pay their bilked customers \$1 billion.

1989—The Berlin Wall becomes unexpectedly porous.

1979—A computer error causes the U.S. Air Defense Command to believe for six minutes that the USSR is attacking the U.S.

1969—Two small groups of Indians make successive landings on Alcatraz Island. The first is removed by the Coast Guard, the second manages to stay overnight.

1967—The presses start rolling for *Rolling Stone*.

1965—Due to a failure at a single power plant in Ontario, the entire northeast is left in the dark.

1953—Dylan Thomas dies in New York at 39.

1942—The first “Liberty Ship,” the *Robert E. Peary*, is launched.

1938—German Nazis demonstrate their racial superiority during Kristallnacht by killing 91 Jews.

1932—To restore order, the Swiss Army fires on a crowd of protesters in Geneva, killing 13 anti-fascists.

1872—In Boston, 600 buildings burn. The Fire Department is hampered by a lack of horsepower due to an equine virus, aka “the Great Epizootic,” and by looters. Portsmouth sends a steamer and 34 men to assist.

1863—Abraham Lincoln watches John Wilkes Booth perform in Selby’s “The Marble Heart” at Ford’s Theatre.

2004—George W.[MD] Bush nominates as his new Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales—who goes on to make his predecessor, John Ashcroft, look good.

1982—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a gift to the nation from those it had shunned, opens in Washington, D.C.

1975—The ore carrier *Edmund Fitzgerald* sinks on Lake Superior, taking with her a crew of 29.

1973—In Drake, N.D. the school board fires a teacher and burns the book he assigned, *Slaughterhouse Five*.

1972—Anti-police brutality activist Louis Moore, threatened with bogus charges by Detroit police, tries a radical remedy: skyjacking a DC-9 out of Birmingham, Ala. A two-day, nine-stop odyssey ends in a Cuban prison and leads to airport searches.

1964—In Australia, the draft is re-introduced, apparently to protect that part of the British Empire from invasion by Ho’s forces.

1950—Flying over Canada, a U.S. Air Force crew in a B-50 experiences engine trouble. They chuck the bomb (minus its plutonium core) which then explodes in Riviere du Loup, Quebec.

1898—In Wilmington, N.C., 400 Democratic activists murder 40 to 100 blacks, depose the mayor, and establish a new government by force.

1871—Newspaperman Henry Morton Stanley, meeting a white man near Lake Tanganyika, says “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?”



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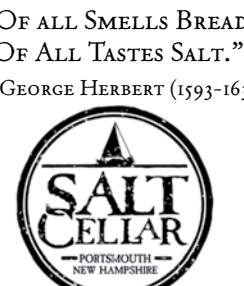
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