

The Fortnightly Rant

Local Governor Wrecks Atmosphere

The nation has lost a President. No, not that one; quit cheering, you ghouls in the cheap seats.

George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush died November 30th in Houston, Texas at the age of 94. Attaining such longevity was a remarkable achievement for a man who, when young, bailed out of a burning torpedo bomber, and, on his 80th, 85th, and 90th birthdays, leapt from airplanes which were not even on fire.

Under the unwritten but apparently unbreakable rules which govern the output of our corporate news media, the nation has for the past week wallowed in a rose-tinted, nostalgic orgy of remembrance of "Poppy" Bush, whose patrician demeanor created a pleasing simulacrum of human decency and also provided comic relief whenever he attempted to adopt that perennial political requisite, the "everyman" persona.

The stature of our 41st President has risen considerably since he left office, a phenomenon driven largely by the performance of his Republican successors. One of them, of course, was his own son. Now that son, who once was the cause, is benefitting from that phenomenon himself.

Watching this cycle repeat itself raises at least two questions. One is trivial, but morbidly fascinating: what would a later President have to do to make #45 look good? The other is huge and terrifying: how much longer do we think we can get away with this?

The International Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] says not very long. It published a report in October that was scary in print, but the audiobook is all just wailing sirens. The U.S.'s own Fourth National Climate Assessment is no less alarming. That's why, no doubt, it was quietly

but appropriately released on Black Friday.

Though the contrast between #41 and #45 may seem stark, even absurd, that difference is surprisingly superficial when considered in light of the greatest question of all: what shall be mankind's future?

Donald Trump is inviting climatic catastrophe by withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Agreement. Bush #41 did much the same thing nearly 30 years ago, when he blocked U.S. participation in a binding global agreement which would have set limits on carbon emissions.

One assumes Trump's motivation is the same as always: some perverse and incoherent mish-mash of political self-interest, ignorance, and arrogance. Bush #41 was driven by something more familiar, and closer to home—New Hampshire's own former Governor, John Henry Sununu.

Nathaniel Rich laid out this sordid saga in a 30,000 word article which took up the entire August 1st issue of the *New York Times Magazine*. Before dipping into Rich's story, though, let's hear Big John's confession.

Like a certain other public figure currently cutting an outsized swath across the world stage, John H. Sununu tends to brag about certain things in the mistaken belief that doing so will make him look better. For example, in a book he wrote about George H. [H.] W. Bush, he boasted that when he was Governor he'd used State assets as bribes to swing the 1988 First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election®.

Over the course of five years in office he'd amassed a few hundred low-numbered license plates, which he could issue at his own discretion. "[W]henver one of the [state's] more desirable opinion leaders was having trouble deciding whether to



support Bush or Dole," he wrote, "the promise of a low-digit license plate was a very effective tie-breaker." Asked if Sununu's maneuver was legal, Columbia Law professor Richard Briffault told the *Washington Post*, "I can't tell you it's illegal, but it certainly seems improper."

Legal, schmegal—Bush beat Bob "Bob" Dole by nine points in the New Hampshire Primary, and that got Sununu what he wanted: a job as Bush's Chief of Staff.

In the *Times*, Rich describes how Bush ran as an environmentalist in the general election campaign, to an extent that hardly seems credible now. Mike Dukakis, the Democrat, was talking about tax credits to boost oil production and the glories of coal. Bush said he'd use the "White House effect" to counteract the greenhouse effect.

Ten days after Bush was inaugurated, at the State Department, Secretary of State James Baker hosted

the IPCC's first sessions to begin planning an international treaty to address the greenhouse effect. "We can probably not afford to wait until all of the uncertainties ... have been resolved," he said. "Time will not make the problem go away." A bipartisan coalition in the Senate was already working on legislation to cut emissions. Political leaders around the world were coalescing around the urgent need to act.

Shortly after Baker gave his speech, writes Rich, "he received a visit from John Sununu, Bush's Chief of Staff. Leave the science to the scientists, Sununu told Baker. Stay clear of this greenhouse-effect nonsense. You don't know what you're talking about."

Sununu also blocked EPA Administrator William K. Reilly's push for a binding global treaty to reduce carbon emissions. And, when NASA's James Hansen went before Congress to speak about at-

mospheric science, his testimony was censored by Richard Darman of the Office of Management and Budget—at the behest of John H. Sununu.

In November of 1989, IPCC delegates from 67 nations met in the Dutch town of Noordwijk, hoping to come away with a binding treaty. According to Rich, "[Allen] Bromley, at the urging of John Sununu and with the acquiescence of Britain, Japan and the Soviet Union, had forced the conference to abandon the commitment to freeze emissions." The Swedish minister explained to an American observer, "Your government is fucking this thing up!"

John H. Sununu is old, but he isn't dead yet; he is not immune from criticism. It would be pointless for us, though, to heap opprobrium upon him. His own record achieves that end far above our poor power to add or detract.

The Alleged News®

State Clears State of Bootlegging Charge

In January, the *Union Leader's* Kevin Landrigan wrote an eye-popping exposé about certain business practices of the State Liquor Commission, aka Dr. Green's. Liquor and tax officials in New York and Vermont, he wrote, "believe there is a growing pipeline of cheaply bought liquor here that is smuggled over to New York, so end users in clandestine markets can avoid paying their own high excise taxes."

Those officials had ample cause for suspicion. Just last November, a man was pulled over in New York with 757 liters of top-shelf hooch in his van, purchased from five different New Hampshire liquor stores. Far from being an isolated incident, that case fit a pattern dating back years. In one notorious 2011 case, a man stopped for a defective license-plate light by Chelmsford,

Mass. police had 1,776 750-ml. bottles of Hennessy in the back of a van.

Joe Mollica, Chairman of the New Hampshire State Liquor Commission [NHLC], said at the time that there was nothing shady going on. He told Landrigan, "If [the man stopped in New York] bought it and purchased it in the state, and he followed our policy, then the state of New Hampshire is covered. And I am sure we did."

Executive Councilor Andru Volinsky, on the other hand, was troubled by Landrigan's report. On February 13th, he presented Governor Chris Sununu, Attorney General Gordon MacDonald, and other top state officials with a 23-page memo titled, "Re: Questionable Business Practices of the State Liquor Commission." Based on Landrigan's reporting, his own

sleuthing, revelations by Commission whistle-blowers, and at least one personal on-site visit, the memo charged that the Liquor Commission "has adopted practices that appear designed to undermine the policy and facilitate money laundering."

The NHLC issued a statement saying it was "committed to following state and federal laws and we have an 85-year track record of doing just that. Well-before receiving the accusations from Councilor Volinsky, we had begun investigating the matter and our initial findings are deeply concerning."

Was the Commission concerned about the Granite State being accused of acting as the Northeast's No. 1 bootlegger? No, it was concerned about "Councilor Volinsky and union head Rich Gulla [vio-

lating] a variety of NHLC policies in what can only be described as an attempt to profile our customers, place their personal data at risk, and politicize the NHLC."

The Office of the Attorney General of the State of New Hampshire—which couldn't be bothered to protect the rights of the public in the Sanders Poynt public access case—had no trouble finding the time to look into whether the state's \$700-million booze biz might be in some sort of legal jeopardy.

Nothing To See Here

Having considered the matter, the A.G. reached the same conclusion as Chairman Mollica. In a letter dated November 29th, Deputy A.G. Jane E. Young wrote, "we have advised the [Commission] that its practices and procedures regarding LVCS [large volume cash sale] transac-

tions, including its performance and enforcement of the LVCS Policy by the NHLC and its employees, are consistent with applicable state and federal laws."

We look forward to other opinions on the matter from, say, law enforcement officials in New York and Vermont. Pending that eventuality, we have a press release issued by Executive Counselor Andru Volinsky:

"The timing and brevity of the letter issued by the DOJ [Department of Justice] after an investigation that begin [sic] at my request in February 2018 should give us all pause. More troubling, however, is the failure of the DOJ to recognize the significance of evidence of money laundering and illegal bootlegging

The Alleged News®
from page one

developed during the prosecution of New York City mobster, Hamlet Peralta. Peralta ran a \$12 million Ponzi scheme fronted by a \$700,000 liquor wholesale operation with at least one proven \$40,000 purchase from the N.H. State Liquor Commission. This evidence established a clear link between bootlegging in New Hampshire and bribery, extortion and financial frauds committed in New York. Mr. Peralta's prosecution was widely chronicled by news outlets in New York and I pointed out the Peralta case to the Department of Justice."

Volinsky's response to the A.G. was accompanied by several attachments, including news stories about a large and complex criminal

conspiracy involving, in one way or another, bent cops, a crooked union official, a hedge fund mogul, and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

NHLC Flips the Script

One attachment seems to document a peculiar transaction in which the usual roles were reversed; *i.e.*, the NHLC bought back from a bootlegger a \$40,000 load of Hennessy which had been seized by Massachusetts State Police.

A note about the purchase appears on the letterhead of the NHLC's Division of Enforcement and Licensing, Eddie Edwards, Director, which read, "Bootlegging Investigaiton [sic] MA State Police — NH Liquor Commission agrees to purchase approximately \$40,000 of Hennessy (criminal evidence relased [sic] from MA State Police) from man convicted of bootlegging



The left-leaning, presumably more-secular-than-most City of Portsmouth did its part, conducting an official public ceremony and celebration last Saturday, revolving around this mammoth deciduous tree. Though nominally non-denominational, the event was clearly and unavoidably rooted in the tradition of one particular faith. Yet, despite that less than subtle supplication, Sunday dawned dull, dreary, and wet—exactly the sort of conditions which put the kibosh on shopping, the City's apparent raison d'être—conditions which have been prevalent since the pagan bacchanal of Halloween. This stagnant weather pattern tracks exactly with what climate scientists have predicted would be the result of the unfettered pumping of carbon into the atmosphere. As explicated in this fortnight's rant, the right to make a profit by emitting such gaseous pollution has been championed almost exclusively by a single political party. The unavoidable conclusion: Republicans are waging a War on Christmas.



in MA. Suspect purchased product from nh [sic] stores prior to being arrested in MA. **Enforcement recommends not purchasing product from convict.** Suspect has retained attorney and has pending litigation with State of NH." *[Emphasis added.]*

It is reassuring to see, in the midst of this sordid story, that at least the state's top booze cop was able to maintain a sense of propriety.

You Deserve a Break Today

By now, some of our readers may feel the need for a little refreshment. In a more perfect world, we could suggest they visit the NHLS's website at *DrGreen's.com*. Sadly, a Palo Alto obstetrician snapped up that URL, leaving the state's booze monopoly with the dreadfully generic, *liquorandwineoutlets.com*.

Conveniently, the site provides inventory data. Apparently the Commissioners don't want *[ahem]* volume customers to be making wasted trips. Since nothing is too good for our readers, we recommend the Hennessy Richard, a 750 ml. jug of which will set you back \$4,696.99. As of Tuesday, the site

showed one unit available in each of five outlets, all conveniently located for the out-of-state trade.

The New Hampshire Advantage

Much has been made, over the years, of an alleged thing called "The New Hampshire Advantage." This vague notion is most frequently invoked by Republican politicians seeking to subtly disparage their opponents.

If such a thing actually exists, we would argue, it is composed primarily of a certain style of unabashed chutzpah. This is manifested most clearly alongside our major highways, where we maintain a network of alcohol supermarkets. Every week they dump about \$1.3 million into the state's coffers. This cash infusion conveniently bleeds off what might otherwise curdle into pressure to institute—the horror!—a graduated income tax.

Lest anyone accuse us of overstating the chutzpah, here's a quote from *liquorandwineoutlets.com*: "Over the years, New Hampshire residents **and those from surrounding states for miles around** have chosen to shop for their wine and spirits

at our conveniently located New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlet stores." *[Emphasis added.]*

Maintaining Our Traditions

Critics might say that it's undignified for the state to be subsidizing its wealthier residents by sanctioning bootlegging. We say that's nonsense—it's tradition. Furthermore, it's less unseemly than it used to be. We submit in evidence this excerpt from *Privatize This? Assessing the Opportunities and Costs of Privatization*, by Richard A. McGowan, (Praeger, 2011). McGowan is professor of economics at Boston College, Boston, Mass.

"[The influence of the Liquor Commission] began in the 1960s under commissioners William Loeb, Constan Tentas, and Nathan Battles. Loeb was publisher of *The Union Leader* newspaper and regularly criticized sales and income tax on his front-page editorials. Liquor revenues were crucial in preventing the state from enacting these taxes. Battles was a Senator, turned [Liquor] commissioner, turned liquor broker—a position that made him

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"I never thought I'd see the day a White House would moonlight as a public relations firm for the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia."

— retiring Senator Bob Corker (1952-) R-Tenn., tweeting in response to a President Trump statement

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extremely wealthy. Tantas continued the [Liquor Commission's] 'impenetrable power structure,' serving for 28 years on the commission. He was even labeled a man 'with more staying power than any elected state official in our history' by Gov. Hugh Gallen.

"The system that these commissioners created developed the [Liquor Commission] into the \$100 million industry it became, but not without corruption. Liquor brokers negotiated with liquor distillers to purchase products for the [Commission]. The commissioners took advantage of this, creating large business opportunities for brokers by recommending their names to the distillers. They also prominently displayed these brokers' brands in the Liquor and Wine Outlets. In exchange, the brokers were expected to contribute to political campaigns in the interests of the [Commission]. When it became illegal in 1991 to

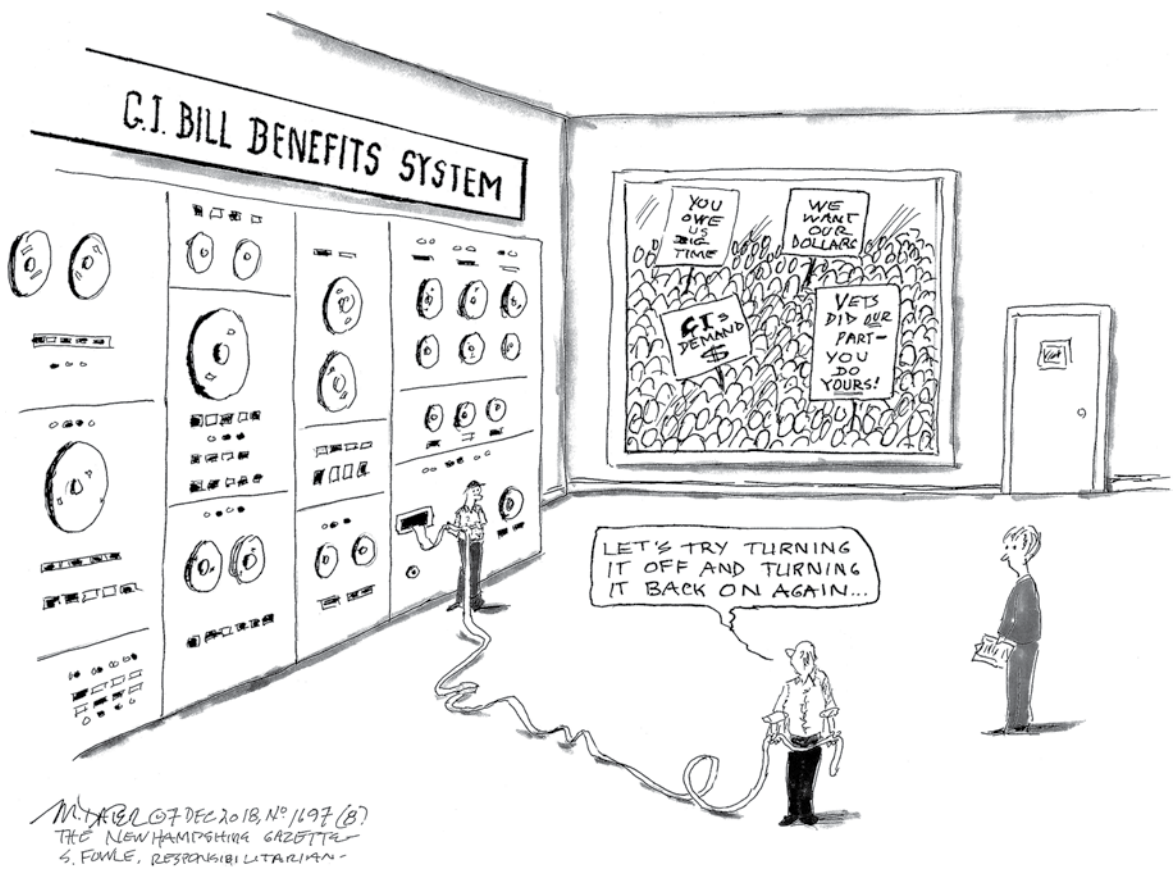
manipulate their selection, 'brokers ... began giving commissioners holiday gifts or picking up the tab for vacations,' to stay unnoticed. Charges were never filed and investigations always failed, as brokers would never testify. Additionally, with the [Commission] generating such successful revenues, it was assumed it was operating well, and no questions were ever asked.

"On August 3, 1991, Richard Colbath, New Hampshire's top liquor broker, was arrested for driving under the influence. Richard Boisvert, a Commissioner at the time, called the arresting officer, asking 'Is there something you can do for him?' The DUI was replaced with a speeding violation, proving that special treatment due to the relationships of commissioners and liquor brokers had never ended."

Boisvert later resigned from the Commission, and Colbath's DUI charge was reinstated, but the episode



Last July, the Christ Church Cathedral, an Episcopal congregation in downtown Indianapolis, may have set a record for getting a jump on Christmas. The self-described "reverent, yet progressive, faith community" placed a crèche on the lawn on the 3rd of July. What caused controversy, though, was not the early date, but putting the Holy Family in ICE detention. Irony-deficient purported Christians took offense online, of course. Wanda tweeted, "What a sick thing to do. I am glad this man is not my pastor. Hypocrite where were you when obama [sic] did this!" Mary Faktor, on the other hand, didn't think the display went far enough. "You need to make it more realistic, she tweeted, "Take baby Jesus out of Mary's arms and put him in a separate cage out of their eyeshight."



had tarnished the Commission's image.

Surprise, Surprise

Senator Warren Rudman retired in 1992, setting off a cascade of ambition. Judd Gregg quit the Governorship to go after Rudman's seat, and Attorney General Stephen Merrill ran for the Governorship. Merrill was opposed—nominally—by fire-brand Democrat Arnie Arnesen and Libertarian Miriam Luce, winning with 56 percent of the vote.

Merrill may have won, but he got the short end of the stick. Just after the election, the state Supreme Court threw out a special new property tax that Gregg and the legislature had slapped on the Public Service Company.

Semi-desperate, with a \$40 million hole to fill in his first budget, Merrill appointed Luce to the Liquor Commission and suggested that she consider ways to raise revenues by privatizing it. And why not? During the campaign, Luce had argued that the Commission was "the

biggest drug dealer in the state."

Luce's plan involved leasing out the big highway stores, which brought in half the revenue, selling off the rest of the assets. She projected a one-time "liquidation amount" of \$500 million. Ongoing revenue would come from the leases and taxation of private sales.

The problem, as with so many libertarian pipe-dreams, was that Luce's plan would only work in a vacuum. The state was buying booze in tremendous quantities—no one could beat it on that front. The stores, rather than cutting prices to compete, stuck firmly to prices which were set by central planners—aka the Liquor Commission.

If the state gave up those advantages, and switched to a free market system, most players in New Hampshire's liquor racket agreed, the state's revenues would plummet. God forbid, they might have to raise taxes.

That's why, when push came to shove, a quarter century ago, al-

legedly libertarian-leaning New Hampshire decided to stick with Dr. Green's system of socialized, alcohol-based medicine.

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The best thing about the election for Secretary of State on Wednesday is that it came to a hair-raising finish. In fact, that was the only good thing, because there was no good outcome.

Bill Gardner will forever have a god-like stature in this newsroom, because 30 years ago next May 1st he certified our ownership of this newspaper's trade name. However: he should have told Kris Kobach to go pound sand; he's been caving in to Republican voter suppression laws; his calls on snow days have been dubious, at best; and, the official website is execrable.

Meanwhile, though, it feels like, even in losing, Colin Van Ostern has begun a process that may put the First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election® in jeopardy.

[Audible harrumph.]

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— Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Dispossessed*
— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

Creating Monsters ...
To the Editor:
Just because all religions condemn murder does not mean that when the state prosecutes a murderer the state is not observing the separation of church and state, as a recent letter to the *Gazette* implied when referring to abortion.

In spite of a bogus, politically-correct science, life is a continuum that begins with fertilization and ends with death—it is hoped a natural death. Destroying a baby in the womb is deliberate termination of life; it is murder.

The people who do not accept this are the same ones that enjoyed the Warren Court where rights guaranteed by the Constitution such as the right to bear arms, were ignored, while rights not guaranteed by the Constitution, such as a right to abortion were created. Now, these people fear that with Judge Kavanaugh the Court might revert to real Constitutional interpretations, and not those forced on Americans by politically correct scientists and Justices.

And when it comes to the Second Amendment, the liberals go further into their wacky world by ignoring the fact it is not the guns that do the killing, but the people who have no respect for life that are the culprits. But, why are we surprised, when a country that creates a right to murder babies in the womb, as a consequence, creates so many people who disrespect life?

In addition, the same people that support abortion want to forge a world of liberal democracy, promising such a world will bring peace, even though we must be constantly at war in this quest for an elusive universal peace and global government.

The right to abortion and America's perpetual wars create a general disrespect for life and we witness the tragic consequences on a daily basis.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.
John:
We presume you refer to a piece we ran November 9th, "The American Taliban," by Bob Topper, who reminded us that the Helms Amendment of 1973 bars the use

of U.S. funds to pay for abortions. We reviewed that piece but did not see where Bob made the implication to which you refer.

Where do you stand on the death penalty? We don't recall. Perhaps, if you support it, you could explain why that doesn't foster a disrespect for human life.

You say life begins at conception. We would counter that an embryo is just that: an embryo. A fetus is a fetus. A child is a child, and, once born, most Republicans appear to lose all interest, unless it's one of their own.

The Editor

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Beware of the Bias Con
To the Editor:
We've seen this con played before. Remember when FBI Director James Comey revealed an ongoing investigation of Hillary Clinton just before the election? He violated agency policy because he feared his agency would be considered biased if they didn't reveal and Hillary won. Turns out, the investigation found nothing illegal and it was dropped, but its revelation twisted the election toward the con artist who now occupies the Oval Office. For months, the con man had been complaining that the election was rigged and the FBI was biased, causing Comey to bend over backwards to prove it wasn't. He bent over, way too far.

Now the Grifter-in-Chief is complaining that the Federal judge who decided a case against him is biased. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has come to the judge's defense, explaining that judges are objective, irrespective of the President who appointed them. Is Justice Roberts now being conned to bend over and over-react to prove no bias in anticipation of a Trump case coming before the Supreme Court?

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.
Bruce:
There's a sound reason that every American knows the trope of Lucy and the football.

Judging from the news lately, we suspect that the evidence against Trump and his crime family will prove so convincing that once it's revealed his level of support

will plummet down to Nixonian levels—which is to say, 24 percent.

It's a sad commentary on the American system of education that the Grifter-in-Chief could be in a Leavenworth cell and still command the loyalty of a sizable part of the public.

The Editor

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Despicable He!
To the Editor:
Let's face it, folks, the President has no couth, class, *la elegancia, die qualitat, or kвалитет*. He is the same low life, despicable person, regardless of the language used to describe him, who is making no attempt to clothe his behavior in the standards of presidential behavior—reasonableness, compassion, honesty, decency, and commitment to all Americans.

Even at six foot three and 250+ lbs., Trump is the smallest person to ever occupy the Oval Office. Within this human blob of bungling, bloviating, bigotry and frenzied bombast there is not an ounce of common decency, a penny's worth of thought, a wrinkle of respect for the Constitution, allegiance to truth, or support for the rule of law. He is all about extracting a pound of flesh from his "enemies" and enriching his family.

As recently demonstrated, Trump seems emboldened by what he thinks was a victory in the mid-term elections, obviously deluded by his own lies and imagination. I don't know whether to fear or cheer his next irrational tantrum which just might bring him closer to being impeached so we won't have to wait for Mueller to indict him.

In any case, I have given up on the charitable hope that many Trump supporters fell for his con job and don't want to admit it. I no longer think that. You own him—his miserable persona, delusional view of reality, greedy and self-serving intent, and hateful character.

I'm calling you out, friends, family and Trumpsters, you should be ashamed of yourselves for enabling a man who will go down as the worse President in history, and turning a blind eye to his corruption for the sake of more conservative judges. The irony of your misguided logic is that many of their decisions, aside from abortion rights, will benefit big business and the top one percent—not you.

In the long run, it will not be a small price to pay.

Dave Potter
North Hampton, N.H.
Dave:
What's a little impoverishment, compared to the vicarious delight of seeing a guy who doesn't know or care that you exist posture, preen, and otherwise act out your own most puerile fantasies?

The Editor

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A Tribute to Stan Lee and Superheroes
To the Editor:
Countless tributes poured in for Stan Lee (revered American Marvel Comics' writer, most known for superhero characters such as the Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, The Hulk, The Avengers, Daredevil and the X-Men, whom he helped create), who passed away last week. Of them all, I found this one from an anonymous fan of Stan Lee's, to be my favorite: "What Stan Lee taught me: Hating people because they're different is wrong; embracing differences is right; if you're strong, it's your duty to protect the weak; using power to hurt others is evil; and using power to help others is heroic. Thank you, Stan."

It seemed fitting that Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a brilliant Constitutional scholar and a Progressive fighter for women's and all human rights, would emerge as a real, live American superhero during

the same news cycle as Lee's passing. Justice Ginsburg took a spill in her office at the Supreme Court Building, broke three ribs in the process, and was essentially back to work the following day reviewing information for upcoming cases.

Having observed Justice Ginsburg performing her strict daily physical fitness regimen, which rivals that of disciplined Mixed Martial Arts athletes, I never doubted her resolve to return to the court ASAP. Furthermore, the Justice has made it known that she intends on defending the Constitution as long as she is mentally and physically sharp enough to do so, and promises to fight on until the next Democratic President (2020) appoints a replacement in her image.

During the same week the superhero powers of 85-year-old RBG, a national treasure, were on display, the current resident of the White House, a national disgrace who mocks everyone and everything except himself and authoritarian dictators, was proving himself, once again, to be the antithesis of a super hero, as he refused to attend a ceremony in the rain to honor American servicemen who died fighting during WW I, further expressed fear about visiting troops stationed in war zones, and stood by the leader of the murderous Saudi regime over his own intelligence community.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.
Wayne:
Justice Ginsburg has, indeed, some remarkably admirable qualities. She probably should have bailed, though, when Obama was re-elected.

As for Stan Lee, we miss the days when movies were made that did not originate in comic books.

The Editor



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People Holding Governments Accountable
To the Editor:

Nearly two years after the Nazi invasion of Norway, Vidkun Quisling, a Norwegian collaborator of the occupation government, tried to force teachers to join his newly formed Teacher's Union as a way to get them to promote Nazi ideology in their schools. The vast majority of teachers refused. As a result, Quisling shut down the schools for a month, earning the ire and angry letters from hundreds of thousands of parents. In defiance of Quisling's orders, the teachers held classes in private. Quisling responded by jailing 1,000 male teachers, many of whom received brutal treatment by the Gestapo in prison; yet, this only strengthened the resistance. In April, Quisling had nearly 500 teachers sent to concentration camps. Again, they were subjected to ruthless treatment and harsh living conditions; one teacher died and several were seriously injured as a result. Despite all of this, the teachers still refused to teach fascist ideology. By November, Quisling realized he was defeated. If a group of teachers, just ordinary citizens rather than trained soldiers, could openly defy him even in the face of severe reprisals, Quisling clearly had no power over them.

Power is the ability to get others to obey one's orders or wishes. If citizens refuse to obey a ruler's orders, the ruler has no power. In theory, it's that simple. In practice, however, exercising mass disobedience is not that simple. It takes careful planning and strategizing, support from community members, and a commitment to endure the consequences of disobedience day after day and month after month. As we see from the above example, rulers do not simply hand over their power

at the first sign of disobedience; they will fight ruthlessly to keep it, and they usually have a tremendous amount of resources and authority to fight any who oppose them.

In democratic governments, reprisals for disobedience are rarely as harsh as they are in totalitarian regimes. Yet, activists in the U.S. have been treated roughly, sometimes abusively, by police. Activists can also lose their jobs, receive death threats from opposing groups in society, and go to jail. Maintaining a campaign of mass civil disobedience, then, is far from easy. Yet, if it is carried out mindfully, nonviolently, and persistently, it has a remarkable ability to undermine the very source of a government's power: the willing obedience of the people.

Nonviolent action is based on this understanding of power. It is a form of conflict, of fighting, an organized effort to achieve systemic corporate, institutional, political, economic, or social change. Winning a nonviolent conflict requires an understanding between tactics, actions, and campaigns so resistance movements engage in fulsome campaigns rather than isolated actions. Like in a war, tactics are a method of fighting, such as air strikes or launching artillery. In nonviolence, examples of tactics are marches and calling elected representatives. An action is the employment of a tactic or tactics. An action in a war may be to engage an air strike to bomb a munitions factory. For nonviolence, organizing large groups of people to refuse to ride the Montgomery buses was an action that employed the tactic of boycott. A strategy is a series of actions to achieve a particular objective. For example, in a war, one may develop a strategy to achieve air superiority. This would involve a range of actions sustained over a period of time. An ex-

ample of a nonviolent strategy was desegregating public spaces in Alabama, which involved several actions enacted over a period of years.

Gaining a better understanding of what nonviolent action is and how it's been used in history can help today's Resistance build a far stronger people's movement, one that has the ability to leverage enough power away from corrupt government officials and into the hands of the people and more responsible representatives. By building sustainable democratically run groups and organizations and networks of communication between them, we can develop powerful coalitions of people power. We can become an organized united force that engages in a wide range of strategized nonviolent actions and campaigns, effective enough to hold our government accountable so they act in the true interests of the people, now and in the future.

Barbara Peterson
Stratham, N.H.
Author of *Reclaiming Power: Building a Stronger Resistance in the Age of Trump*

=====
Ewing Alarmed by Blue Wave
To the Editor:

What should we expect if the Democrat "Blue Wave" happens?

Democrats will impeach President Trump to overturn the 2016 election. Despite years of intense investigations discovering no Trump wrongdoing, Democrats now convict based on only accusations and hatred.

Democrats who lied about Obamacare now promise utopia in "Medicare for all" (aka single payer). This is another false promise; seniors won't get the healthcare they paid for and need resulting in shorter, more painful, and more restricted lives.

"Medicare for all" would almost double Federal spending and taxes. As other single payer systems demonstrate, and as promoted by Obamacare

architect Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, "Medicare for all" will reduce healthcare for the young and for people over 75.

Democrats promise "Free College," \$15 minimum wage, "minimum basic incomes," open borders, and elimination of ICE.

Even teenagers know that nothing is free. "Free things" are wasted. Buyers spending other people's money care less about prices, allowing suppliers to raise prices.

"Free College" will increase waste, price, and total cost, and shift costs from college goers to less-wealthy people without college educations.

Seattle and elsewhere show that a \$15 minimum wage is a disaster; businesses fail, prices increase, and employees are fired, have their hours cut, and/or benefits reduced.

The "minimum basic income" scheme is unfair to responsible Americans. Workers struggling to provide for their own families and the truly needy are also taxed to support able-bodied people who choose not to work, work part-time, and/or don't report their full income.

Democrats promote open borders, sanctuary cities, and elimination of ICE. Illegal aliens already annually cost taxpayers over \$134 billion and commit many thousands of crimes including homicides, rapes, kidnappings, and drug dealing (which kill tens of thousands of Americans).

Democrats also promise to severely restrict the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans.

Democrats want to take away your Trump tax cuts and re-impose the excessive regulations that Trump eliminated to jump-start our economy resulting in record low unemployment levels.

New Hampshire Democrats promise greatly increased government spending, e.g., for perennially poor schools, colleges, alternative energy, and for a government family leave program which requires many thousands of sign-ups just to pay for the overhead. These programs will assuredly require the new state income, sales, gas, and/or higher property taxes that Democrats have been voting for

in recent years.

Alternatively, Republicans will continue working for: more and better jobs, better and more affordable healthcare choices, school choice, lower taxes, more rights and freedoms, safer neighborhoods, and a more secure country.

For more government, higher taxes, less freedom, lawlessness, and broken promises, vote Democrat.

For continued prosperity, freedom, opportunity, and safety for all Americans, vote Republican.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.
Don:

We apologize for not having printed your letter in time for it to achieve its obvious goal: to sway voters, through the disgorgement of a tedious litany of falsehoods, fables, and misconstrued factoids, into voting against their own interests.

We have not heard from you in more than a month. Perhaps your apparent lassitude is a consequence of the Democrats having taken, not just the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., but both Houses of the State Legislature, as well. As a person who, we suspect, remembers when Republicans had a lock on Concord, this must be quite disconcerting.

Console yourself with the fact that the entitled offspring of an arrogant monster [see Rant, page one] still clings to the Governorship. We are confident that, hunkered there in the corner office, he will not hesitate to wield his veto pen and nullify the will of the people if a suitable occasion arises.

For example, the legislature could conceivably try once again to repeal the death penalty. If it does, we suspect the Governor would not hesitate to do all in his power to make sure that the State of New Hampshire brings back hanging. He could do it on the basis of party solidarity, alone, rather than see former Attorney General Kelly Ayotte's most successful campaign stunt be repudiated.

Yours in the spirit of spirited discourse, we remain, your humble servant,

The Editor

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

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What makes Portsmouth what it is?
What do we choose to remember?
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Powder House & Patriots

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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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Who are the serial killers of America's newspapers?

by Jim Hightower

In a recent two-panel cartoon, a character holds a sign saying: "First they came for the reporters." In the next panel, his sign says: "We don't know what happened after that."

It was, of course, a retort to Donald Trump's ignorant campaign to demonize the news media as "the enemy of the people." But the worst enemy of America's local and re-

gional newspapers is not our ranting President, but a new breed of fast-buck hucksters who've scooped up hundreds of America's newspapers from the bargain bins of media sell-offs.

The buyers are hedge-fund scavengers with nondescript names like Digital First and GateHouse. They know nothing about journalism and care less, for they're Wall Street profiteers out to grab big bucks fast by slashing the journalistic staffs of

each paper, voiding all employee benefits, shriveling the paper's size and news content, selling the presses and other assets, tripling the price of their inferior product—then declaring bankruptcy, shutting down the paper, and auctioning off the bones before moving on to plunder another town's paper.

America's two largest newspaper chains today are not venerable publishers with a basic commitment to civic responsibility, but GateHouse

and Digital First, whose managers believe that good journalism is measured by the personal profit they can squeeze from it. As revealed last year in an *American Prospect* article, GateHouse executives had demanded that its papers cut \$27 million from their operating expenses, eliminating jobs and slashing paychecks. Meanwhile, one employee—the hedge fund's CEO—extracted \$54 million in personal pay from the conglomerate, including an \$11

million bonus.

To these absentee owners, newspapers are no more than pipelines—a means of hauling enormous financial wealth and social well-being out of our communities.

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

Yellen and Lloyd Blankfein. Lock Them Up.

Talk about the Philippines and Hungary, an increasing portion of Europe, and now Brazil turning hard to the right, making a mockery of humanistic progress while the planet counts down like an oven timer, and we can watch the poorest among us cook first on the shelves just above our own slowly roasting middle-class butts.

Talk about journalists covering each other not covering Trump.

Talk about anything—Kanye West, Mama June, the Red Sox, the Kardashians, Michael Avenatti, Joe Biden, Roseanne Barr.

But at least, dear media mavens, grant us one small wish and give us not our daily Trump.

Steve Klinger is a veteran journalist, satirist, musician, and college English instructor based in southern New Mexico.

—==—

Elbit Represents Repression and Death

To the Editor:

Do American jobs take priority over the lives and human rights of people who are victimized by weapons and technology that U.S. and Israeli companies produce for profit? Yes, and the campaign contributions that Congresspersons receive from domestic and international defense contractors do support death and repression globally.

One contractor is Merrimack, New Hampshire's Elbit Systems of America, a subsidiary of Israel's largest weapons-maker located in Haifa. It has been involved in all major Israeli offensives against Palestinians

in Gaza. "Operation Cast Lead" of 2008-2009 killed 1,391 Palestinians (759 civilians; 308 children). 2014's "Operation Protective Edge" killed 2104 Palestinian civilians, including 495 children. Since March 30 during the "Great March of Return," unarmed Palestinians have walked peacefully to the Israeli enclosure that imprisons them. Until recently, Israel has killed at least 210 Palestinians, who, for the most part, remained on their own land, behind fences and barbed wire, and posed no threat to heavily armed Israeli soldiers. The murders continue.

One child slain in the "Great March of Return" was 12-year-old Fares Hafeth Sarsawi. A sniper's bullet fired at his chest took the child's life, one of three Palestinians killed on October 5, 2018. In addition to those three, 134 others were struck by gunfire including 32 children.

Razan Ashraf Najjar, 22, a female volunteer medic, unarmed and wearing a medical coat, was providing aid to wounded Palestinians. She was 100 meters from the fence beyond which Israeli snipers were stationed. All of the medics were targeted by drone positioning, but it was Razan who was murdered that day by Israeli snipers.

Every Palestinian, no matter how young or old, male or female, medic or journalist, is a potential victim of Israeli gunfire. Ibrahim Ahmad Arrouqi, a 78-year-old farmer, became an Israeli military target and random victim while tending crops far from

the border. No one is safe in Gaza or in the Palestinian Territories.

When is it justified to murder and maim children, medics, and journalists who have lived under siege their entire lives? Elbit's surveillance drones provide coordinates in Gaza, then Israeli F-35s fire their missiles, and snipers shoot. The on-going assault on Gaza is a war crime.

Each week, Palestinian voices cry for help with their demonstrations. They seek freedom and equality, granted through UN Resolution 194, passed just after the 1947 resolution that partitioned Palestine and created the state of Israel on Palestinian land. Both UN resolution 181 and Israel's own Declaration of Independence expressed the intention that Palestinians and Israelis would live side by side in peace. Yet, Israel has refused to abide by the UN resolution and honor its own statement to "foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants." Israel said its existence would "be based on freedom, justice and peace..." (and would) ensure complete equality of social and political rights to ALL its inhabitants.... Instead of honoring its word, Israel has continued to confiscate more Palestinian land through illegal expansion of colonies and to acquire Palestinian resources (water, natural gas, oil reserves).

Israel's propaganda machine and Zionist lobby groups have continued to blame the Palestinian victims for the ongoing conflict even though

Palestinians have no military, no currency, no freedom of movement, no airport, and no resources that would allow it to be a viable aggressor.

New Hampshire Senator Shaheen has taken at least \$10,500 in campaign contributions from Israeli weapons giant Elbit Systems which makes a killing from repression and death from Palestine to the U.S.-Mexico border. She also received money from other weapons manufacturers (Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, Raytheon, Boeing). Taking money from defense contractors puts elected officials in the position of supporting expanded, endless, and unjustified wars rather than meeting the needs of people at home—repairing infrastructure, supporting education, providing health care for all, undertaking alternative energy initiatives, building high speed rail, and other goals.

Code Pink member and Palestine Campaigns Coordinator, Ursula Rozum, commented "Elbit Systems is responsible for death and repression from Palestine to the US-Mexico borderlands. Elbit profits go up every quarter. They are making a killing from the deaths in Gaza and from militarizing the desert in the Americas. These profits go to their investors and to buy off Congress members. We are calling on all Congress members, including Jeanne Shaheen, to reject campaign contributions from Elbit and all companies that profit from war and militarization."

As New Hampshire residents

concerned with human rights and the creation of a more peaceful world, we ask our U.S. Senators to immediately stop taking campaign contributions from Elbit Systems and US weapons manufacturers. It is time to reassess our nation's priorities and values and place people and their needs first. We cannot do this by waging continuous war and enabling corporations that profit from our government marginalizing, dehumanizing, vilifying and targeting not only Palestinians, but others who seek justice and a chance to live in peace with their families.

Carolyn Cicciu, c.cicciu2@gmail.com. (Goffstown); Will Thomas, nhvfp@comcast.net. (Auburn); Members of the New Hampshire Palestine Education Network (PEN)

—==—

"How can wealth persuade poverty to use its political freedom to keep wealth in power? Here lies the whole art of Conservative politics."

— Aneurin Bevin (1897 – 1960),
UK Health Minister

—==—

"If you can convince the lowest white man he's better than the best colored man, he won't notice you're picking his pocket. Hell, give him somebody to look down on, and he'll empty his pockets for you."

— Lyndon B. Johnson,
(1908 – 1973),
36th President of the U.S.A.

—==—

"The modern conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness."

— John Kenneth Galbraith
(1908 – 2006), economist



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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, DECEMBER 9	MONDAY, DECEMBER 10	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15
2008—The Governor of Illinois, Democrat Rod Blagojevich, is arrested for attempting to sell a Senate seat. 1994—Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders is fired for suggesting that having sex with yourself is OK. 1992—U.S. Marines were ashore in Somalia at 2:00 a.m. local time because that’s prime-time in the U.S. 1983—Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese says people go to soup kitchens because it’s “easier than paying.” 1966—“We are in a much stronger position than two years ago,” says Secretary of State Dean Rusk, “[Commies] will not be able to succeed [in South Vietnam].” 1959—Ford 86s the Edsel. 1958—Robert Welch Jr. founds the John Birch Society, which goes on to label Dwight Eisenhower a Commie. 1955—Poet Marianne Moore, hired to name a new car, suggests “Utopian Turtleplot.” Ford chooses “Edsel.” 1950—General “Dugout Doug” MacArthur proposes detonating 26 A-bombs to create an impenetrable barrier across the Korean peninsula. 1935—Investigative reporter Walter Liggett is Tommy-gunned in front of his family in Minneapolis. 1949—The former head of the House Un-American Activities Committee, J. Parnell Thomas [R-N.J.], gets six to 18 months in the slammer—alongside two of the Hollywood Ten—for padding Congressional payrolls and pocketing the extra cash.	2011—The gundalow <i>Piscataqua</i> is launched on the eponymous river. 2004—Gary Webb, who exposed the CIA-Contra drug connection, dies from two gunshots in the face. The coroner calls it suicide. 2001—At a White House menorah lighting ceremony, George W.[MD] Bush says, “I couldn’t imagine somebody like Osama bin Laden understanding the joy of Hanukkah.” 1998—House Judiciary Committee debates impeaching Pres. Clinton for lying about his lewd behavior. 1992—Sen. Bob Packwood (Lecher-Ore.) apologizes for being a serial groper but refuses to resign. 1987—Murderer Stanley Draper and gangster John Kendall are sprung from a British prison by a pal in a hijacked helicopter. 1976—In a memo to President-elect Carter, pollster Pat Caddell makes the case for a “permanent campaign.” 1971—The Senate, buying Wm. Rehnquist’s lie disavowing a letter supporting racial segregation, confirms him for the Supreme Court. 1966—In Vietnam, 16 U.S. Marines are killed and 11 are wounded by “friendly fire.” 1967—Trying to lower the cost of natural gas, the U.S. government explodes an A-bomb in N.M. 1937—G.P. Thompson gets the Nobel for Physics for proving electrons are waves. His dad won it in 1906 for demonstrating that they’re particles.	2006—President George W.[MD] Bush, on national TV, denies having ever been “a knee-walking drunk.” 2000—The Supreme Court hears <i>Bush v. Gore</i>. 1998—President Clinton begs forgiveness for his sins. Instead he gets three Articles of Impeachment. 1985—Veep George H.[H.]W. Bush, at a Manchester, N.H., dinner honoring the late William Loeb, reads aloud Loeb’s most scurrilous attacks against him. 1981—Soldiers of the U.S.-backed Salvadoran government murder 900 villagers at El Mozote. 1964—As Ernesto “Che” Guevara speaks at the United Nations, a 3.5-inch rocket launched from Queens falls harmlessly into the East River. 1960—Seeing at the last minute that JFK has his wife and kids with him, Belmont, N.H. resident Richard Pavlick defers his plan to crash into the President-elect’s car with his dynamite-laden Buick. 1951—A few days after slipshod coal dust removal techniques are approved by state inspectors, the New Orient mine in West Frankfort, Ill., blows up, killing 119 miners. 1917—In Houston, after a police riot, 13 black soldiers are found guilty and hanged in unison. 1838—The U.S. House of Representatives passes Rep. Charles Atherton’s are waves. His dad won it in 1906 for demonstrating that they’re particles.	2006—The <i>Portsmouth Herald</i> misquotes Sen. Barack Obama [D-Ill.], who, the day before, in Portsmouth, <i>did not</i> say, “The moral arc of the universe bends at the elbow of justice.” 2005—“I think we are welcomed [in Iraq],” says George W.[MD] Bush, “but it was not a peaceful welcome.” 2000—The Supreme Court selects George W.[MD] Bush as the 43rd President of these disunited states. 1998—For good measure, Congress whups a fourth article of impeachment on Pres. Clinton. 1995—A Flag Protection Amendment fails by three votes in the Senate. 1985—Arrow Air Flight 1285 crashes at Gander, killing 248 U.S. paratroopers and eight crew. Islamic Jihad claims credit, which a sketchy U.S. investigation attempts to deny. 1984—Georgia prison officials electrocute Alpha Otis Stephens a second time, after their first effort fails. 1983—Nancy Reagan sits on Mr. T’s lap and kisses him on the scalp. 1983—At a Boston trade show, “New Trends in Missiles,” anarchists turn loose 1,000 cockroaches, symbolizing the winners of a nuclear war. 1950—Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-Bushmills) kicks columnist Drew Pearson in the groin. 1942—The <i>Queen Mary</i>, with 16,082 GIs on board—the world record—is hit by a wave perhaps 90 feet high. It rolls 52 degrees; another three degrees and it would have capsized.	2009—Sen. Joe Lieberman [I-Conn.] nixes a Medicare public option. 2003—U.S. troops drag Saddam Hussein out of a hole in the ground, so final victory in Iraq must be imminent. U.S. death toll so far: 547. 2000—Al Gore decides he’d rather be righteous than be president. 1988—In Texas, Ray Landry’s death is delayed 14 minutes when a tube falls from his arm and lethal chemicals spray across the room. 1978—An eager public finally gets its first Susan B. Anthony dollars. 1974—Defecting oceanographer Slava Kurilov leaps from a Soviet cruise ship, swims for three days, and reaches the Philippines safely. 1954—In Louisville, Ky., journalist Carl Braden is convicted of sedition for selling a house in a white neighborhood to a black man. 1951—J. Edgar “Mary” Hoover spooks Harry S Truman into purging “disloyal” government workers. 1949—An American League proposal to legalize the spitball fails. 1932—In the U.S. House, sporting goods store clerk Martin Kemmerer brandishes a .38 and demands the floor. Rep. Melvin Maas (R-Minn.) talks him into dropping the gun. 1864—Paraguay declares war on Brazil; its population is soon halved. 1774—Paul Revere rides to Portsmouth with news that the export of powder and arms to America have been prohibited.	2012—N.H.-born Adam Lanza shoots his gun-enthusiast mother, six other adults, and 20 kids at a Newtown, Conn. school. 2008—“This is a farewell kiss from the Iraqi people, you dog,” yells Muntadhar al-Zaidi, as he flings his shoe at George W.[MD] Bush. 2005—George W.[MD] Bush blames his Iraq War on “faulty intelligence.” He doesn’t say whose. 1987—Chrysler admits it sold thousands of used cars as new ones. 1986—Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager begin a nine-day, non-stop, around-the-world flight. 1981—Interior Secretary James Watts, defending taxpayer-funded cocktail parties he’s held at the Lee Mansion, says “Mr. Reagan has the White House. I have Arlington.” 1973—Richard Nixon personally thanks the U.S. head of Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s Unification Church for his support. 1972—The last men on the moon leave. 1942—The second of two giant Soviet propaganda planes crashes, again due to misadventure. 1907—The seven-masted schooner <i>Thomas W. Lawson</i> runs aground off Cornwall, resulting in the world’s first major oil spill. 1906—The <i>U1</i>, Germany’s first submarine, goes into service. 1774—Local militiamen seize powder and arms from Fort William and Mary, near Portsmouth.	2003—A Robinson R22 helicopter loses power over Redlands, Calif., and crashes onto a city street. Miraculously, only the pilot dies. 2000—Sen. Phil Gramm gives Enron the energy futures deregulation it wants, hidden in an appropriations bill. One year later Enron is bankrupt. 1997—Paula Jones’ lawyers maneuver Bill Clinton into signing a legal document claiming he’d not had sex with government workers. 1989—Sicilian-born sculptor Arturo Di Modica installs a 16-foot long, 3.5 ton bronze bull in the middle of Broad Street in New York, in front of the Stock Exchange—without a permit. 1986—Bill Casey, CIA director, suffers a handy seizure, preventing him from testifying about Iran/Contra. 1983—Ed Meese denies Ebenezer Scrooge exploited Bob Cratchit. 1969—The Mormon Church reaffirms its “no black priests” policy. 1967—A 2.5 mm-deep defect in a part collapses the 39 year-old Silver Bridge over the Ohio River, killing 46. 1960—Palm Beach police arrest N.H. resident Richard Pavlick before he can kill John F. Kennedy with his dynamite-laden Buick. 1922—The President of Harvard defends its policy of banning black students from dining rooms and residence halls. 1873—Future President Grover Cleveland rapes Maria Halpin, who later bears his child.
12:15 12:18 6:02 6:38	12:57 12:58 6:43 7:19	1:38 1:40 7:25 8:01	2:21 2:23 8:09 8:44	3:06 3:10 8:56 9:29	3:53 4:00 9:47 10:17	4:43 4:53 10:40 11:07
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16	MONDAY, DECEMBER 17	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

2005—*The New York Times* reports that the NSA has been tapping U.S. telephones without a warrant.

2001—U.S. troops at Tora Bora ask for help catching Osama bin Laden. Donald Rumsfeld denies their request; Osama walks.

1988—Bush #41 nominates notoriously boozy womanizer Sen. John Tower [R-Texas] to run the Department of Defense. His confirmation hearings do not go well.

1988—Rochester, N.H.’s most famous native, perennial Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, is convicted of tax and mail fraud.

1970—Big Milk offers Nixon a \$2 million “campaign contribution” if he’ll cut milk imports. A fortnight later Nixon imposes milk import quotas.

1965—Gen. Westmoreland, already commanding 200,000 men in Vietnam, asks for another 243,000.

1960—Two airliners collide over Manhattan killing a total of 134.

1944—Hitler overrules his generals and mounts a massive attack in the Ardennes Forest. He shoulda listened.

1835—A two-day fire destroys 674 buildings in New York, bankrupting insurance companies and kicking off the Depression of 1837.

1811—New Madrid, Missouri, is hit by the first of a series of powerful earthquakes.

1773—“Sons of Liberty” disguised as Mohawks dump 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor.

2010—Street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi sets himself afire, thereby igniting the Tunisian Revolution and the subsequent Arab Spring.

2006—On “Fox News Sunday,” Bill Kristol predicts “Barack Obama is not going to beat Hillary Clinton in a single Democratic primary.”

1998—Pres. Clinton attempts to distract from his impeachment by using up half the Pentagon’s inventory of cruise missiles in Iraq.

1996—In Lima, Peruvian guerrillas crash a party at the Japanese embassy, take hostages, and stay four months.

1967—Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt goes for a swim in heavy surf and disappears.

1960—A U.S.A.F. C-131 hits a Munich steeple, then falls onto a trolley. All 20 on the plane die, along with 18 in the trolley, and 11 on the street.

1951—Black Americans petition UN officials in Paris and New York for relief from genocidal U.S. domestic policies. They’re ignored.

1944—Adm. “Bull” Halsey sails the 3rd Fleet into a typhoon. Three destroyers sink; nine other ships are damaged, 100 aircraft are lost, and 790 sailors die, mostly by drowning.

1927—The U.S. sub *S-4* is rammed and sunk off Provincetown by Coast Guard destroyer *Paulding*, which is hunting rum runners; 40 are lost.

1862—Gen. Grant issues General Order No. 11, barring “Jews and other unprincipled traders” from his district.

2005—“Not only can we win the war in Iraq—we are winning the war in Iraq,” says George W.[MD] Bush, 962 days after “Mission accomplished.”

2004—“America’s Most Wanted’s” John Walsh says he most wants Jahbir and Alfonso Fowle caught.

2000—“If this were a dictatorship,” says George W.[MD] Bush on CNN, “it’d be a heck of a lot easier, just so long as I’m the dictator.”

1996—G-Man Earl Pitts is arrested for moonlighting for the KGB.

1972—Richard Nixon begins Operation Linebacker: 12 days of B-52 strikes against North Vietnam. SAMs shoot down three Stratofortresses on the first night.

1957—The first watts of nuclear-generated electricity begin lighting up used car lots and neon signs.

1946—Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker flies over Broadway scattering Damon Runyon’s ashes.

1941—Outnumbered 10 to one, U.S. forces lose Guam to the Japanese.

1917—Congress submits the 18th Amendment to the states for their approval. After it passes, Prohibition begins.

1867—Differing track widths cause a train to derail in Angola, N.Y. One wooden car drops 40 feet and catches fire; 49 passengers burn to death.

1865—The 13th Amendment is ratified: slavery and involuntary servitude are abolished in the U.S.

2007—A fire breaks out near “Dick” Cheney’s office. Probable cause: spontaneous inhuman combustion.

1998—As Bill Clinton is being impeached for some hanky-panky, Speaker-elect Bob Livingston resigns to cover up a bit of his own.

1984—Due to a work speedup, 27 coal miners are killed in Utah.

1974—Norris Cotton finagles a bill giving New Hampshire’s senior Senator the right in perpetuity to commandeer Daniel Webster’s old desk.

1973—Johnny Carson makes a joke about a non-existent toilet paper shortage, inadvertently causing one.

1946—The Viet Minh take on the French in Indo-China.

1944—Primarily due to bad generalship, two-thirds of the 106th Infantry, comprising 8,000 men, must surrender during the Battle of the Bulge.

1941—Ex-corporal Hitler takes direct command of the German Army.

1910—Spurred on by the Baltimore *Sun*, that city mandates the racial segregation of residential areas.

1907—An explosion kills 239 coal miners, many minors, in Smithton, Pa.

1865—South Carolina passes a law requiring all black “servants” to sign contracts with their “masters” and be “polite” while working dawn-to-dusk.

1777—Washington’s army arrives at Valley Forge, Pa.

1776—Thomas Paine’s *American Crisis* is published; “These are the times that try men’s souls . . .”

2002—The ten largest U.S. brokerage houses cough up \$1.44 billion in fines rather than risk a trial over charges that they fleeced their customers.

2002—Sen. Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) steps down after lamenting Strom Thurmond’s failure to win the Presidency on a racist platform in 1948.

1989—The U.S. invades Panama to arrest ex-CIA asset Manuel Noriega.

1986—Chased by a mob of young white men, Trinidadian Michael Griffith is run over and killed in Howard Beach, Queens, New York.

1983—Once and future Defense Secretary Don Rumsfeld visits Baghdad to shake mass murderer Saddam Hussein’s hand and convey Ronald Reagan’s best wishes.

1960—CIA chief Allen Dulles meets with bigwigs from Standard Oil, Texaco, ITT, Domino Sugar, and other big U.S. corporations, who instruct him to overthrow Fidel Castro.

1946—Businessmen Charles Luciano, Meyer Lansky, Frank Costello, Vito Genovese, Joseph Bonnano and others confer in Havana, Cuba.

1786—Hannah Ocuish, a cognitively-impaired 12-year-old Pequot Indian girl, thanks the executioner for his kindness before she’s hanged.

1669—In the first jury trial in Delaware, Marcus “The Long Finn” Jacobson is sentenced to be flogged, branded on the face, and enslaved for insurrection.

2008—Todd Carmichael reaches the South Pole after traveling 692 miles on skis and on foot, solo.

2006—Saparmurat Niyazov’s term of office ends. Turkmenistan’s President for Life leaves a legacy of many golden statues . . . of himself.

2004—In Fort Valley, Ga., Larry Taylor refuses to give his cell phone to a would-be thief, who then shoots him in the head. Taylor walks two miles to his mother’s home, only to find she has moved to a nursing home. Despite this setback, he survives.

2001—“All in all,” says George W.[MD] Bush three months after 9/11, “it’s been a fabulous year for Laura and me.”

1996—After two years of denial, Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) admits to ethics violations.

1989—Vice President J. Danforth Quayle sends out 30,000 Xmas cards in which “beacon” is spelled “beakon.”

1988—PanAm Flight 103 explodes over Lockerbie; 270 perish.

1970—At the White House, Elvis gives Tricky Dick a chrome-plated Colt .45; Dick gives Elvis a Narcotics Bureau badge.

1968—The *Apollo 8* astronauts become the first humans to leave Earth’s gravitational field.

1962—The U.S. exchanges \$53 million in medical supplies for 1,113 Bay of Pigs prisoners.

1956—Montgomery, Ala. buses desegregate—the boycott worked.

2001—Richard Reid’s shoe-bomb fails to down American Airlines Flight 63. Regardless, all footwear must now be X-rayed pre-flight.

1984—Asked for money on a New York subway, Bernhard Goetz responds with lead instead. Then he flees to New Hampshire. Of course.

1981—Ronald Reagan gives the poor 30 million lbs. of moldy cheese.

1965—Henry House becomes the first U.S. soldier court martialled for protesting the Vietnam War.

1944—To a German demand for surrender, surrounded General Anthony McAuliffe replies, “Nuts.”

1937—Hotel clerk and author Nathanael West and his wife Eileen McKenney die in a car wreck during their honeymoon.

1909—At his funeral, Belgians boo their sovereign, King Leopold II.

1849—Fyodor Dostoevsky, half-naked and tied to a pole, is presumably pleased to learn he’s going to Siberia for four years instead of being shot.

1882—Thomas Edison makes the first string of electric Xmas lights.

1813—Eighteen acres in downtown Portsmouth, N.H. burn, from Daniel Street to Court Street, and Fleet Street to the river; 272 buildings are destroyed.

1757—In Portsmouth, N.H., a mob hundreds strong, incensed by British press gangs, drags *HMS Enterprise*’s longboat from the harbor, hauls it two miles inland, and probably burns it.



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