

*The Fortnightly Rant***What About Fighting Back for a Change?**

The 115th Congress convened two years ago—in a state of seething malevolence, judging by its record. It did nothing of any significance to better the lot of the average American. On the contrary, it did wholesale damage by sabotaging a health care program that serves millions. It did pass out \$2.3 trillion in the form of tax cuts, but all that money was carefully channeled to make sure it went only to those who weren't in any need. The Senate did confirm two Supreme Court Justices: the first one was bad, the second was worse. Its final act was true to form: letting the President jam the gears of government, then skulking out of town on the down low.

A pox on that House, and Senate, too ... with a certain exception.

New Hampshire's First District

It has often been said that Americans hate Congress but love their Congressional Representatives. That is as true here in the state's First District as it is anywhere else. Because this is the swingiest swing district in the country, though, it has only been half-true at any given time since the election of 2006.

That year Carol Shea-Porter came out of nowhere, won the Democratic primary over that Party's opposition, and defeated two-term incumbent Jeb Bradley to become the first Democrat to take that seat in 20 years. It was dazzling proof that the game of politics is not dead yet.

Shea-Porter and Frank Guinta traded the seat back and forth in an epic series of four elections. Both had their loyal supporters—in the beginning, at least. Towards the end, Guinta, the former Mayor of Manchester, inspired Joe McQuaid, editor of his hometown paper, the *Union Leader*, to write a one-sentence editorial for the ages: "Frank

Guinta is a damned liar."

Shea-Porter's supporters still stand by her, which pretty well demonstrates their difference. Guinta has become a lobbyist. What else?

Sunday's *Portsmouth Herald* carried an editorial summing up her admirable career. It was so well done we began to reconsider some of the criticism we've aimed their way. The next day, though, the AWLD reverted to form, publishing a derivative piece of second-hand propaganda arguing that the 17th Amendment should be repealed. For those who left their copy of the Constitution in their other tuxedo, repealing the 17th would take the power to elect U.S. Senators away from ordinary voters, and put it in the hands of our state legislators. As blatant scams go, that's about on a par with Bud Abbott asking Lou Costello to give him two tens for a five.

Buckle Up, Buttercup

The 116th Congress has now begun its official strutting and fretting. To misquote Bette Davis, just like everyone else does, "Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy ride."

With the House in Democratic hands, many of the same Republicans who passed that \$2.3 trillion tax cut are suddenly going to remember that the budget deficit is the most important thing in the world.

Some of the Democrats, including Speaker Pelosi, are going to submit to their bullying and go along with austerity gimmicks demanded by the GOP. They ought to at least point out the hypocrisy. A little arithmetic might not hurt.

Most of the media will, of course, address the issue with the time-honored Standard Treatment: allow both sides an equal opportunity to spout lies at random, even if only one side ever seems to take advantage of it.

**Deadwood and Fresh Faces**

One refreshing aspect of this new Congress is that 26 Republicans are retiring, three Senators and 23 Representatives. That's the highest number of quitters since 1974, at least. This is a positive turn of events for a very simple reason: chronic annoyances like Trey Gowdy and Orrin Hatch are suddenly removed from the mix, and it often takes time for newcomers to develop their aggravation skills.

Better still, the team that's purportedly trying to keep their opponents from destroying the planet have some pretty feisty players in their lineup. And why not? They're young. They're going to have to live a long time in our looming climatic hellscape.

Some of them even have the courage to question capitalism. It's about time someone did. It wasn't anarcho-syndicalism that created this mess.

Don't Help the Bastards Out by Quitting

The current management has nearly completed its twentieth year since resuming regularly scheduled publication here in the town of our founding. A decade of episodic publication in other locations preceded that. If we are still standing come May Day, 2019, we will have put out 520 fortnightly issues—and we have no intention of quitting. Realizing this has, for some reason, stirred in us the urge to offer some thoughts on the path forward. Those not inclined to indulge us are encouraged to bail out now. Refunds of the cover price will be given on demand.

The first thing, above all, is just not to quit. For one thing, the bastards who are bent on ruining this country and this planet surely don't deserve our help. For another, watching from a catatonic state while their destruction proceeds unhindered doesn't sound like any fun at all.

As Shea-Porter demonstrated

in '06, every day bears within it the possibility of change. Believing any different is giving up two tens for a five.

Optimism offers no advantage in this fight, though. In fact, it's probably a mistake to expect much in the way of positive results. Rely on wins for your motivation and you're begging for inevitable, albeit occasional, let-downs.

No, the way forward is to find some way, any way, to take action—it is a target-rich political environment—that scratches your own personal itch and leads towards a more just world. Or, perhaps, some form of revenge. It works for us.

Think big, while you're at it. The escalating absurdity of the times in which we live demands that we attempt the impossible if we're to have any hope of a livable future.

If we fail in the end, at least the quality of our lives will be vastly improved by the company we've kept.

*The Alleged News®***New Year Starts with the Same Old Foolishness**

In case anyone had been laboring under some misapprehension that 2019 might start off somewhat saner than the year just ended, Secretary of Defense James Mattis's resignation became official on December 31st at 5:00 p.m.

Ninety minutes later, the U.S. Strategic Command—the branch of the Pentagon where the buzzer rings if the President hits that big red button on his desk—issued a tweet which read, "#TimesSquare tradition rings in the #NewYear by dropping the big ball...if ever needed, we are #ready to drop something much, much bigger. Watch to the end!"

The video being touted began with a B-2 *Stealth*™ Bomber in flight disgorging an enormous pair of 30,000 pound bunker-buster bombs. It ended—how else?—with two huge explosions.

We were not in Pasadena, but we can only imagine that the previous day's tweet must have amplified the thrill felt by the crowds who watched the next morning as a B-2 made a flyover pass of the Rose Parade. Another B-2, a few hours later, entertained 90,000 football fans by flying over the Rose Bowl.

Hundreds of thousands of Federal employees are either furloughed without pay, or working without pay, but adequate funding and personnel were available to fly the two bombers round trip from Whiteman AFB in Missouri, at a cost of \$169,313 per hour, each.

Who knows. Perhaps the Pentagon gets first dibs on the estimated \$20-odd billion that undocumented Mexican immigrants pay in income taxes every year, for which they receive exactly \$0.00 from Social Security, Medicare, &c.

"Support the Troops"

Nearly thirty years ago, after the Soviet Union collapsed and the Germans knocked down the Berlin Wall with sledgehammers, a long-standing set of interlocking relationships which had nurtured thousands of well-paid careers in the U.S. military, leading public intellectuals, defense contractors, and the news media—call it the Military-Academic-Industrial-Media Complex, or M.A.I.M.—faced an crisis: if its *raison d'être* no longer existed, why should it?

That existential crisis evaporated when another conveniently presented itself: Saddam Hussein, the New, Improved Hitler. Tearful (false) testimony about stolen incubators, written by U.S. PR hacks and delivered by a random teenage Kuwaiti girl who turned out to be the daughter of the Kuwaiti Ambassador, cemented wavering public resolve.

menting wavering public resolve.

An opportunity was at hand to put the Vietnam War behind us. It was time to once again make the world safe for the use of American military might. But how to overcome lingering civilian reluctance? Some anonymous genius came up with "Support the Troops"—an otherwise meaningless phrase which neatly distinguished the proposed operation from the late unpleasantness.

No one under the age of 20 would believe today how ubiquitous that phrase was then, or could imagine the proliferation of yellow ribbons. Making it all that much more surreal, in retrospect, is the extent to which, today, those troops get the shaft.

A particularly shocking example of shafting the troops came to light just over a week ago. Considering

the incendiary nature of the reporting, one might have expected it to be leading the evening news. Instead, it seems as if the story might never have been written.

Reuters, a news source as credible as they come, reported December 27th on the Corvias Group, a closely-held company which is one of the largest private landlords on U.S. military bases.

"The Corvias homes," write Reuters' Joshua Schneyer and Andrea Januta, "are among 206,000 now under private management in the 22-year-old U.S. Military Housing Privatization Initiative, the largest-ever corporate takeover of federal housing. The military says the effort has enhanced the lives of service members and their families."

The Alleged News®

from page one

It has certainly enhanced the life of John Picerne, the founder. He's got not one, but two 18th-century mansions on his 100-acre estate in Ireland, a six-bedroom neo-Georgian brick house in Providence, R.I., a \$6-million Rhode Island beach home across Narragansett Bay from Newport, where he docks his Italian-made yacht, and a villa in Palm Beach where the decor includes "an alligator locked in battle with a snake, mounted on a 20-foot vaulted ceiling."

The tenants of the 26,000 homes and apartments he manages on 13 military bases have "flooding, bursting pipes, mold blooms, collapsed ceilings, exposed lead paint and tap water as brown as tea," and all of the health problems one might expect to ensue when humans try to live under such appalling conditions.

The contrast between the situations of the tenants and the landlord is almost enough to make a person wonder whether it's safe to take what some people say at face value.

The McIntyre Mess

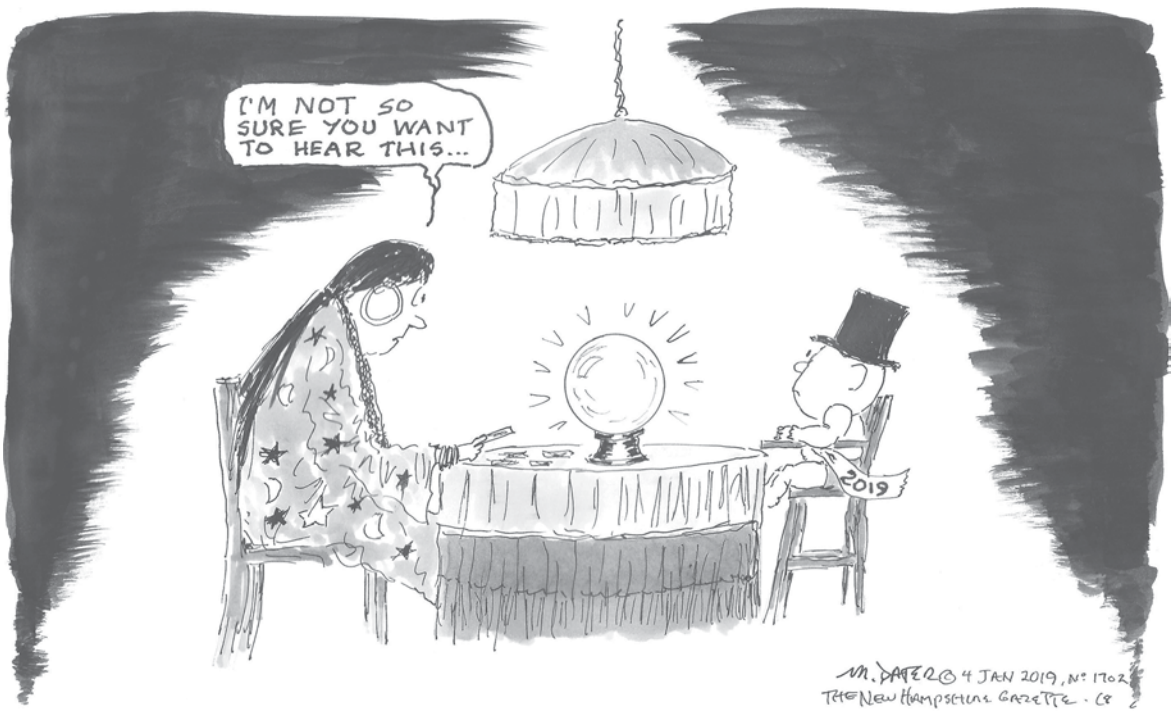
The future of the McIntyre Federal Building will be up for discussion at the Portsmouth City Council Meeting on January 7th. The fun begins at 7:00 p.m., in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers at City Hall, on Junkins Avenue.

After years of discussion and a contentious meeting earlier this year with a representative of the U.S. Postal Service, the City Council's selection of a development team is being challenged by another group. Revisit McIntyre, has come forward proposing an entirely different plan.

"RevisitMcIntyre is a dedicated group of business owners, professionals, residents and concerned citizens of Portsmouth," according to



Market Square, Sunday, December 30th: temperatures were moderate, the winds were calm, and precipitation was nonexistent. Perfect conditions for First Night, but our local version of Hagmanæ is no better a candidate for temporal shifting than Christmas, proving once again that the best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft a-gley. On the right side of the frame here, hidden as usual by Irish Mike's white van, is The Cafe Formerly Known as Brioche. It closed for good yesterday. We might have warned them years ago that this would happen, when they took over that space and declined to permit us to continue distributing our newspaper there. In the center of the frame, members of Occupy Seacoast continue to stand for civil rights, social justice, and economic equality. Over on the left side of the frame, the sidewalk where the Seacoast Deplorables used to counter-protest is, once again, unoccupied. Summer soldiers, apparently.



RevisitMcintyre.com, "who believe that the McIntyre Project should not be a massive business forward development, but rather a thoughtful, carefully designed, yet economically viable project benefiting ALL of the citizens of Portsmouth.

"We are opposed to the Portsmouth City Council's current Kane/Redgate plan for the McIntyre Project.

"We respectfully ask that the City Council not approve this plan and, instead, consider an alternate plan, such as the one proposed by Revisit McIntyre which provides a needed public park, additional public parking and preserves the existing Post Office, all critical to the citizens of Portsmouth."

RevisitMcIntyre cited comments made by participants at sessions conducted by Portsmouth Listens, in coordination with the city, on February 3, 2018:

Attendees broke up into six listening groups. Among other things, Group 3 said, "Ensure the Post Office stays somewhere in the building." Group 4 said "Preserving the post office location" was important. Group 5 wanted "Open space and mixed-use—post office and utilitari-

an retail—affordable not high end." [emphasis added.]

Other features listed as desirable included more parking, the preservation of scenic views, open space, green space, and "NO PORT-WALK."

According to RevisitMcIntyre, the project will also go before the Historic District Commission on January 9th. That meeting begins at 6:30 p.m., also in the Council Chambers.

Scary, Scary Movie

What's your favorite scary movie? *The Exorcist*? *The Shining*? *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*? Ours is *Command and Control*, and it's showing for free at the Levenson Room of Portsmouth Public Library this Monday, January 7th, at 6:30 p.m.

A dropped wrench starts a fire in a missile silo, not far from an American town. A handful of men learn, to their horror, that it's up to them to put the fire out—and they have no idea how to do it, or if it can even be done. The pressure mounts as the flames grow higher. Then things get really serious: an explosion sends a nuclear bomb arcing into the sky.

What makes *Command and*

Control truly unsettling is that it's non-fiction. See the movie and find out whether Damascus, Ark. was destroyed in 1980 by an errant nine-megaton W-53 thermonuclear warhead.

This film and a discussion afterward are part of Seacoast Peace Response's "Back from the Brink" project, which is working to build support in Seacoast communities for resolutions calling for reduction of the nuclear threat. The Durham town council passed a resolution last month. The group is now trying to pass resolutions in Portsmouth and Exeter. Details are available at the national project website: www.preventnuclearwar.org.

Bureaucrat Balks at Business Name

Isabelle Rose signed a lease in April for a space next to City Hall in Keene. Her plan was to open a restaurant featuring the Vietnamese soup called *phở*. Rent was reportedly paid on the city-owned space, as renovations went on all summer. Late last month a sign went up in the window, saying the restaurant would soon be open.

Then, on Christmas Eve, according to *FreeKeene.com*, City Manag-

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er Elizabeth A. Dragon—her real name, we checked—called Rose and said the sign had to go, on the grounds that it was “offensive and not appropriate.”

The offending sign read, “*Coming Soon — Phở Keene Great.*”

According to the website, run by Free Stater Ian Freeman, “Rest assured, the ACLU is being contacted regarding this case, and Rose intends to fight for her freedom of speech.”

Falling Tourist Helicopter Kills Local Man
A resident of a coastal town was crushed to death Tuesday by a falling tourist helicopter.

Alessandro Correia Leite, 42, had just left his father’s house in Ubatuba, Brazil after sharing a cup of coffee when the accident occurred. According to the *Daily Mail*, “the [Robinson R44] helicopter was taking a married couple on a panoramic beach tour when it fell from the sky a minute after takeoff and landed on Mr. Leite.” As the husband was filming out the window, his wife noticed a red light on the machine’s dashboard, moments before it began to fall.

The pilot and his two passengers escaped the wreck with only minor injuries.

A Community Dialogue on Race, Class & Ethnicity in Incarceration
Concord, N.H. — The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire and the UNH Law School will host a community dialogue entitled, “The Coloring of Law and Punishment: Exploring the Role of Race, Ethnicity and Class in Incarceration,” on Saturday, January 19, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Rudman Center in Concord.

Facilitated by Tonya Evans, Professor of Law at UNH Law, this dialogue—through shared stories and a panel discussion—will examine the consequences of intensified surveillance, incarceration, and criminalization of poor and Black communities, and what a shift from punitive to restorative justice within our criminal system could look like.

Over the last year, people of color have had the police called on them for things such as sitting in a Starbucks, and making a call in the hotel lobby at a DoubleTree. These actions demonstrate an implicit bias that associates black individuals with criminal activities. This has led to racial disparities at many levels of law enforcement. These biases aren’t unique to the law, but in matters of criminal justice, implicit bias can have life-altering implications.



This dialogue will focus on the systemic issues that disadvantage and marginalize communities of color both now and over the history of our nation. Through personal stories, the panel will explore how racialized systems have led to mass incarceration and an overrepresentation of people of color in the prison system. Panelists include Devon Chaffee, Bill Celester, Carlos Camacho and Dan Feltes.

Devon Chaffee is the executive director of the ACLU of New Hampshire. She has a solid track record of effectively advocating on behalf of marginalized constituencies through innovative, strategic, and persistent lobbying and public education.

It would seem, at first glance that there are two versions of Bill Celester. On the one side is the tough-talking cop who won praise as a

district commander in Roxbury and as police superintendent in Newark, NJ. On the other is an ex-con, who pleaded guilty to three counts of wire, tax, and mail fraud and who did two years in federal prison on those charges. The two sides are intrinsically tied together. Bill Celester is, for better or worse, both. An ex-cop and an ex-con.

Dan Feltes is a member of the New Hampshire State Senate. In 2018 Feltes sponsored a bill aimed to eliminate cash bail for people charged with misdemeanors.

Lieutenant Carlos Camacho is a 16-year veteran of the Nashua Police Department. After serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, Camacho became a police officer in Houston, Texas, until he was hired by the Nashua Police Department. Lt. Camacho is a police representative on the Nashua Cultural Con-

tions committee and Nashua Community Conversation on Race and Justice.

The goal of this dialogue is to further excavate Black New Hampshire history, make plain the connections between racism’s grip on our past and its contemporary manifestations, and help create a future for our state in which everyone thrives.

This program is an expansion of the Black Heritage Trail’s signature Elinor Williams Hooker Tea Talk Series. The final community dialogues of this three-part series, “Sites of Memory: Reconstructing the Past,” will be held at Dartmouth College on Saturday, February 2, 2019 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

This expanded series is sponsored by New Hampshire Humanities.

For more information visit: blackheritagetrailnh.org/programs/tea-talks/.



Unable to avoid the regimented fun entirely, our Wandering Photographer noted that at least the wind held off until the end of the fireworks.

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We are pleased to announce that, thanks to volunteer distributors,
this newspaper can now be found at the following locations:

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Concord COOP Grocery Store, 24 S. Main St.
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Keene:
Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.

Lebanon:
Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

Get Your Racism Supplies Here ...
To the Editor:

A discount store in Rochester, New Hampshire is currently selling a variety of Confederate flags. It would appear the flags are intended for members of the local community to proudly display.

The Confederate flag is a shameful symbol inextricably woven with threads of racist ideology and racial violence. The only appropriate place to display it would be in a museum.

Twice I've spoken in person with the co-owner of the store, as well as once over the phone, politely explaining my concerns. Additionally, on September 18, 2018, I handed him educational information about the Confederate flag, plus a hand-written letter kindly requesting a reply—so far, no reply.

One of the versions of the flag currently for sale is called "Come And Take It." It features the image of an AR-15 style semi-automatic assault rifle superimposed on the Confederate flag.

As of Sunday, December 30, 2018, at 1:23 p.m., there was a total of 13 "Come And Take It" Confederate flags remaining on the shelf, retailing for \$4.99 each. In the coming weeks, months, and maybe even years, I intend to occasionally enter the store—not to buy anything, of course, as I wouldn't vote for such an establishment with God's money (of which I am but a steward)—but, rather, just to count how many Confederate flags remain.

Lest we forget, Dylann Roof, a troubled young man with racist motives, shot and killed nine African-Americans in a South Carolina church in 2015. Both *The New York Times* and the *Chicago Tribune* published a photo of him holding a Confederate flag in one hand and a handgun in the other.

Supporters of the Confederate flag claim it's a symbol of heritage, not hate. But just a little research reveals a shameful side of the south, including use of the flag by the Ku Klux Klan, as well as by Dixiecrats who opposed the end of racial segregation.

Given the resurgence of white nationalism in America, including the

violent death of Heather Heyer in Charlottesville, Va. in 2017, I hardly think this issue is a question of political correctness. What's at stake are shared American values—in this instance, symbols of racism for sale and display.

I suggest we prayerfully reflect on this troubling issue, especially with Reverend Martin Luther King day approaching.

Respectfully,
Alex J. Boros
Rochester, N.H.

Alex:
Thank you for writing.

It comes as a bit of a shock to learn that Confederate flags are for sale in this state. Things being as they are, however, it would not be a complete surprise to hear someone defend the storeowner's right to sell those reminders of a most shameful part of our nation's past.

We wonder if the store in question would balk at selling portraits of Representative James Michael Cavanaugh of Montana (1823 – 1879), emblazoned with a remark he made on May 28, 1868, on the floor of the House of Representatives: "I like an Indian better dead than living. I have never in my life seen a good Indian—and I have seen thousands—except when I have seen a dead Indian." Perhaps Nazi regalia would be next.

The Editor

=====
Let N.H. Lead on Drugs and Guns

To the Editor:

After each of the all too frequent mass killings in this country there is extensive speculation as to a motive: jealousy, hate crime, disgruntled employee, PTSD, or some other form of mental illness. The question "why did he do it?" is the basis for in-depth investigation, news stories, and analysis by numerous experts.

I would like to suggest the following: the killer did it because he could.

The fact is, although there may be a different impulse behind each incident, the perpetrator could be anyone—because in our society almost any one of us can walk into a gun shop, sporting goods store, or weapons show...or go on-line...and walk away



with what is potentially a weapon of mass destruction: semi-automatic handguns, various weapons fitted with bump stocks, military assault-style rifles, &c. Perhaps the scariest part of most of the recent mass killings is the report that the weapon used was purchased legally. Most, if not all, of those responsible have been law-abiding citizens until they walked into a school, a movie theater, a mall, and opened fire.

Answer this question: what possible justification is there for a young person to be walking around a shopping mall with a loaded handgun? Or a civilian of any age owning an assault rifle? Or being able to increase the firing capacity of an already lethal weapon? The sole design and purpose of these weapons is to kill human beings. An AK-15 is not a defensive weapon.

It is no longer enough simply to point at the 2nd Amendment and walk away from the problem. There was no "militia" activity involved in Middletown, Orlando, Las Vegas, or Aurora. There are no British troops harassing the locals. No threat of French or Indians attacking to reclaim lost territory. The purpose of the 2nd Amendment when passed was to preserve order in the absence of any local police force and no immediate plans for a standing army. None of these considerations apply today.

Much has been made, and rightly so, of the opioid crisis, with over 60,000 drug-related deaths annually, fueled by the manufacture and all too available sales and distribution of lethal medications. Although initially slow to respond, it now appears that the federal and state governments are adopting programs to limit distribution of the more potent medications and spending millions to establish education and treatment programs.

At the same time, faced with over 30,000 gun-related deaths each year the same legislators turn away and do

little or nothing to address the problem, even in some states passing laws that make the purchase of dangerous weapons easier and less transparent.

These two matters—drug abuse and gun abuse—involving thousands of deaths and medical treatment for even more injured and incapacitated individuals, are both serious public health issues, identified as such by the CDC and more recently by prominent medical societies and organizations, a burden, financial and personal, which we all share in terms of the cost of law enforcement, medical care and insurance premiums, lives lost, and families and communities devastated.

It is way beyond time that we recognized this and begin to insist on a realistic and effective response from our elected officials. With a new legislature arriving in Concord within the next few weeks maybe New Hampshire can lead the way.

Anthony McManus

Dover, N.H.

Anthony:

You understand, of course, that you're proposing a momentous change, because, traditionally, Americans who count have always been able to count on firearms.

Throughout this nation's formative years, ready access to lethal power was vital for the protection of life and property—white lives, that is, and white property, including black bodies. The indigenous inhabitants of this vast and fertile land were sometimes reluctant to abandon their ancestral homes in the absence of overwhelming force. Enslaved men, women, and children likewise proved to lack motivation unless orders to work could be backed up by death threats.

By the bye, we nearly took you to task for making a mistaken reference to a non-existent weapon—"An AK-15 is not a defensive weapon"—under the assumption that you were conflating the

old Russian standard, the AK-47, and its American counterpart, the AR-15. In the minds of fervent advocates of the 2nd Amendment, any such error immediately and completely nullifies anything else you might have to say.

Our old friend The Google informed us, though, that the Rooskies have in fact just introduced an AK-15. This snazzy, gas-operated, selective fire rig uses the 7.62 x 39 cartridge and has a rate of fire of 700 rounds per minute.

The Editor

=====
Why the Common Man Loves Trump

To the Editor:

Donald Trump was elected to office by the same process that elected all prior presidents—a democratic election. What's this nonsense about a kakistocracy? Sounds like some liberal has been preparing for the SAT.

It is the left that cannot exist in a democracy. They proved themselves unable to tolerate a true voice of the people and not the voice of the Boston, New York, Washington, West Coast, Hollywood, and media elites, all who think of themselves more worthy and more intelligent, and therefore our natural rulers.

The left underestimates the the intelligence of the common man. The left is a movement populated by fools who by identifying with the elites think themselves to be elites, when in fact those elites do all they can to isolate themselves from anyone who does not meet the requirements to join their club. The elites use their base only to maintain power but do nothing for that base except to make them feel superior to Trump voters. I guess paying an extraordinary amount of money to be brainwashed in a university by professors teaching courses at the introductory level makes these people feel

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Uh-Oh ...

Dear Sir:

The resignation of General Mattis as Secretary of Defense should sound alarm bells throughout the halls of Congress, among our allies and with the American people. General Mattis was one of the few, if not the only remaining member of Trump's high level advisers after the departures of John Kelly and Rex Tillerson, who actually stood up to Trump and his most destructive instincts. In their absence, Trump will be surrounded with dangerous extremist NeoCons like John Bolton, Mike Pompeo, and I expect the like minded person who will replace Secretary Mattis.

While the resignation of Secretary Mattis is a surprise to no one, since the huge policy difference between him and Trump have been an open book, the timing is of particular concern. It was directly after Trump announced his decision to remove all troops from Syria that was the last straw for Mattis. This decision, which is not supported by our military or intelligence community, will create a serious problem in the region. Not only will it undercut our Kurdish allies, it will give Russia and Assad a free hand in Syria, and allow ISIS the opportunity to rebuild and increase their influence in the region.

There are no good strategic or national security benefits for our leaving Syria at this time. It does however, raise the question as to why Mr. Trump would give his best friend Vlad Putin such a clear victory. Like our recent policy decisions with Crimea, what is it that Mr. Putin has over Mr. Trump that continue to shape American foreign policy in favor of Russia?

With the departure of General Mattis we can foresee a dangerous period ahead for America and the world. Even Sen. Rubio (R-Fla.) stated that we can expect "a series of grave policy errors." This is especially worrisome

as Trump's behavior becomes even more unpredictable as the Mueller investigation gets closer to him and his family. What "grave errors" in policy will he make to deflect from his legal problems, and with no restraining influences surrounding him? Will war with Iran, a long-wished goal of John Bolton, be far off? Unfortunately, with a complicit GOP in Congress, and the influence of right-wing media on Trump, there will be no controlling the madness.

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

Rich:

The departure of General Mattis is, without a doubt, another reason not to assume that 2019 will be an improvement over 2018.

An argument could be made that the U.S. ought not to be fighting in Syria. There has to be some limit to how many foreign wars we fight at the same time. Having a tooth that needs extracting, though, doesn't mean you should let your drunk neighbor yank it out with a pair of vice grips.

We know nothing about the nuances of this situation, beyond this: we seem to be betraying the Kurds for at least the third time in recent memory.

Let's remember, at this juncture, that Mattis is being replaced by a former top executive at Boeing. Fox, meet henhouse.

The Editor

—==—

Joffe

Dear Editor,

It's a good week for Vladimir Putin. Trump shut down the U.S. government.

Trump is pulling our troops out of Syria, leaving the field open for Russia and Iran to celebrate with Assad.

Secretary of Defense Mattis, the last "adult in the room," just resigned, objecting to Trump's policy of insulting our allies and cuddling up to our adversaries.

Trump's initiation of a tariff war has finally collapsed the stock market.

Yep, this may be Putin's very best week, ever.

Sadly,
Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:

Thanks for cheering us up.

The Editor

—==—

Climate Science Denial As Hate Speech

To the Editor:

Being the thinking person that I am, I feel very fortunate to have many smart friends with whom I can converse and share ideas concerning many important issues such as Global Climate Change and the environment.

I made a statement about #45's nonsensical, word salad response to the recent 1,600 page National Climate Assessment. In his typical childish, uninformed fashion, #45 replied with the four words, "I don't believe it," to a detailed, sober report by a group of highly educated government climate experts. Their report explicated the potential impacts on the country and rest of the planet of unchecked Global Climate Change. My friend responded to #45's bold ignorance by claiming, "Scientists have again landed a spacecraft on a proverbial dime on a planet 40 million miles away that rotates at 241 meters per second. Think I'm going to have to trust them on this climate change stuff."

Another good friend, with whom I was discussing the same subject, asserted that she is a Pantheistic Transcendentalist: that Nature is her religion and the planet her church and that attacking her religion and church should be considered a hate crime in accordance with the First Amendment to the Constitution. I am all onboard with my friend since I, myself, am an avid outdoorsperson with a deep love and respect for Mother Nature and we both pledge allegiance to our beloved planet.

The issue of climate change, with its devastating potential impacts, has not been up for debate for a long time and is certainly no hoax, as claimed by #45 and the Republicans. In fact, it is high time to stand up to the fossil fuel industry, start weaning ourselves of their products, introducing new energy systems, and dedicating the resources

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"We have always known that heedless self interest was bad morals, we now know that it is bad economics."

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945)

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"There is no Complete Idiots Guide to Creationism, but perhaps one is not needed."

— Andrei Codrescu (1946-)

Romanian-American poet, novelist, essayist, screenwriter, and commentator

john@wordpraxis.com



Sometimes Old is Good

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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Daddy's Philosophy

by Jim Hightower

This special day got me to thinking about America's spirit of giving, and I don't mean this overdone business of Christmas gifts. I mean our true spirit of giving -- giving of ourselves.

Yes, we are a country of rugged individualists, yet there's also a deep, community-minded streak in each of us. We're a people who believe in the notion that we're all in this together, that we can make our indi-

vidual lives better by contributing to the common good.

The establishment media pay little attention to grassroots generosity, focusing instead on the occasional showy donation by what it calls "philanthropists"—big tycoons who give a little piece of their billions to some university or museum in exchange for getting a building named after them. But in my mind, the real philanthropists are the millions of you ordinary folks who have precious little money to give, but

consistently give of themselves, and do it without demanding that their name be engraved on a granite wall.

My own Daddy, rest his soul, was a fine example of this. With half a dozen other guys in Denison, Texas, he started the Little League baseball program volunteering to build the park, sponsor and coach the teams, run the squawking P.A. system, &c. &c. Even after I graduated from Little League, Daddy stayed working at it, because his involvement was not merely for his kids ... but

for all. He felt the same way about being taxed to build a public library in town. I don't recall him ever going in that building, much less checking-out a book, but he wanted it to be there for the community and he was happy to pay his part. Not that he was a do-good liberal, for God's sake—indeed, he called himself a conservative.

My Daddy didn't even know he had a political philosophy, but he did, and it's the best I've ever heard. He would often say to me, "Every-

body does better when everybody does better." If only our leaders in Washington and on Wall Street would begin practicing this true American Philosophy.

—==—

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

2018) involving retired Lieutenant General Mark Hertling and CNN's John Berman.

Berman: "You had some concerns about politicization of the trip, whether the President going after Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats there. Also some of the troops did bring their political paraphernalia. I don't think you can blame the president for that, but the troops, in your mind, should not have had their 'Make America Great Again' hats that he was signing. Right?"

Hertling: "But it is an Department of the Army, Department of Defense and some of the other services, have it too. But it is a Department of Defense regulation that you don't allow political paraphernalia, that you don't politicize events that sway those in uniform one way or the other. Doing that when greeting the President certainly, but the 'Make America Great Again' and the Trump posters are not the kind of thing that good commanders, good NCOs allow at these events. And I've had visiting dignitaries visit my unit and truthfully I tell them beforehand do as much self-ie-taking with your constituents as possible, but we'd like to keep the politics back home. And, truthfully all the commanders and two Presidents have done exactly that. This was kind of over the edge. Also the commentary about what's going on in the world and especially what's going on in domestic politics is just not appropriate in front of a military audience."

So, here we have Trump, once



again, trampling the institutions of our democracy to enhance his self-interest. When, at long last, will Republican elected officials and rank and file Republicans put the well being of our country ahead of their tribalism and desire for power? When will they stand up to Donald Trump and help preserve our nation?

Gary Patton
Hampton, N.H.

Gary:

Sorry, but we can't let a reference to "the good name of the FBI" pass without recalling that for much of its existence the FBI was the fiefdom of a deeply disturbed and corrupt individual who used its power to crush individuals and obstruct movements which were acting entirely within their rights. Now, moving on ...

Thank you for this concise record of President Trump's most glaringly inappropriate campaign rally. If any other Commander-in-Chief pulled such a stunt, it would dominate the headlines for a week. In the context of this Administration, it might have gone unremarked in this paper, had you not written.

The Editor

—==—

N.H. Community Rights Amendment
To the Editor:

Representative Ellen Read has reintroduced the New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment, a state constitutional amendment that expands and protects the rights of people and natural envi-

ronments in their communities. The New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment was drafted by the New Hampshire Community Rights Network, with assistance from the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, a non-profit public interest law firm. Representative Read said she is committed to sponsoring this legislation again because, "our quality of life, indeed our very lives and those of our children and future generations, depend on it." Projects such as pipelines and compressor stations, transmission lines, ridgeline industrial wind ventures, and water extraction projects are authorized by state officials and state agencies, without townspeople's consent. Efforts to protect people and ecosystems have been denied by state and federal governments in partnership with corporate special interests, leading to this legislation.

The New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment would add Article 40, Right of Local Community Self-Government, to the New Hampshire Constitution's Bill of Rights, and has three key components:

Right to Local Self-Government: specifically recognizing the right of people in communities across the state to local community self-government.

Rights of People, Communities, and Natural Environments: people, communities and natural environments have rights to health, safety

and well-being, and the authority to prohibit business activities that violate those rights.

Expanding and Protecting Fundamental Rights: people can use their collective local lawmaking power to enact local laws that protect and expand fundamental rights—any efforts to restrict or weaken fundamental rights under this Amendment are prohibited.

The New Hampshire Community Rights Amendment has bi-partisan support from Representative co-sponsors: Vincent Migliore, Janice Schmidt, Skip Cleaver, Wendy Thomas, Nancy Murphy, William Pearson, Kathryn Stack, David Meuse, and Joshua Adjutant.

Jennifer Dube
NHCRN Legislative Coordinator
Raymond, N.H.

jennifer@nhcommunityrights.org
Jennifer:

Thank you for keeping us apprised of this effort. Please do continue.

The Editor

—==—

Department of Dendrological Corrections
[Note: December 7th, 2018 proved to be Pearl Harbor Day for our dendrological credibility. Beneath a photo of the City's non-denominational 'holiday' tree, a caption referred to that magnificent arboreal specimen as a "mammoth deciduous tree." The caption was, of course, incorrect. Two kind readers brought the matter to our attention, for which we thank them. — The Ed.]

Bruce Pingree, of Kittery, was first: "The one-time forestry major in me had to shudder at your calling an obvious coniferous , a deciduous tree ... deciduous means, "falling off at maturity," as in maple, oak &c. Trees that lose their foliage in the fall. Conifers are evergreens.

"Maybe one or two of my old professors, may they rest in peace, might be smiling as I send this.

"Your evergreen friend ..."

Bruce:

Perhaps what is falling off at maturity is the Editor's cognitive function.

The Editor

Nan Graves, from further on up the coast a ways, responded a few days later.

"Huh! Looks like an evergreen to me ... Or are you just testing us?"

Nan:

Testing? Only your tolerance for our fallibility.

The Editor

—==—

"I don't know how many years it's been, but we in the community need the Gazette more than ever. The fortnightly exposés and thoughtful reporting of news that's not part of the mush that's served up by corporate media are highly awaited and appreciated by this household. Thanks for keeping the powerful and mendacious accountable!

Long live the Fourth Estate at its best!

Primus ...;Presente!—Aún vive.

— M.T., Exeter, N.H.

M.T.

Thank you for your stalwart support, and for remembering Primus.

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, JANUARY 6	MONDAY, JANUARY 7	TUESDAY, JANUARY 8	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9	THURSDAY, JANUARY 10	FRIDAY, JANUARY 11	SATURDAY, JANUARY 12
2006—George W.[MD] Bush OKs \$20 million for a celebration of “success” in Iraq and Afghanistan. 2005—A switching error causes a 2:40 a.m. train wreck in Graniteville, S.C.; 60 tons of chlorine gas escape, killing nine immediately and one months later. 1986—One dies, 100 are injured in an accident at Kerr-McGee’s nuclear fuel plant in Oklahoma. 1970—The Supreme Court OKs suppression of a GI paper at Fort Bragg. 1960—A DC-6 crashes in North Carolina, brought down by a dynamite bomb. The case is still open. 1947—Children arriving at the one-room schoolhouse in Callahan, Calif. find a lynched black man hanging from a nearby phone pole. 1946—Thousands of GIs storm HQ in the Philippines, protesting slow re-deployment back to the U.S. 1944—RIP Ida Tarbell, muckraker, in Bridgeport, Conn. 1927—Freelance executioner Robert Greene Elliot electrocutes three convicts in Charlestown, Mass., then three more in Sing Sing, N.Y. 1920—Birth of Reverend Sun Myung Moon, future Man-o’-God. 1895—Ex-Queen Liliuokalani is arrested in Hawaii after a failed coup against Sanford Dole. 1853—President-elect Franklin Pierce and his wife Jane survive an Andover, Mass. train derailment, but, with two sons dead already, see their third son dead, nearly decapitated.	2015—Two brothers, Wahhabi extremists, kill 12 and wound 11 at <i>Charlie Hebdo</i>’s offices in Paris. 1999—The U.S. Senate puts President Bill Clinton on trial for lying about his canoodling with a young intern. Chief prosecutor: Rep. (and adulterer) Henry Hyde [R-III]. 1998—<i>The Washington Post</i> reports that George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush’s repeated denials notwithstanding, the Veep was in fact present at meetings about arms sales to Iran. 1980—San Francisco honors the 100th anniversary of the death of Emperor Norton I with a party. 1970—Bethel, N.Y. farmer Max Yasgur is sued by his neighbors for damages resulting from his entertaining over 500,000 guests. 1969—<i>Look</i> magazine calls Jimi Hendrix a “menace to public health.” 1943—Nicola Tesla, electrical genius, dies in obscurity in New York City. 1920—Five socialists are expelled from the New York Assembly. 1861—Mayor Fernando Wood, a Democrat, proposes that New York City secede from the Union. 1851—“That a war of extermination will continue to be waged ... until the Indian race becomes extinct,” Gov. Peter H. Burnett informs the California legislature, “must be expected.” 1806—Cherokees in Tennessee and Alabama cede 7,000 square miles of land to whites, in return for which gesture they are not killed.	2008—Hillary Clinton wins the New Hampshire primary. 2007—The sub <i>U.S.S. Newport News</i> collides with an oil tanker in the straits of Hormuz. 2005—The sub <i>U.S.S. San Francisco</i> collides at full speed with an undersea mountain near Guam. One sailor dies, 98 are injured. 2003—“The war on terror involves Saddam Hussein,” explains George W.[MD] Bush, “because of the nature of Saddam Hussein, the history of Saddam Hussein, and his willingness to terrorize himself.” 1992—At a formal dinner in Japan, Bush #41 turns his head to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and vomits in his lap. 1982—The Reagan White House announces a new policy: granting tax-exempt status to racially-segregated colleges. (It lasts 4 days.) 1973—The Watergate Burglar trial begins. 1958—An accident at Chelyabinsk plutonium plant in U.S.S.R. kills hundreds. 1956—Ecuadoran Hoaroanis register their annoyance with missionaries by spearing five to death. 1946—Over 10,000 GIs in Saipan, Guam and France protest slow re-deployment back to the U.S. 1811—A small group of enslaved black men attack a plantation owner, take up arms, and march for New Orleans; their numbers grow as they go.	2002—Future Attorney General Alberto Gonzales writes that parts of the Geneva Conventions are “obsolete” and “quaint.” 1980—On orders from King Saud, 63 participants in the 1979 seizure of the Grand Mosque at Mecca are beheaded with swords in the public squares of eight Saudi cities. 1967—In Vietnam: 116,858 South Vietnamese troops deserted this year, up from 113,000 from last year. North Vietnamese desertions: 20,242. 1964—Panama suspends relations with U.S. after U.S. troops kill 21 anti-American protesters. 1952—In Phenix City, Ala., anti-vice crusader Hugh Bentley’s house is destroyed by a bomb. 1939—In Missouri’s “Bootheel,” 1,700 homeless sharecroppers, black and white, stage a sit-down strike in the middle of Highways 60 and 61. 1918—The 10th Cavalry and Yaqui Indians conduct the last battle of the Indian Wars at Bear Valley, Ariz. 1913—Richard Milhous Nixon is born in Yorba Linda, Calif. 1811—The number of enslaved but armed black men marching on New Orleans rises into the hundreds. 1805—Ohio passes “Black laws” — no blacks may testify in court. 1766—In Portsmouth, N.H., stamp master George Meserve is forced to surrender his commission by “a grand mob,” which then raises the first “No Stamp” flag in the colonies.	2015—A Robinson R22 over San Juan Bay, Puerto Rico emits white smoke, gyrates as its rotors bend, then plunges 800 feet, killing the pilot. 2002—George W.[MD] Bush denies ever meeting Enron CEO Ken Lay, his largest campaign donor. 1992—A busted shipping container releases 28,000 floating toy animals in the mid-Pacific, and are then tracked by oceanographers. The gripping tale is told in the tome, <i>Moby Duck</i>. 1984—Responders to a false alarm about an accidental missile launch at Warren AFB, Wyo., park an armored car atop the silo as a precaution. 1967—Lester Maddox, a school dropout who gave ax handles to his restaurant customers to ward off integration, becomes Governor of Georgia. 1957—Four black churches and homes of two black leaders in Birmingham, Ala. are bombed. 1946—“I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its stupidity,” says Ike in Ottawa, Canada. 1860—The Pemberton Mill in Lawrence, Mass., overloaded with machinery to boost profits, collapses killing 145 and injuring 166: the worst industrial disaster in state history. 1855—The last 88 Clackamas Indians sign away the best timberland in Oregon for \$500 and some food. 1776—In Philadelphia, <i>Common Sense</i> is published, by Thomas Paine, who eschews all royalties.	2008—“There will be a signed peace treaty [between Israel and the Palestinians] by the time I leave office,” says George W.[MD] Bush. 2003—“You can count on this,” Donald Rumsfeld tells Saudi Prince Bandar, showing plans for the Iraq War. “This is going to happen.” 2002—Joe Foss, 86, ex-Governor of South Dakota, is detained at a Phoenix airport; security personnel mistake his Medal of Honor for a weapon. 2000—“Rarely is the question asked,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “is our children learning?” 1974—Joint Chiefs Chair Admiral Moorer is reported to have spied on the executive branch to get secret info on U.S. diplomatic initiatives. 1964—Twenty-three years after journalist George Seldes first warned that smoking is hazardous to health, the U.S. Surgeon General does, too. 1943—Anarchist newspaperman Carlo Tresca is gunned down in New York City, probably by Carmine Galante on orders from Generoso Pope, Sr. as a favor for Mussolini. 1918—Edward Aloysius Murphy Jr., of “Murphy’s Law,” is born. 1917—Fire consumes 39 buildings comprising a munitions plant in Lyndhurst, N.J. Switchboard operator Tessie McNamara’s warnings help 1,400 workers escape. 1912—In Lawrence, Mass., 32,000 women and children strike for bread — and for roses, too.	1991—Congress authorizes the first Bush vs. Hussein War. 1984—Reagan Deputy Secretary of Defense W. Paul Thayer resigns after being charged with insider trading. He ends up in the can. 1971—Rev. Philip Berrigan is indicted for conspiring to kidnap Henry Kissinger and bomb federal buildings. 1968—Lima Site 85, a tiny USAF navigational facility on a remote mountaintop in Laos, is rocketed, bombed, and strafed by two NVA-piloted, Soviet-built Antonov biplanes. One, damaged by groundfire, crashes. A flight mechanic in a CIA Huey shoots down the other with an AK-47. 1962—U.S. helicopters fly their first combat mission in South Vietnam. 1951—For bombing an airliner, Albert Guay goes to the gallows in Canada, saying, “At least I die famous.” 1943—Federal bureaucrats announce that hot dogs will henceforth contain less meat and more soybeans, and be called “victory sausages.” 1932—Ms. Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-Ark.) becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate. 1931—Raymond Gunn, 27, accused of killing Maryville, Mo. schoolteacher Velma Colter, is burned alive by a lynch mob on the roof of her schoolhouse. 1928—Tom Howard of the <i>New York Daily News</i> takes an unauthorized photo of Ruth Snyder as the State of New York kills her in an electric chair.
11:21 11:58 5:02 5:42	12:00 5:42 6:19	12:36 12:37 6:21 6:56	1:13 1:14 6:59 7:33	1:50 1:52 7:39 8:10	2:28 2:33 8:21 8:49	3:08 3:16 9:06 9:31
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13	MONDAY, JANUARY 14	TUESDAY, JANUARY 15	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16	THURSDAY, JANUARY 17	FRIDAY, JANUARY 18	SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

2018—Hawaiian authorities issue an alert: “BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND ... SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL.” A retraction comes 38 minutes later.

2002—George W.[MD] Bush passes out and hits the floor of the White House. He blames a pretzel, but an ex-British Foreign Secretary later says that lab techs found alcohol in a sample of Bush’s blood.

1992—Japan apologizes for having made sex slaves of tens of thousands of Korean women during WWII.

1987—Lee Atwater admits the Reagan anti-drug campaign was “the epitome of the fad issue, a classic really. It came and went in three weeks, max.”

1964—The tail falls off a B-52, which crashes in Barton, Md. with two nukes aboard. Four crewmen bail out alive, but two of them die of exposure, one just 800 yards from a streetlight.

1957—The Wham-O company introduces the Frisbee.

1946—In Paris, 500 GIs adopt an Enlisted Man’s *Magna Carta*. It’s for radical reform of the master-slave relationship between officers and enlisted.

1874—NYC Police Commissioner Abram Duryée says 1,600 cops beating unemployed demonstrators was “the most glorious sight I have ever seen.”

1842—Riding into Jalalabad alone is William Brydon, sole survivor of the 4,500 British soldiers who began a retreat from Kabul one week earlier.

2000—“This is still a dangerous world ... of madmen and uncertainty and potential mental losses,” warns George W.[MD] Bush.

1969—After warnings from enlisted men aboard the nuke-powered *U.S.S. Enterprise* go unheeded, the exhaust of a flight deck tractor cooks off a Zuni rocket. It hits an F-4’s fuel tank, causing a fire which detonates 4.5 tons of bombs. The whole farrago kills 27, injures 85, and nearly sinks the ship.

1967—The First Human Be-In is held—in San Francisco, of course.

1963—Standing on a gold star marking the spot where Jefferson Davis was sworn in as president of the Confederacy, George Wallace, being sworn in as Governor of Alabama, vows, “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.”

1957—“I never should have switched from Scotch to Martinis,” says Humphrey Bogart, dying at 57.

1878—The U.S. Supreme Court says railroads may provide unequal levels of service on the basis of race.

1850—Anarchist Mikhail Bakunin is sentenced to death at 35. That sentence suspended, he spends years in a dungeon, contracts scurvy, is sent to Siberia, escapes, travels the world making trouble for authorities, and eventually dies in Switzerland at 62.

1794—In Edom, Va., Dr. Jesse Bennett performs the first successful Caesarean section in the U.S., by candlelight, on his own wife.

1992—George H.[H.]W. Bush, in N.H. for votes, says “[W]e are blessed. So don’t feel sorry for ... don’t cry for me, Argentina.”

1989—On “Larry King Live,” guest Donald Trump asks his host, “Do you mind if I sit back a little bit? Because your breath is very bad.”

1989—On Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, President Reagan says some civil rights leaders are “doing very well ... keeping alive the feeling that they’re victims of prejudice.”

1970—Americans learn from the *Washington Monthly* that the U.S. Army has had 1,000 investigators spying on U.S. citizens since 1965.

1968—Near Dak To, SP/5 Dwight H. Johnson engages so fiercely in a firefight that he is later awarded the Medal of Honor. In 1971 he’s shot to death in a suicidal robbery.

1968—Ex-Rep Jeanette Rankin [R-Mont.], 87, who voted against WW I and WW II, leads a march against the Vietnam War.

1943—Future Senator Strom Thurmond [R-S.C.] has backseat sex with murderer Sue Logue as she’s being driven to the electric chair.

1919—In Boston, a badly-built tank collapses, releasing a flood of molasses—a raw material for war munitions; 21 die, 150 are injured.

1919—In Berlin, moderate Social Democrats murder their more radical rivals, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht.

2018—White House physician Dr. Ronny Jackson claims Donald Trump a) passed a cognitive test, and b) might live to be 200 if he had a healthier diet.

2003—Space Shuttle *Columbia* takes off for the last time.

1986—The Department of Energy announces a seven-year search for a nuclear waste dump site. One potential site: Hillsborough, N.H.

1981—Jeanne Kirkpatrick is confirmed as Ambassador to the UN. Within days she complains that her office, her limo, her staff, and her security are “inadequate.”

1980—Anti-drug pencils are recalled in New York: “Too Cool to Do Drugs.”

1920—Prohibition takes effect: 13 years to the next legal drink.

1917—German Foreign Secretary A. Zimmermann telegraphs his ambassador in Mexico, proposing a German/Mexican alliance and offering the return of Texas, Ariz., and N.M.

1865—General William Tecumseh Sherman issues Special Field Order No. 15, granting coastal plantation properties from Savannah, Georgia to the St. John’s River in Florida to ex-slaves. President Andrew Johnson later reverses the order.

2014—NRA Board Member Ted Nugent, on TV, calls President Obama a “mongrel,” and says liberals should be prosecuted for treason.

2003—George W.[MD] Bush tells wounded troops at Walter Reed we “must provide the best care” for veterans the same day the VA cuts off health care for 164,000 veterans.

2003—Gertrude Janeway, the last known widow of a Union Civil War veteran, dies at 93. When they married, he was 81 and she was 18.

1998—As Drudge is reporting that *Newsweek* has spiked a story about his having sex with an intern, Bill Clinton denies under oath having had sex with Monica Lewinsky.

1991—Gulf (& Exxon) War I begins with air attacks on Iraq.

1986—Ronald Reagan, 74, has polyps removed and authorizes the secret (and illegal) sale of weapons to Iran.

1968—George W.[MD] Bush miraculously passes the Texas Air National Guard’s pilot aptitude test with a score of 25 percent.

1966—An Air Force tanker and a B-52 collide over Spain, dropping H-bombs & scattering radiation.

1961—Good ol’ Ike warns against the “acquisition of unwarranted influence” by the “Military-Industrial Complex.”

1961—At the behest of CIA chief Allen Dulles, Katangan rebels murder deposed Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba.

2018—Alleged President Donnie Trump tells the Pentagon he wants a parade just like Emmanuel Macron’s.

1990—Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry is busted in a drug sting.

1982—During a training mission at Indian Springs, Ariz., four Air Force Thunderbirds fly their T-38 jets into the ground.

1969—Peace talks begin in Paris between U.S. and Vietnam.

1968—At the White House, Eartha Kitt has the gall to speak her mind about the Vietnam War. Her career begins to recover a decade later.

1943—The Red Army breaks the 890-day Nazi siege of Leningrad.

1911—In San Francisco Bay, Eugene B. Ely becomes the first man to land a plane on a ship.

1884—Five are killed and many injured when a steam boiler explodes at the Wallace Brothers Shoe factory in Rochester, N.H. Its malfunctioning safety valve had been weighted down with bricks.

1863—Apache chief Mangas Colorado, having entered Fort McLane, N.M. under a flag of truce, is manacled, tortured, then shot. His skull is sent to a phenologist.

1676—Rhode Islander Joshua Tefft, the Algonquin-speaking widower of a Wampanoag woman, accused of high treason during the Great Swamp Fight, becomes the only Englishman ever drawn and quartered in North America.

2004—Weeks after telling Chris Matthews, “we’re going to break up the giant media enterprises,” Howard Dean addresses a screaming crowd in Iowa. Video techs create a clip using sound from his mike only, which makes him sound unhinged. It is aired 633 times over the next four days.

2001—On his last full day in office, Bill Clinton admits he perjured himself when he denied having sex with “that woman,” Monica Lewinsky.

1996—Hollywood producer Don Simpson [*Crimson Tide*], 52, succumbs to his \$2,000/day drug habit.

1985—An audience of 35,000 at the Houston Astrodome watch as Canadian daredevil Karel Soucek’s 180-foot barrel drop goes wrong. He dies hours later.

1968—The AEC sets off an H-bomb 90 miles from its usual test site in an attempt to placate Howard Hughes. Alas, the site is unsuitable.

1915—Two Britons are killed and three injured in the first Zeppelin attack of WWI.

1915—Factory guards in Roosevelt, N.J. shoot 20 rioting strikers.

1847—Charles Bent, the new Territorial Governor of New Mexico, is scalped at his Taos home in front of his wife and children.

1810—Portsmouth’s temperature drops 50 degrees overnight.

1570—In Linlithgow, the Earl of Moray becomes the first man to be assassinated with a firearm.

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