

*The Fortnightly Rant***The Worst-Laid Plan of MAGA-Man**

Who knows? By Friday there could be an outbreak of sanity. At mid-week, though, large swaths of the government remained shut down. American exceptionalism is on full display—we're hanging out the Emilio* sign: "Yes, We're Closed."

Normally, when this happens ...

Hey, wait a minute. Let's back up and make sure we've got this right: there's a "normal" way for the workings of the most powerful government on Earth to grind to a halt; but, this time, it's happening through some irregular, *abnormal* process. Is that right?

Well, right may be the wrong word, but that is what's happened.

"Normally" our government shuts down because our two political parties can't agree to pass a bill to spend more money before a certain arbitrary number in the Treasury Department's books hits a pre-determined limit.

That debt ceiling system is unique, for reasons which ought to be obvious. Purportedly intended to enforce fiscal prudence, it triggers wasteful spending every time it kicks in.

Speaking of obvious, it's abundantly clear that the problem here is between those political parties. Have we mentioned yet that they don't even appear in the text of our Constitution? It would seem that the simple solution would be to get rid of both parties, or back another party that has better ideas. We can't, though, because of the way we run elections. It's too complicated to try to explain here, but until ranked-choice voting is adopted broadly, the laws of mathematics render all third parties impotent.

* The late and much-lamented Emilio V. Maddaloni (1940 – 2018) operated an Italian lunch counter, grocery, and philosophy dispensary on Daniel Street for about thirty years. It was open sometimes, but you never knew when. When it was open the sign in the window said, "Sorry, We're Open."

Why, exactly, this time, are we saddled with this specific shutdown? Because an ad hoc Don't Think Tank staffed with the nation's most eminent crackpots demanded it.

A month ago now, with Republicans still in control of both houses, Congress passed legislation providing enough money to keep the government running into February. All Trump had to do was get out his crayon and sign it. That legislation, however, did not include the five billion dollars he's now demanding to pay for a wall along our southern border.

Trump thinks, if that's the right word ... of course it's not ... Trump *speaks* in superlatives, which, in this case, is appropriate. His \$5 billion demand is not just a bizarre attempt at extortion, it's probably the biggest bait-and-switch in history.

"The Mexicans are going to pay for it," he boasted, even as he disparaged them as criminals, rapists, and murderers. Even if it were built, the wall could never achieve its ostensible purpose. That purpose is morally indefensible anyway: preventing destitute refugees from leaving their ravaged homelands, hoping to find succor in the land whose foreign policy was the ultimate cause of most of the ravaging.

The very idea of a border wall was stupid, pointless, and cruel. Naturally that made it the perfect McGuffin for Trump: a meaningless centerpiece to serve as the focus of a presidential campaign which was just an 18-month version of the Two Minutes Hate from 1984.

If you live by a chorus of Right Wing loonies, though, you can always die by the same. After the White House suggested that Trump might sign a short-term continuing resolution without wall funding, the Vatican "Fox & Friends" went ballistic. Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter immediately chimed in,



uncorking a whole new vintage of vitriol. The full panoply of idiocy demanded that Trump do the wrong thing. As if he ever needed any encouragement for that.

By January 9th the situation was getting pretty sketchy, what with 800,000 federal employees, including the U.S. Coast Guard, either furloughed or working without pay. Somehow the most powerful individual on the planet—in theory—allowed himself to be coerced by handlers into delivering a speech from the Oval Office.

The speech was written by Stephen Miller, the most ardent xenophobe on the White House staff if not the planet, so it should have been a real barn-burner. If Trump Nation expected fulmination, though, they must have been disappointed. The rest of us were just relieved he didn't declare martial law, or even a state of emergency.

Miller may be off his feed. He

hasn't been seen in public since the Sunday before the shutdown, when he made an appearance on "Face the Nation" modeling some tragic spray-on hair product. As for Trump, his lackluster delivery seemed to warrant a secondary diagnosis of depression, on top of the underlying dementia.

It's strange to say, but in a way, the President of the United States is just like the rest of us: every day the narrative just seems to keep getting worse. The Friday after the Oval Office speech the *New York Times* published a story with a lede which could have been plagiarized from a Tom Clancy novel: "In the days after President Trump fired James B. Comey as F.B.I. director, law enforcement officials became so concerned by the president's behavior that they began investigating whether he had been working on behalf of Russia against American interests, according to ..." the usual

suspects.

A day or so later the *Washington Post* chimed in with a story about extreme measures taken by Trump to conceal even from his staff exactly what transpired during his meetings with Vladimir Putin. If he's trying to look furtive, he's doing a great job.

Trump is too odious in too many ways to engender sympathy from us. We have to give him credit, though, for having engineered what's apparently the most elaborate, sure-fire self-destruct mechanism in human history. It's a shame it may take the rest of us with him.

Without that grotesque sideshow it would be easier to understand, and possibly mitigate, the environmental catastrophe which is unfolding before our eyes: a melting Antarctic ice sheet, a warming ocean, massive insect die-offs, &c., &c., *ad nauseam*.

As we await nature's Doom Hammer, though, we cannot complain that we are not entertained.

*The Alleged News®***Thank You For Your Service, Now Kindly Drop Dead**

Many disabled American veterans were alarmed early in 2017, when the VA proposed drastic cuts to the Individual Unemployment program. That provision allows veterans with disability ratings of 60 to 90 percent to receive compensation at the 100 percent rate, provided their condition prevents them from maintaining "substantial gainful employment."

To achieve an annual savings of \$3.2 billion—about 1.7 percent of the VA's \$186.5 billion overall budget—225,000 veterans would have seen their compensation cut by more than 63 percent. With monthly payments reduced to \$1,062, some would probably have become homeless.

As might be expected, nearly every veterans service organization,

from the American Legion and the VFW, to AMVETS and the DAV, expressed strong objections to the proposal.

The sole exception was Concerned Veterans for America (CVA). As the *Military Times* put it, "unlike most of the veterans community, they think it doesn't cut enough."

That's not all that sets CVA apart. Instead of being funded by dues-paying members, CVA's budget is subsidized by the Koch brothers' network of slush funds.

In June of 2017, Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin announced that the cuts were off the table. "As I began to listen to veterans and their concerns," he said, "and [veterans service organizations] in particular, it became clear that this would be hurting some veterans ...

who can't afford to have those benefits taken away. ... We have to be looking at ways to do things better, but I am not going to support policies that hurt veterans."

That statement was welcome, of course, but veterans who didn't just fall off the turnip truck may have remained skeptical. Perhaps they finally relaxed when Shulkin put it in writing four months later. If so, that might have been a mistake. The plan may be back.

Military.com reported Monday that the Congressional Budget Office has revived it, under the bloodless designation, "Option 35." The CBO also has a few other helpful suggestions on how to save money that's currently being wasted on disabled veterans: tightening eligibility requirements for certain diseases,

reducing disability compensation for veterans when they reach retirement age—perhaps under the optimistic assumption that those disabilities will then dissipate—and simply eliminating disability payments altogether for veterans whose ratings fall below 30 percent. The estimated savings from that alone would amount to \$38 billion over an eight-year period.

Even more could be saved, the CBO suggests, if the federal government were to classify all VA disability payments as taxable income. Over the course of the next decade, that could bring in as much as \$93 billion.

Fiscally-prudent ideas of such high quality do not just spring up overnight. Certain conditions are required in order for them to sprout

and thrive. What seems to have turned the trick in this case was the recent tax cut, which took the form of a trillion dollars worth of fine engraving, in a tasteful shade of Treasury-green, delivered unto various members of the deserving rich.

Veterans, stay watchful: the Koch brothers may sleep, but their minions do not.

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U.S.S. Watergate?

The United States Naval Institute in Annapolis Maryland does not typically provide much comedic relief from current events. It did pretty well last Friday, though, thanks to an historic example of Presidential corruption.

The Alleged News®

from page one

The Institute tweeted on January 11th, "#FunFactFriday - Richard M. Nixon is the only U.S. president to have served in the Navy but not have a ship named in his honor. Does he deserve to have a namesake ship? If so, what type of ship should it be?"

Humorless and apparently amoral naval historian James D. Hornfischer was one of the few, the proud, and the clueless who took the question at face value. He argued for naming either an aircraft carrier or a minesweeper after Nixon, since he "unleashed naval airpower to do its job in North Vietnam [and] executed the one simple plan that had long promised to hamper the NVA: mining Haiphong Harbor."

Victor Sierra applied some strategic thought to the question: "It should be the U.S.S. Watergate. If it was the U.S.S. Richard M. Nixon, the U.S.S. Gerald R. Ford would eventually have to rush in to protect the Nixon from disaster."

Other suggestions included an

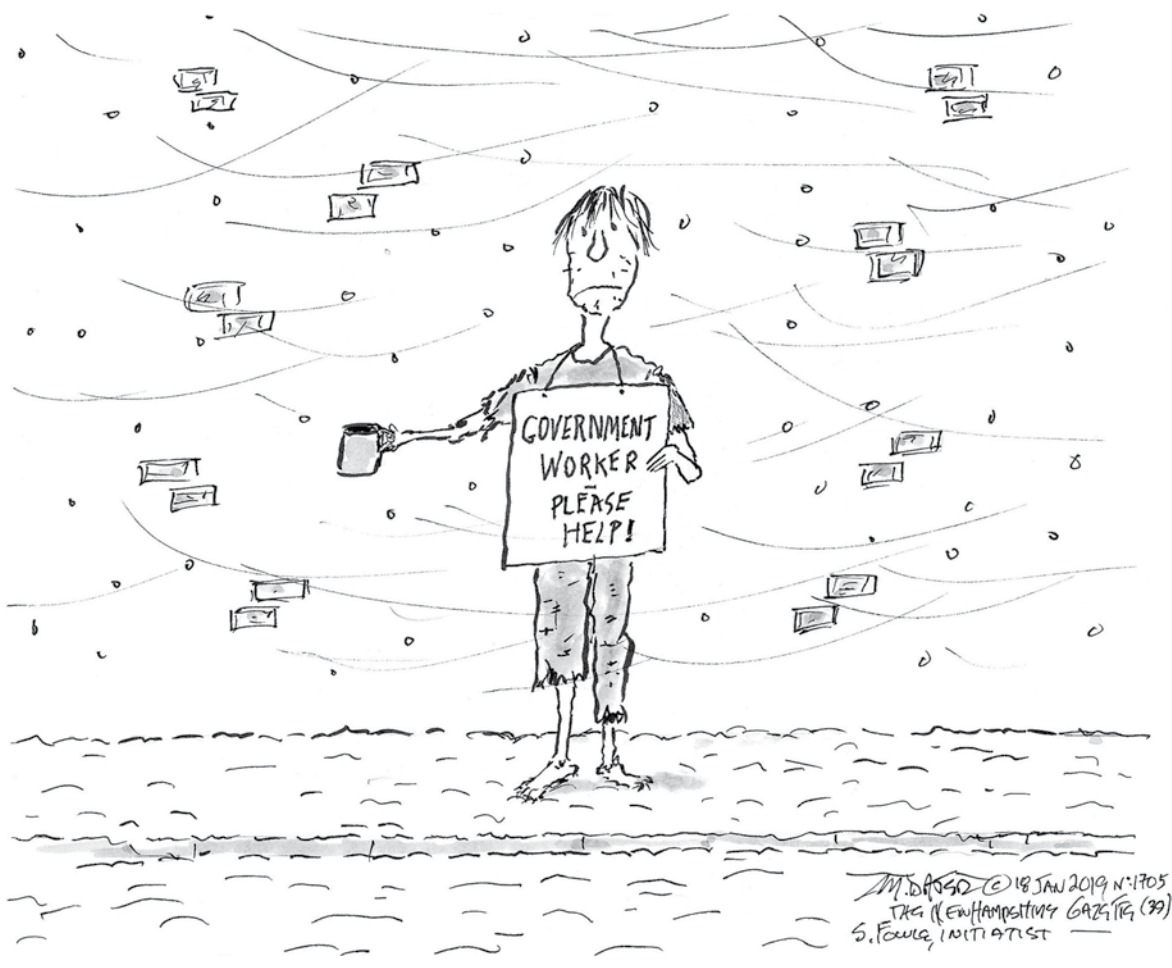
Ohio-class submarine to be named "Deep Throat," a garbage scow, a submarine with screen doors, a junk, a brig, and a target ship.

Former Marine Pete Lucier objected to the proposal altogether, tweeting, "I can think of 18 and a half reasons he shouldn't have a ship named after him."

Tim Cornillie won the day, in our view, tweeting, "Since Nixon used his authority as a supply officer to build a gambling den so he could bring home \$10K in poker winnings after the war, perhaps not a ship but maybe the Pentagon procurement offices should be named after him."

To Mourn, or Not to Mourn, CFKB

The Pearce Block has stood at the northeast corner of Daniel and Pleasant streets since 1803. A more picturesque downtown location could hardly be imagined: directly across from the iconic North Church, and catty-corner to the elegant Portsmouth Athenæum. Since the late 1970s, if not before, it has also enjoyed the distinct advantage of having a broad brick side-



It's modest, it's unassuming, it's eminently useful—and, of course, in keeping with the times, since it has all those endearing qualities it's threatened with destruction. The United States Post Office on Daniel Street is within walking distance of ... well, gee—we don't know how many downtown businesses routinely take advantage of their ability to visit the post office without the use of an internal combustion engine. Hmmm ... wonder if the City ever bothered to ask ... ?

walk right out front. That, of course, makes the spot eminently suited for chairs and small tables—a sort of mini-esplanade. Thanks to all these natural advantages, the building has housed a succession of popular eateries: Moulton's Candy Shop, Teddy's Lunch, Café Brioche.

The most recent of those ventures—which we'll call Café Formerly Known as Brioche [hereafter CFKB]—has now closed up shop and the owner has sold the building. It is only fair, before going any further, to alert our readers to this newspaper's history with CFKB. Its predecessor, Café Brioche, graciously allowed us to maintain a stack of our papers at their location from 1999 until they closed up shop about 2007. Given the length of that eight-year span, we don't believe that their abrupt closure was related in any way to our presence in their establishment. Customers

had been picking up between 150 and 200 copies every fortnight. We had hoped to resume distribution on that site when CFKB took it over. The proprietor said no. We assumed he no longer wished to sell us coffee, either, so we stopped entering the premises. Just to be on the safe side, we also adopted our current practice of using an alternate name for his business. To assure that the paper remained available we placed a red newsrack on the sidewalk, just a few steps from CFKB's door.

Despite our fairly obvious animus, we cannot deny that CFKB, operating as it did, represented the functioning, beating, commercial heart of Portsmouth. Reasonably priced refreshments and a relaxed approach to table usage stimulated a great deal of foot traffic—the *sine qua non* of a vibrant downtown.

That is why it is so distressing to learn that the owner has sold the

building to a business seemingly geared toward those for whom price is no object.

We hope we'll be proven wrong. May the place do a bustling business, drawing lots of familiar local faces, in addition to well-heeled tourists. We shall see.

While We're Riding This Hobby Horse ... According to the data shown on the City Assessor's website, CFKB's owner bought the building in 2008 for \$1,900,000.

One might expect the building's value to have risen in the intervening years, what with the Great Recession having ended and all. The Award Winning Local Daily reported recently, though, that the current assessment is for \$1,848,500. Could depreciation have reduced its value by \$51,500? We're no experts in real estate, but that would seem ... unusual.

Even if that were so, what are we

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to make of the fact that the building sold for \$4,250,000? The seller appears to have been benefitting for years from an assessment which represented just 43 percent of the building's true value. For some reason—or perhaps for no reason, who can say?—this same disparity often appears when commercial buildings downtown change hands.

To finish up with all this grumbling, we'll point out that this strategically-located and highly desirable commercial property is valued at \$198.40 per square foot.

Meanwhile, a drafty, slightly seedy-looking old barn of a New Englander located a quarter-mile away is assessed at \$200.25 per square foot. Go figure.

Two More Robinson Helicopters Crash
Tourists watched in horror as a helicopter crashed into the Gulf of Mexico on January 2nd. "It looked like it was kind of hovering," Nebraskan Steve Buso told a local television station, "then next thing you know I saw the tail of the helicopter go up and nose-dive right in the

ocean."
Three injured people were rescued by boat from the Robinson R44. The pilot was hospitalized in critical condition. Investigation of the crash is being delayed by the government shutdown.

Eight days later, a Robinson R22 crashed at Jandakot Airport, near Perth, Australia. A student pilot and an instructor escaped without injury.

Super Blood Moon, Meet King Tide
Most of the time it's easy to forget that at this latitude the surface of the Earth is spinning at about 725 mph. Meanwhile, Earth is blasting around the sun at 67,000 mph. This is just middling, local business, though. As the Milky Way Galaxy revolves, our puny little solar system is moving at about 500,000 mph. If that fails to satisfy your need for speed, consider this: the Milky Way is moving through space, towards a distant location known as the Great Attractor, at the truly impressive rate of 1.3 million mph, or 370 miles per second.

Two unusual astronomical events,



about to occur this weekend, may provide some context for a better understanding of these oft-overlooked peculiarities of our existence.

On Sunday night at 11:41 p.m., the Moon's orbit will bring it completely within Earth's umbral shadow—the Blood Moon Eclipse will be full. It will reach its peak at 12:12 a.m. Monday, and end at 12:43. The scattered illumination reaching our celestial companion will be filtered through our atmosphere, leaving her bathed in a lurid red light.

Unfortunately, as we go to press, the National Weather Service predicts that at this critical time, the tail end of a 36-hour snow and sleet storm will be beating the hell out of us. The only way to view the phenomenon will be to get out of town, or somehow get yourself above the clouds.

Fortunately another astronomical show will soon follow. The "King Tide," as it is colloquially known, occurs at this general time of year because this is when the Earth is at

its perihelion: the closest point in our orbit around the Sun. It will occur specifically on the 22nd because that is the day when the Moon will be at its perigee—the closest point in its orbit around the Earth. Those twin proximities are the cause of our tidal extremity.

This year our highest tide will come at 11:44 a.m. on January 22nd. Conveniently falling in full daylight, this will be a good opportunity to assess which locations will be the first to submerge when the Great Inundation arrives.

The year's lowest tide will occur at 6:06 p.m. that same day. That will be well after dark, of course, which is somewhat unfortunate. We've always hoped that at some particularly low tide, we might be able to spot the remains of Joshua Foster's printing press, said to have been thrown into the Piscataqua by an angry mob on April 10th, 1865.

At around 3:00 p.m. that afternoon the river's outgoing current will be moving about as fast as it ever

does. If some enterprising person decides to arrange a speed test, we'd be happy to publish the results. Lord knows the Government won't be running such a test—it's shut down.

Lost, Found, and Disposed Of
A member of our staff who prefers to remain anonymous found an Amazon Echo Dot (3rd Gen) "smart speaker" on Monday evening about 9:00 p.m. It was in the gutter, right next to the curb, on the south side of Pleasant Street, outside the Book & Bar.

It occurred to said staff member, naturally—given our generally p-ratical disposition—that he or she might thus acquire for nothing a high-tech gizmo which retails for thirty bucks.

Prudence prevailed. The device was handed over to a member of the staff of the above-named establishment, where anyone willing to reclaim the high-tech household spy may apply.



Capitalism's most recent downtown excrescence is beginning to assume its final form. Note that the near corner is faceted, or chamfered, echoing the much-maligned Portwalk Place just behind it. In addition to the apparently de rigeur multi-plane facade, this example of well-funded profit-seeking includes arched dormers and a belvedere which will offer a splendid view of the Bridge Street parking lot; the better, no doubt, to keep one's eye on the Range Rover.

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Keeping Promises

To the Editor:

The American left has such visceral hate for Trump that they condemn him for doing with few politicians do: Trump is keeping his campaign promises to deal with the out of control immigration policy, disengaging from the Middle East, and attempting to negotiate better trade deals that help the American worker.

In the midst of this, the left has adopted new heroes like General Mattis who was canned by Barack Obama, and who now resigned because Trump recognizes that it is madness to stay in Syria and Afghanistan. Thinking that perpetual war is such a great thing, the liberals will soon be praising the Bush/Cheney policies.

And it is not capitalism that has caused the economic woes, it is the death of capitalism and the misappropriation of capital and the moral hazard caused by the bailouts of Wall Street, the banks, and insolvent corporations and the failure of Obama's Justice Department to put the crooks in jail.

The liberal elites continue to suffer from the Trump Derangement Syndrome. Hillary lost because she represented the worse combination of neoconservative foreign policy and neoliberal economic policies. These are the policies of the deep state and the Washington elites and they were soundly rejected.

John Dente

Williamington, Del.

John:

Don't forget the contempt, John. We also have tremendous contempt for him, due to his inability to tell the truth, especially about himself.

But, to go back to the things for which you give him credit, like our "out of control immigration policy."

To the extent that there is a problem at our Southern border, it largely exists because this country spent a century making Central America safe for the clients of the Dulles Brothers, and, after their demise, generally beating the hell out of the region as a proxy for the Soviet Union. MS-13 got its start in the jails of Los Angeles. The cross-border drug trade only exists be-

cause of our demand for illegal drugs. The volume of undocumented immigration is down. The "crisis" was manufactured by the Right Wing, to exploit that part of its base which is racist.

We have to grant you that pulling troops out of the Middle East is by and large a good thing—though poorly executed. Easy for us to say, we're not Kurdish and the Turkish Army is not currently engaged in planning to murder us.

Far from dying, capitalism is thriving—as the bailouts you decry demonstrate. That's not a bug, that's a feature: privatize the profit, externalize the cost. We agree regarding Obama's Justice Department, though. Seeing those bankers skate made us feel like Scrooge: "Are there no prisons?"

As for Hillary, you'll get no argument from us today.

The Editor

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Epic Oval Office Fail

Dear Sir:

In his prime time address to the nation last night, Donald Trump attempted to look Presidential. He tried to make his address sound like President Kennedy's address to the nation on the Cuban missile crisis in 1962. The major difference is that the Cuban missile crisis was a real crisis. President Kennedy had U-2 photographic proof that the Soviet Union had placed offensive nuclear weapons 90 miles from America and that they were operationally ready to launch. In contrast, Trump has fabricated a "crisis" on our southern border to build an expensive and useless wall to satisfy an absurd campaign promise and to appease the likes of Hannity, Limbaugh, Carlson, Coulter, and his delusional base. If you fact check Trump's speech you will find that he lied, misrepresented, exaggerated and distorted many facts to confuse and frighten the American public. Even Chris Wallace of Fox called out White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders on Sunday on her distortions and lies about terrorists crossing the southern border and other false claims. This is not presidential, it is disgraceful.

In the meantime, the nation is experiencing a partial government shut-

down, affecting numerous government agencies and over 800,000 workers. Many of these federal workers are working without pay, and others are being furloughed without pay. So as Trump continues his temper tantrum, federal prosecutors in the Eastern District of New York are unable to prosecute the violent MS-13 gang members and organized crime leaders, airport security is threatened, immigration judges are not able to process cases, and billions of dollars are wasted.

Yes, America is experiencing a national crisis, but it does not reside at the southern border, it sits in the Oval Office.

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

Rich:

Yup, that about sums it up.

The Editor

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Caligula's Demise

Hi Editor,

Today's almanac item on Caligula, coming two weeks into the Trump Shutdown, made me think of our current monster ... and I thought of something clever to post on Facebook. Before doing that though, checking your facts, there seems to be an error in the date you give for his assassination.

The Wikipedia article on Caligula begins: "Caligula: Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus Germanicus; 31 August 12 – 24 January 41 AD) was Roman emperor from AD 37 to AD 41." So, at least, your "BC" is mistaken. The few sources I looked at seemed to agree on January 24 as the date. Who knows?

The motives for the assassination seem to have been much broader and deeper than the simple withholding of paychecks. At most, such an action might have been the straw that broke the camel's back. With what's already been piled on the nation's back, if Trump knew any history he'd probably have nightmares about sharing Caligula's fate.

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enthusiasm for their Progressive platform, but these same Dems need to know that we will be frequently asking them anyway.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

Wayne:
Amen to all of the above. We're in for a struggle, but what else is new? At least both houses of Congress won't be trying to drag us backwards and down.

Your letter reminded us, because we know you to be a veteran, of a tweet from one Myke Cole, which just came across our feed: "The world is choked with men who have never fought, lionizing other men whose battle experience they don't understand, crowing for conflicts they won't have to shoulder personally, and scolding us when we deviate from their expectations."

Keep on keepin' on.
The Editor

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Override the Veto

Dear Editor,
A probably insane, and possibly treasonous, President has shut down our government. This causes far more damage than just stopping paychecks to 800,000 government workers. Millions of Americans who rely on our government for farm loans, food inspections, disease control, weather forecasting and airport security are endangered. If Putin himself was in the White House, he couldn't be more effective in weakening our country. Trump's pull-out of Syria puts our Kurdish allies, men and women who bravely fought ISIS, at mortal risk from the Turks. Would anyone else in the world ever agree to become our ally? Thank you, Putin's Puppet President.
Democrats have done what they have to do. They passed funding bills

to reopen the government while denying funds for an expensive, ineffective wall. Trump never seriously believed his "build the wall" shouts during his campaign. The obvious proof is that he claimed Mexico would pay for it. Ha!

What should Senate Republicans do to preserve the integrity of our country? They should pass those funding bills, just like they passed a similar bill unanimously in December. Senator McConnell says disingenuously that he won't allow voting on a bill that the President won't sign, but a 2/3 majority overrides presidential veto. He can get our government back to work for the American people.

Contact Senator Mitch McConnell. Tell him to allow a Senate vote on the funding bills. Let's end this Russian attack on our government.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

Bruce:
Mitch can't hear you—he has apparently drawn his neck and head into his shell.

The Editor

=====
Thank You General Mattis

To the Editor:
The published letter from Gen. Mattis to the President was inspiring and informative—a comfort to most Americans who continually feel the magnificent free heartbeat of the nation. However, it was directed at the least receptive individual who happens to have been accidentally installed as leader of the U.S. and the free parts of the World—or was aided by foreign influences up to no good.

As much as I've seen and heard the rantings and absurd exploits of the fake POTUS, there is no other description befitting such a human loose cannon but that of mental retardation beginning from birth. He could never

responsibly handle all of the money his parents covered him with. He cannot remember the statements he makes and defensively lies constantly. Most of the 30 percent of the population that dotes on fake POTUS are probably in the same class of non-functioning reason and understanding as POTUS is. They eagerly engorge themselves with extreme Right Wing nonsense and bigoted attitudes promoted by Fox News and many other commercially-oriented trash journalism outlets. As we know, one-third of the U.S. population has been "well fed" on profiteering wing-nut persuasions long before fake POTUS came along and charmed their little cockles with endless rallies and wall building promises tinged with bigotry.

The maligning of retardation and arrested development will have to flourish for a while, but in evolving time it will abate and remain as simply an important lesson to learn about the choices made when voting for leaders and representatives (especially in North Carolina).

Many thanks to Gen. Mattis for our cheer-up. It was sweet and necessary as intended.

Helen McKinney
Sapphire, N.C.

Helen:
You tell 'em.

The Editor

=====
Stone Wall Mapping Project Uses New Technology to Honor The Past
Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Geological Survey (NHGS), at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), is launching a new interactive "New Hampshire Stone Wall Mapper," which will enable the public to use this web-based tool to map the state's landscape of historic stone walls. This crowd-sourcing map is made possible through a \$14,487 grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foun-

ation. The grant will help further NHGS' mission to provide the public with authoritative information on the state's landforms and to promote earth science education.

The New Hampshire Stone Wall Mapper [<https://nhgranit.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html>], is a mapping initiative that uses the availability of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) images across New Hampshire to map the state's historic stone walls, especially in areas that are completely forested today. LiDAR provides a detailed map of land surface elevations representing the "bare earth" as though treeless, rather than the aerial satellite imagery we are accustomed to. The N.H. Stone Wall Mapper provides a unique opportunity for the public to trace stone walls right onto LiDAR images while panning and zooming across the state on their computer screens. The mapping interface has been designed for easy use and only requires access to a web browser and the internet. UNH GRANIT developed and is hosting the crowdsourcing application.

According to Rick Chormann, N.H. State Geologist, the project is designed to stimulate the public's fascination with New Hampshire's legacy of stone wall building and help ensure their care and preservation. "We will fuse new technology with New Hampshire history to create a unique cultural heritage preservation asset and learning experience," said Chormann. "Over time we hope to build a network of volunteers mapping wall-to-wall across the entire state."

The project's detailed maps of stone walls will provide an inventory that will support efforts by the state and local communities to monitor and preserve these iconic symbols of our shared heritage. New Hampshire state law affords limited protection to stone walls, but the provisions are weak and enforcement is difficult. Insensitive repairs, removal or theft for resale elsewhere, road widening and new construction and more all take their toll on the state's stone walls.

"Generations of farmers and masons built thousands of miles of stone

walls out of New Hampshire granite, and today those walls are vanishing," said Elizabeth H. Muzzey, director of the N.H. Division of Historical Resources and state historic preservation officer. "Identifying what remains is the important first step of preserving them for generations to come."

For links to the N.H. Stone Wall Mapper, as well as a companion website that details the history of stone walls and the use of LiDAR to reveal them, and guidance on how to interact on the map, please visit the Stone Wall Project webpage at <http://www.granit.unh.edu/resource/library/special-topics/stonewalls>. You can also join the community of stone wall mappers by becoming a member of the N.H. Stone Wall Mapping Project Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NHstonewalls>.

For more information about the project, please contact Rick Chormann, State Geologist and Director, N.H. Geological Survey, at (603) 271-1975 or frederick.chormann@des.nh.gov.

The New Hampshire Geological Survey's (NHGS) mission is to collect data and perform research on the land, mineral, and water resources of the state, and disseminate the findings to the public through maps, reports, and other publications. NHGS provides geologic information to meet the scientific, educational and business needs of both the public and private sector.

=====
Agnew Before Agnew Was Agnew
"I deeply and sincerely regret that this body has degenerated into a supine, subservient, soporific, superfluous, supercilious, pusillanimous body of nitwits, the greatest ever gathered beneath the dome of our National Capitol, who cowardly abdicate their powers and, in violation of their oaths to protect and defend the Constitution against all of the Nation's enemies, both foreign and domestic, turn over these constitutional prerogatives, not only granted but imposed upon them, to a group of tax-eating, conceited

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

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What makes Portsmouth what it is?
What do we choose to remember with memorial markers, buildings and community projects?

Daniel Webster
Born in NH
January 18, 1782
Law office and residence in Portsmouth
1807-1817
(Strawbery Banke)

To learn more about this memorial and what else we choose to remember go to PortsmouthGenome.org
Join the conversation.
A Portsmouth Peace Treaty Forum project.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"At least in America, you have freedom of speech, which is a good thing. It's just a question of whether you're allowed to use it on 'Fox News'."
— Eric Idle (1943-)

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"... our credit and reputation lost, and great part of the country; and a powerful foreign enemy advancing upon us; are so many difficulties we cannot surmount them ..."
— Benedict Arnold (1741 – 1801) general, hero, traitor
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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The Northcountry Chronicle

Generation 911

by William Marvel

More than a month has passed now since another \$200,000 day of “education” in the Conway School District was wasted by two unnecessary lockdowns. One wonders if cowering in a closet counts as an official day of school.

The false alarms at the new and old Kennett High Schools were both allegedly triggered inadvertently. The superintendent was quoted as calling the near-simultaneous sounding of two separate false alarms “unbelievable,” and he was correct. It was not believable. I did not believe it then, and I still don’t. No one I have spoken to about it during the intervening month believes it, either. After all, how could it take so long to detect the false alarms if both occurred through known bumbling? The decision to hide the identity of the ostensibly responsible parties only lends more weight to the suspicion that the institution is covering up some other causative factor.

Just about a year ago, an employee of Hawaii’s Emergency Man-

agement Agency was accused of accidentally triggering a false ballistic-missile alert. For 38 minutes the entire state was thrown into panic by what all supposed was a nuclear attack. After an investigation, that employee was fired. He later complained that he had been sacrificed as a scapegoat for institutional failures, and that may have been the case, but the agency did apply a visible measure of accountability to the failure it cited.

No consequences followed similar purported blundering by two unnamed Conway School District employees, although the lockdowns cost a great deal in lost instruction and emergency services—not to mention all the anxiety. The scale of pandemonium was much less than in Hawaii’s nuclear alert, but the degree of distress may not have been that different for some of those involved.

The absence of reported disciplinary action might tend to debunk the professed excuse for the false alarms, if our school district were known for holding its employees accountable. Our district’s recent

record for accountability is spotty, however, and especially at the high school. Zero-tolerance is usually a concept reserved for students—such as the one who served a long suspension for forgetting to remove brush-cutting tools from his pickup truck. We’ve seen that staff members enjoy the latitude for far more discreditable mistakes, at least if they’re in favor with the right person.

The stated excuses for the false alarms may therefore still be true, despite widespread disbelief. If the alarm system can be accidentally tripped as easily as the superintendent implied, the wonder is that it hasn’t happened almost daily since it was installed. That would make the system itself the problem, but that argument was not made. Perhaps no one wants to point it out because that might impugn the competence of the technicians who installed it and the emergency “experts” who recommended it, as well as the judgment of every school official who approved it.

Official comments on the lockdowns seemed to lean toward how well everything went. Students’ first-

hand stories instead portray them as something of a disaster, suggesting that under a real threat the lockdown might even have worsened the odds for tragedy, especially for the kids who were forgotten by everyone.

Elaborate security systems can themselves be dangerous because of the heightened agitation heavily armed police naturally feel during such events. That danger is just as great in false alarms as in actual emergencies. Panic buttons also risk instilling an unwarranted sense of security, especially after the credibility of the system has been compromised by injudicious or accidental calls.

At yet another level of concern, our obsession with emergency systems and over-the-top police responses breeds a tolerance for authoritarianism that may be the greatest challenge to individual freedom in our history. No student in Conway schools remembers real freedom, all having been born into a world in which a petrified public meekly submits to unlimited police authority in return for the illusion

of safety. Less than two decades ago, even after Columbine, most Americans would have scoffed at the idea of students and teachers being “locked down” like penitentiary inmates. Despite the potential for turning students into sitting ducks, lockdowns are now routine—most often as paranoid precautions. Such involuntary detention on the pretense of safety has aroused little objection, so police have begun declaring lockdowns of whole neighborhoods, or cities, to apprehend a single suspect.

In the last century, Americans by the hundreds of thousands went to violent deaths under the delusion that their sacrifice would preserve all the little freedoms of American life. What could they have been thinking? Today their values are completely reversed, and millions of Americans blithely sacrifice those same liberties in the vain hope of assuring that none of them ever has to face the prospect of a violent death.



from page five

autocratic bureaucrats a bunch of theoretical, intellectual, professorial nincompoops out of Columbia University, at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue who were never elected by the American people to any office and who are responsible to no constituency. These brain trusters and ‘new dealers’ are the ones who wrote this resolution, instead of the Members of this House whose duty it is, and whose sole duty it is, to draft legislation.”

—Rep. Dewey Jackson Short [R-Mo.] (1898–1979), “The Orator of the Ozarks,” speaking on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, January 23, 1935.



Seacoast Women’s March For A Diverse Women’s Movement
Sat., Jan. 19th, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Market Square, Portsmouth, N.H.

Women from our community will share their experiences and give speeches on topics ranging from the importance of community organizing to the need for reform of the democratic process. Speakers intend to highlight issues centered on gender oppression, racial equity, environmental justice, and economic safety. Organizers of the event hope to inspire individuals to connect

with their community.

Ana Maria, of the 2019 Women’s March planning committee, had this to say regarding the intentions of the March, “Our goal is to mobilize women, gender non-conforming people and our allies to bring as many people into the struggle against gender oppression as possible. This action highlights the importance of women’s leadership and participation in all sectors of work in progressive movements. It’s important that all participants connect with each other to continue building

a movement.”

The 2019 Seacoast Women’s March is open to the public. All are welcome who wish to show their support for human dignity, freedom and justice for every cultural group. This will be a peaceful event. There will be multiple speeches from women from diverse cultural groups. The Leftist Marching Band will once again share with us their inspiring music.

The event is being organized by a coalition of local community activists including Occupy Seacoast, Rights & Democracy N.H., Open



Democracy, League of Conservation Voters, Union of Concerned Scientists, South Church, Seacoast Peace Response and The Resistance Seacoast. Other groups may also step up to give their support.

Contact: Garrett Walker, Open Democracy, 4 Park Street, Suite 301, Concord, N.H., 03301, (603) 264-9074 (cell); (603) 715-8197 (office)

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Where is AI driving us?

by Jim Hightower

With chaos in the White House, worsening climate disasters, more wars than we can count, and a wobbling economy here at home, the last thing we need is another big challenge. But—*look out!*—here comes a doozy!

It's AI—artificial intelligence—the fast-evolving science of autonomous machines that can think, learn, and even reproduce themselves.

Consider self-driving vehicles. Once the stuff of science fiction, the future is suddenly upon us, with Google, Daimler, and GM rolling out driverless taxis, commercial trucks, and even cars with no steering wheel or gas and brake pedals. An army of corporate lobbyists is rushing to legislative halls, literally changing the rules of the road to allow full deployment of these vehicles.

What about the hundreds of

thousands of professional drivers who'll lose their jobs? Not our problem, say the financiers and AI barons who'll profit from a mass bot-mobile conversion. Besides, as one AI champion coldly asserts, those drivers get sick, take vacations, &c. "People are messy," he notes; "machines are straightforward."

Indeed, so straightforward that these two-ton, non-sentient "drivers" will be driving straight at a world of defenseless pedestrians—already,

one of Uber's experimental cars killed an Arizona pedestrian last year.

We can fix that, says Andrew Ng, a prominent AI investor: They just have to be reprogrammed. By "they," Ng doesn't mean the self-driving machines—he means we pedestrians must be reprogrammed! "Please be lawful," he scolds, "and please be considerate" of the computer-driven vehicles. No jaywalking, obey pedestrian signs, give right-of-way to the

new technology.

So, don't just prepare yourself for A Brave New World of automation—prepare to be re-educated so you interact properly with machines and don't get in their way.

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

Black Heritage Trail of N.H. Presents the 2019 Elinor Williams Hooker Tea Talks "That Which Divides, That Which Unites" Portsmouth, N.H.—For the sixth year, the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire will hold its Elinor Williams Hooker Tea Talk series from February to March.

Presented by the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire (BHTNH) in partnership with the Portsmouth Public Library, these Sunday afternoon "Tea Talks" will be held on six consecutive Sundays, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., from February 3rd through March 10th. All events are free and open to the public unless where noted.

BHTNH Executive Director JerriAnne Boggis explained the significance of this year's theme, "That Which Divides, That Which Unites."

"We chose this theme because it feels as if the country is once again fractured, divided along political, ideological, and racial lines. We wanted to explore the aspects that divide us and discuss ways in which we could bridge the divide."

"Our Tea Talks allow us to discuss conflicts around topics such as access to wealth, public policy, education, gender, and religion. Through shared stories from our panelists and lively conversations from our audience, these Sunday afternoon programs not only allow us to revisit the past but present ideas on how we as a nation could move beyond these tensions. Our final Tea Talk is one such, as we will be introduced to three innovative ways to build bridges."

"The mission of the Tea Talks,"

said Boggis, "is to share stories, strengthen bonds, engage hearts and minds in order to create stronger, more inclusive communities."

The Tea Talks are named in honor of Elinor Williams Hooker, a long time New Hampshire resident, educator and activist, and the wife of Thomas L. Hooker, who served from 1966 to 1974 as Director of the New Hampshire Division of Welfare.

Boggis sees the Tea Talks as a way for those in the community to have an open and safe sharing of ideas. "It is this camaraderie and good cheer that accompanies each glass of African mint tea that Valerie Cunningham and I had hoped to recreate when we first started our Elinor Williams Hooker Winter Tea Talk Series. It is a time to reflect, to honor one another's opinions, a place to learn and grow and in so doing move the needle a little closer to equality and justice for all."

The Winter Tea Talk Series, presented by the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire in partnership with the Portsmouth Public Library, is a series of participatory lectures related to New Hampshire's Black history and African American culture. Four of these Talks will be held at the Portsmouth Public Library, Levenson Room, 175 Parrot Avenue, Portsmouth, N.H., other locations are noted below. All talks are from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather, a canceled talk will be rescheduled for March 18th or March 25th.



The Series is sponsored by New England Blacks in Philanthropy.

For more information about the Tea Talks, please visit <http://blackheritagetrailnh.org/programs/tea-talks/>.

2019 Elinor Williams Hooker Tea Talks Schedule

Sunday, February 3rd

Land, Wealth, and Policies of Marginalization

(This Event will be held at South Church in Portsmouth)

Despite improvements in education, social mobility and many other critical arenas, large racial and ethnic disparities still exist in the U.S. This panel will explore how government policies and environmental issues disenfranchised the very groups they should equalize.

Presenters: Meghan Howey and Woullard Lett.

Sunday, February 10th

Black Women Magic in New Hampshire

Through shared stories and an exploration of the feminist movement, this panel will focus on some of New Hampshire's most successful Black women and their journey to the powerful position they hold in white-centered environments.

Presenters: Melanie Levesque, Yvonne Goldsberry, and Nadine Thompson

Moderator: Robin Hackett

Sunday, February 17

In the Beginning, There was the Word

The relationship between religion and race in American is complex.

This panel of theologians will explore the relationship between church, race, and state and the role the church could play in healing the soul of the nation.

Presenters Rev. Robert Thompson, Rev. Gail Avery, Rev. Larry Brickner Wood (TBC)

Moderator: Claudia Maturell

Sunday, February 24

Permit Patty, BBQ Becky, & Coupon Carl

Join us for an experiential talk to explore the role of implicit bias, a universal phenomenon, not limited by race, gender, or even country of origin, in our lives. It is a major contributor to racism. Is there anything we can do about it? The answers may surprise you.

Presenters: Michele Holt-Shannon, Dottie Morrison

Sunday, March 3

Tell Me the Truth:

Exploring the Heart of Cross-Racial Conversations

(This Event will be held at Temple Israel in Portsmouth)

Join Shay Stewart-Bouley (Black Girl in Maine) and author Debby Irving (author of *Waking up White*) as they talk about racism's impact on their lives and how the conversation has been instrumental in their own understanding of 21st-century racial dynamics.

Sunday, March 10

And Still We Rise

Hear from one organization that is working to strengthen the cultural knowledge and identity of New England Native American youth and



families; discover new state initiatives for economic growth through diversity and inclusion; and begin the dialogue around reparation for the injuries of enslavement and its aftermath

Presenters Wildolfo Arvelo, Judy Dow, Brenda Lett

Moderator Cait Vaughan

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About the Black Heritage Trail of N.H.

The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire works to visibly honor and share a truer more inclusive history through exhibits, educational programs, curriculum development and tours that can change the way our country understands human dignity when it is free of historical stereotypes.

Founded in 2016, its mission is to promote awareness and appreciation of African American history and culture in New Hampshire, celebrating a people's history of resilience, versatility, and courage through education and public programs, including creating appropriate memorials at significant locations within the state.

<http://blackheritagetrailnh.org/>

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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 20	MONDAY, JANUARY 21	TUESDAY, JANUARY 22	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23	THURSDAY, JANUARY 24	FRIDAY, JANUARY 25	SATURDAY, JANUARY 26
2009—Administering the Oath of Office to President Obama off the top of his head, Chief Justice John Roberts blows his lines. 2009—Top Congressional Republicans gather and scheme to sabotage the administration of the newly-inaugurated President. 2005—J.P. Morgan Chase admits two banks it swallowed had taken slaves as collateral years before. 2001—George W.[MD] Bush becomes #43. Chaos ensues. 1981—Minutes after Ronald Reagan is sworn in as president, 52 American hostages in Iran are released: a coincidence. He goes on to trade arms for hostages, bankroll the future al-Qaeda, rob Social Security, and triple the national debt. 1942—Nazi officials at Wannsee determine a “final Solution” to the “Jewish problem.” 1936—England’s King George V is euthanized with an injection of cocaine and morphine, timed so his death could be reported in the more-dignified morning newspapers, rather than the evening rags. His last words were, “God damn you.” 1932—A peasant uprising begins in El Salvador, eventually leading to the Matanza Massacre in which 30,000 are killed. 1902—In the Philippines, U.S. Major Littleton Waller summarily executes 11 native guides. He is acquitted of murder at court-martial.	2001—The <i>New York Times</i>, ignoring 20,000 jeering demonstrators, reports George W.[MD] Bush’s inauguration may bring a “new era of . . . social justice.” 2000—“When I was coming up,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “it was a dangerous world, and you knew exactly who they were. It was us vs. them, and it was clear who they were.” 1997—Newt Gingrich becomes the first Speaker of the House to be disciplined for unethical behavior. 1996—Bill and Monica enjoy their fifth illicit encounter. 1981—National Security Advisor Dick Allen does Nancy Reagan a favor, intercepting gifts from a Japanese reporter the law prohibits her from accepting. She repays the favor by exploiting that act to get Allen fired. 1977—Pres. Carter issues a blanket pardon to all Vietnam draft dodgers. 1968—The NVA begins a 78-day siege of U.S. Marines at Khe Sanh. Outnumbered 5 to 1 and suffering 737 KIA/MIA, Marines prevail. 1968—A malfunctioning heater ignites unauthorized foam seats aboard a B-52 over Greenland causing it to crash and scatter parts of four H-bombs. 1959—Former Little Rascal Carl “Alfalfa” Switzer is fatally shot in the belly by a bear-hunting companion in a dispute over a lost dog. 1908—A new law bans smoking on New York streets—by women.	2008—The Center for Public Integrity documents 935 instances of “orchestrated deception” by President George W.[MD] Bush and seven top officials leading up to the Iraq War. 2005—Donald Rumsfeld cancels an appearance in Germany to avoid a possible arrest for war crimes. 1997—Lottie Williams, walking in a Tulsa park, takes a glancing blow on the shoulder from a small falling chunk of a Delta rocket. 1987—Pennsylvania Treasurer Budd Dwyer, charged with fraud, blows his brains out on live TV. 1973—The Supreme Court issues its <i>Roe v. Wade</i> decision. 1959—Ordered illegally to dig coal from under the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, with nothing to gauge their clearance, twelve miners drown when the river breaks through. 1957—George “The Mad Bomber” Metesky, stiffed on a worker’s comp claim, is arrested in New York for planting 30 bombs over 16 years. 1948—Boston Mayor James Curley asks MIT to study whether flame-throwers could be used to clear snow. 1945—Arthur Kasherman becomes the third muckraking Minneapolis newspaperman in 11 years to be shot dead on the street. 1943—The temperature in Spearfish, S.D. rises 50 degrees in two minutes. 1920—Civil libertarians report that the Army is torturing conscientious objectors on Alcatraz.	2005—Iraq Defense Minister Hazim al-Shaalan is confirmed as a suspect in the disappearance of \$300 million. 2004—“[T]he illiteracy level of our children are appalling,” says George W.[MD] Bush. 2001—The <i>LA Times</i> reports that “W” keys are missing from White House computers. It’s not true. 2000—Campaigning for President in Salem, N.H., John McCain tells reporters, “I would never do this again.” 1992—<i>The Star</i> publishes Gennifer Flowers’ allegation that she had a 12-year affair with Bill Clinton. 1986—In a mixup, half a ton of uranium is pumped into the sea at Wind-scale, England. 1973—Richard Nixon claims his “peace with honor” deal with Ho does not betray our allies, abandon our prisoners, or let the war continue in Indochina. It does all three. 1968—North Korea seizes the <i>USS Pueblo</i> for spying within its waters. 1957—Klan members in Montgomery, Ala. force Willie Edwards Jr. to jump from a bridge. A judge quashes the indictment of 3 men 19 years later, saying “forcing a person to jump from a bridge does not naturally and probably lead to the death of such person.” 1870—On the Marias River in Montana, Maj. Eugene Baker’s soldiers massacre 173 Blackfoot women and children. Chief Heavy Runner dies holding a U.S. flag given to him to assure their safety.	2015—The winter’s first snow falls in Portsmouth. It won’t be the last. 2001—GOP hack Rich Galen reports (falsely) that outgoing Gore staffers slashed all the power cords in the Office of the Vice President. 1999—Joe DiMaggio, watching “Dateline NBC,” is disturbed to read in the “crawl” that he has died. 1992—Gov. Bill Clinton flies to Arkansas so the execution of self-lobotomized cop-killer Ricky Ray Rector — who asks jailers to save the dessert from his last meal “for later” — will enhance his campaign for President. 1978—A Soviet satellite powered by a nuclear reactor crashes on Great Slave Lake in Canada, contaminating 61,000 sq. mi. of ice. 1972—“It is with much embarrassment that I have returned alive,” says Shoichi Yokoi, a Japanese draftee who had been hiding on Guam since 1944. 1961—A B-52 breaks up over Goldsboro, N.C. Three fail-safe devices fail on one armed 24 megaton H-bomb, but a fourth works. Radioactive junk from a second bomb remains 180 feet underground. 1955—Iwo Jima flag raiser Ira Hamilton Hayes dies of exposure in Sacaton, Ariz. at 32 years of age. 1935—The first-ever canned beer [Kreuger] goes on sale in Richmond, Va. 1692—French priest Louis-Pierre Thury and hundreds of Abenaki raid York, Maine, killing 100 and taking 100 hostage.	2005—Conservative columnist Maggie Gallagher admits taking \$21,500 from the government for plugging Bush Administration proposals. 2004—Senator John McCain confirms to Vermin Supreme that Karl Rove dynamited the Old Man of the Mountain “in a fit of anger” over McCain’s defeat of George W.[MD] Bush in the 2000 N.H. Primary. 2002—White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales advises the Bush Administration that it can ignore the Geneva Conventions. 2002—Veep Dick “Dick” Cheney asks Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle to limit investigations into the events of 9/11. 1996—Billy Bailey, the 19th of 23 children raised in a two-room shack, is hanged by the State of Delaware, the last American to go that way. 1995—A message warning of a rocket test flight having gone astray, aides hand Russia’s “nuclear suitcase” to notorious drunkard Boris Yeltsin. 1979—At a Ford plant in Flat Rock, Mich., Robert Williams, 25, becomes the first human killed by a robot. 1966—An SR-71 Blackbird flying at Mach 3.2 disintegrates 78,000 feet above New Mexico, but test pilot Bill Weaver lives to fly again. 1927—J. Frank Norris of Fort Worth, a Baptist preacher who fatally shot an unarmed man, is acquitted of murder. 1926—In Passaic, N.J. 16,000 textile workers strike.	2015—Two more feet of snow fall on Portsmouth. 2006—On Sunset Blvd., Joaquin Phoenix is rescued from his rolled, gas-reeking car by Werner Herzog. 2006—The Energy Department admits its rent-a-cops at the Oak Ridge nuclear site have been cheating on antiterrorism drills for up to 20 years. 2005—Gay hustler and accredited White House correspondent Jeff Gannon asks Pres. G.W.[MD] Bush how he can work with insane people like Harry Reid and Hillary Clinton. 2001—Britain’s <i>Guardian</i> reports [falsely] that Air Force One was “stripped bare” in “an orgy of pilfering” by outgoing Clinton staffers. 1998—The Project for a New American Century sends a letter, signed by E. Abrams, J. Bolton, W. Kristol, R. Perle, D. Rumsfeld, & P. Wolfowitz, to Bill Clinton, urging him to overthrow Saddam Hussein. He’s busy denying he had “sex with that woman.” Her name’s Monica Lewinski. 1979—Ex-Veep Nelson Rockefeller, 70, alone in his townhouse with 26-year old Megan Marshak, dies of a heart attack. An hour later his corpse is found by a security guard, five blocks away at Rockefeller Center. 1940—R. Reagan marries J. Wyman in a chapel at Forest Hills Cemetery. 1894—Illinois drops George Painter. The rope breaks and he lands on his head. Bleeding profusely, he’s hanged a second time for good measure.
10:00 10:40 3:39 4:24	10:52 11:31 4:33 5:15	11:44 5:25 6:06	12:22 12:35 6:18 6:56	1:13 1:28 7:11 7:46	2:05 2:23 8:06 8:38	2:59 3:20 9:04 9:31
SUNDAY, JANUARY 27	MONDAY, JANUARY 28	TUESDAY, JANUARY 29	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30	THURSDAY, JANUARY 31	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

2016—Inhabitants of Lindhurst, New York are startled when a Robinson R22 crash lands, on its side, in the middle of an intersection in a densely-populated residential area. Miraculously, no one is killed.

2015—It snows so hard in Portsmouth that mail carriers fail to make their appointed rounds.

2008—The NSA warns that a malfunctioning, bus-size spy satellite will fall out of orbit soon.

2005—Veep Dick “Dick” Cheney wears a down parka and ski cap to an Auschwitz memorial ceremony.

2005—*Salon* reveals that hack writer Michael McManus has been paid \$10,000 to promote Bush programs.

2000—“I know how hard it is for you to put food on your family,” says George W.[MD] Bush in Nashua.

1987—Gorbachev announces the new policy of *glasnost*.

1973—Eleven hours before a cease fire between the U.S. and North Vietnam takes effect, an artillery shell makes Col. William B. Nolde the last official American combat casualty of the Vietnam War.

1972—G. Gordon Liddy presents Attorney General John Mitchell with a plan to disrupt the Democratic Convention using “mugging squads, kidnapping teams, and prostitutes.”

1967—A fire in the *Apollo* capsule kills three astronauts.

1957—Martin Luther King’s home is bombed for the second time.

2008—George W.[MD] Bush delivers his last (!) State of the Union speech, promising a budget that will keep the U.S. “on track for a surplus in 2012.”

2004—U.S. weapons inspector David Kay tells the Senate pre-war WMD intelligence was “almost all wrong.”

2003—In his State of the Union Address, George W.[MD] Bush cites misidentified aluminum tubes, non-existent viruses, fictitious alliances, and imaginary uranium as ample justification for his next war.

1986—Ronald Reagan puts off his State of the Union speech because the space shuttle *Challenger*, launched under adverse conditions, crashed.

1969—Unocal drillers using sub-standard pipe cause a 100,000-barrel oil spill off Santa Barbara, creating an 800 square mile oil slick and an environmental movement.

1958—In Nebraska, Charles Starkweather, 17, and Carol Fugate, 14, kill their 8th through 10th (out of an eventual 11) victims.

1936—Thrill-killer Richard Loeb is murdered by a fellow-prisoner at whom he made a pass. *The Chicago Daily News* writes that Loeb, “... a master of the English language, today ended a sentence with a proposition.”

1922—The roof of the Knickerbocker Theatre in Washington, D.C. collapses under thirty inches of snow, killing 98 and injuring 133.

1887—New York newsboys go on strike.

2002—George W.[MD] Bush makes a follow-up call to Majority Leader Daschle asking him to limit Congressional investigations into 9/11.

1979—“I don’t like Mondays,” replies Brenda Spencer, 16, when asked why she shot eleven people, killing two, at a San Diego elementary school.

1970—New uniforms debut for Nixon’s White House guards: white with gold buttons and braids, topped by comic opera hats. They last two weeks.

1967—LBJ’s pal Bobby Baker is convicted of income tax evasion, theft, and conspiracy to defraud.

1964—*Dr. Strangelove* premieres.

1925—The sub *S-48*, enroute to the Shipyard, grounds itself off Jaffrey’s Point, then again in Little Harbor.

1912—Anna LoPizzo, 34, is killed by a shot through the heart during the Bread & Roses strike in Lawrence, Mass. A cop probably did it, but anarchists are blamed.

1889—John M. Clayton [R-Ark.], a Congressional candidate in an election featuring armed white men stealing ballot boxes, is shot through his boarding house window. He’s declared the winner; the seat left vacant.

1863—U.S. Army troops and Shoshone Indians clash at the Bear River in Utah. After the Shoshone run out of ammo, rapes and a massacre begin.

1834—Workers on the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal go on strike. President Jackson [Dem.] begins a tradition by siccing Federal troops on them.

2005—A U.S. official reports that \$9,000,000,000 is ... well ... sort of ... missing in Iraq.

1992—After a loud “Bang!,” a Robinson R22 helicopter flying over Malabar, Fla., sheds parts and plummets to Earth, killing the pilot and a student.

1981—An FB-111A “Aardvark” based at Pease AFB crashes near homes at Mariner’s Village, about 1.25 miles northwest of Market Square. One apartment building is destroyed; no one is injured.

1976—The Supreme Court decides that limiting campaign contributions would unfairly restrict the speech of rich people.

1968—Two hundred colonels in the U.S. MACV staff attend a pool party in Saigon. “Not one ... knew Tet was coming” the next day, an analyst says later.

1945—A Soviet sub sinks the *MV Wilhelm Gustloff*; some 9,400 drown, mostly civilians, half children.

1933—Destabilized by austerity, largely self-inflicted, Germany allows the Nazis to seize power.

1798—Rep. Matthew Lyon insults Rep. Roger Griswold on the House floor. Griswold calls Lyon a coward. Lyon spits in Griswold’s face.

1661—Oliver Cromwell, dead for two years, is posthumously executed and decapitated. His head goes unburied for 300 years.

1649—King Charles I discovers divine right has limits when Oliver Cromwell removes his head.

2009—A Robinson R22 helicopter spontaneously disassembles itself over Fillmore, Calif., strewn debris along a 900-foot swath and killing its pilot.

2003—At the White House, George W.[MD] Bush tells Tony Blair he’s going to invade Iraq with or without WMDs, and diplomacy will have to fit around the military strategy.

1984—President Reagan alleges the U.S. has a problem with “people who are sleeping on the grates ... homeless ... you might say, by choice.”

1971—In Detroit, Vietnam Veterans Against the War testify about U.S. policies in Vietnam. Few listen.

1968—The Viet Cong and NVA send a message with coordinated attacks from the Delta to the DMZ, including the U.S. Embassy in Saigon: we’re not giving up. The U.S. brass don’t hear it but the public does.

1963—“The war in Vietnam is going well and will succeed,” says Bob McNamara, Secretary of Defense.

1958—In North Africa, a B-47 crashes on takeoff and burns for seven hours. Luckily the armed nuke on board doesn’t go off.

1950—Truman orders the construction of the first H-bomb.

1945—Out of the 21,000 U.S. soldiers who desert during WW II, Private Eddie Slovik gets to be the one who’s executed by a firing squad.

1900—William Goebel is sworn in as Governor of Kentucky a day after being shot. Three days later he dies.

2005—Canada OK’s same-sex marriage; world does not end.

2004—Janet Jackson bares a nipple on TV; world nearly ends.

2003—The space shuttle *Columbia* disintegrates over Texas.

1974—Richard Nixon meets for twenty minutes with the Reverend Sun Myung Moon.

1968—In Saigon, AP photographer and former Marine Eddie Adams snaps the anti-Iwo Jima Flag Raising photo of the Vietnam War: General Nguyen Ngoc Loan shooting VC Captain Nguyen Van Lem, whose hands are tied, in the head.

1964—Filthy-minded Governor of Indiana Matthew E. Welsh declares The Kingsmen’s song “Louie Louie,” which everyone else finds incomprehensible, to be obscene.

1963—Fleetwood Linley, the last living person to have looked upon the face of the dead Abraham Lincoln, dies at the age of 75.

1960—Civil rights sit-ins begin at Woolworth’s in Greensboro, N.C.

1951—An inevitable confluence: the first television broadcast of an atomic explosion.

1926—Col. Billy Mitchell, the lone U.S. military officer who understands the potential of aircraft in warfare, is court-martialled for criticizing his “superiors.”

1923—In Japan, most of Tokyo and all of Yokohama are destroyed by an earthquake; 143,000 die.

2015—A week after a two-foot snowstorm, Po’Town gets 18 inches more.

2013—Chris Kyle, America’s favorite sniper, is shot dead at a shooting range.

2004—George W.[MD] Bush reluctantly OK’s an investigation of intelligence failures.

1972—In Dublin, Irish Catholics, irate over “Bloody Sunday,” burn the British Embassy.

1970—Capt. Gary Faust bails out after his F-106 goes into a spin over Montana. The pilotless plane lands in a cornfield and is returned to service.

1966—Australians burn their prescription papers in Sydney.

1952—Winnie Ruth Judd, the “trunk murderer,” makes her fifth escape from Arizona State Insane Hospital.

1915—German national Werner Horn bombs the railroad bridge connecting Vanceboro, Maine with St. Croix, Canada. There is little damage.

1912—Steeplejack Frederick R. Law successfully parachutes from the Statue of Liberty’s torch.

1893—The first close-up in motion picture history is shot at the Edison studio in West Orange, N.J., immortalizing a sneeze.

1882—James Joyce is born.

1870—The “Cardiff Giant,” hyped for months as a petrified, ten-foot-tall human, is revealed to have been an atheist tobaccoconist’s hoax.

1848—The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo legalizes America’s seizure of half of Mexico.

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