

The Fortnightly Rant

The Farce of July

Unless he changed his mind at the last minute—again—the *resident spoke yesterday at the Lincoln Memorial. That juxtaposition, we suspect, took the shine off the day for some people.

We say, cheer up. It's not as if the nation has nothing to celebrate. He's been in office for nearly two and a half years now, and he still hasn't called for the nuclear football. Of course, we still have 566 days to go.

Early in the fortnight, chronic consumers of what passes for news these days got a brief distraction from their underlying anxiety about the slow-motion heat death which surely awaits our species if we don't slow the pace of anthropogenic climate change. Unfortunately that respite came at a cost: a resurgent fear of the potential consequences of some random miscalculation occurring in the Middle East.

Tensions there were high enough already after a purportedly-Iranian attack on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman. That murky incident remains unresolved: proof of culpability has yet to be revealed; and two of our biggest allies in the region had the means, motive, and opportunity to carry it off themselves. Then came word that Iran had indubitably shot down a Northrop Grumman RQ-4 Global Hawk™ near the eastern end of the Strait of Hormuz.

This was a shock for a number of reasons. For one, this drone was no BestBuy \$799 special; RQ-4s cost a cool \$122 million. For another, this was the first inkling for many Americans that we have drone aircraft the size of a commercial airliner. For a locally-pertinent comparison, the wingspan of the RQ-4 is just ten percent shorter than that of the Airbus A300 the *U.S.S. Vincennes* inexplicably shot down at the opposite end of the Strait of Hormuz 31 years ago last Wednesday.

Normally quick with a bellicose threat, the Tweeter-in-Chief's initial response to this daring attack was strangely cautious, almost forgiving: "I have a feeling that it was a mistake made by somebody that shouldn't have been doing what they did." His comment eerily echoed the thoughts millions have had about everything the *resident has ever done in his official capacity.

That pacifistic posture must have abruptly been reversed, if the next day's news reports can be believed. According to the White House, a military strike against a small array of Iranian military sites was organized. Bombs were loaded, and planes were fueled.

Then the Commander-in-Chief changed his mind—again—and called the whole thing off. Ever striving for the superlative, having done the 180 from peace to war, he flipped back to peace again for a full 360.

The reason given was that he had just learned the attack was likely to kill 150 Iranians. This raises questions. What *didn't* the *resident know, and why didn't he know it?

His National Security Advisor and Secretary of State must have briefed their alleged C-in-C. Did they forget to tell their boss how many bodies he was about to rack up? Or did they hide that number, under Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper's old principle that "It's easier to ask forgiveness than to get permission?"

Maybe they just couldn't draw his attention away from Tucker Carlson on Fox News. His impression of a confused golden retriever is mesmerizing, if you like that sort of thing.

A few days later the *resident's antipathy had returned. In an Oval Office ceremony he signed an executive order which, he said, would

place strict economic sanctions on "Ayatollah Khomeini"—who died in 1989.

"The White House is afflicted by mental retardation and does not know what to do," responded Hassan Rouhani, the President of Iran.

Rouhani is still alive, but he is not a doctor; his diagnosis is unofficial. The Current Occupant at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, however, shows signs of temporal dislocation. He told reporters Monday that "we have the brand new Sherman tanks and we have the brand new Abram [sic] tanks" for Friday's parade. The Sherman tank was phased out before Occupant enrolled at the New York Military Academy.

As for the Abrams tanks, doubts have been raised concerning the cavernous substructure of the Lincoln Memorial site's ability to safely support their 60-ton weight.

*The Alleged News®*

Is There a Real Axis of Evil?

Perhaps it's just our jaundiced imagination, but we could swear there's been a trend lately of seemingly disparate events or situations which share certain characteristics:

First and foremost, they are grotesque: made-to-order wads of clickbait material; just weird, and not in a good way.

Second, the people involved appear to adhere to a certain school of economic and political thinking.

Third, they involve some sort of violation of the moral core of the Judeo-Christian ethos which so many of the perpetrators profess to uphold.

Or, maybe we're just suffering from a bad case of Neoliberal Derangement Syndrome, because that's the slippery concept that we're trying to grapple with here.

Let's see if we can scrape up a

few examples of what we're talking about.

Don't Make Me Laffer

Last month Arthur Laffer was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, supposedly created to honor persons who have "made an especially meritorious contribution to (1), the security or national interests of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) cultural or other significant public or private endeavors."

What great national contribution did Laffer make? He sat at a bar with Dick "Dick" Cheney back in 1974. Judging from Cheney's record of DWI convictions, that's hardly an unusual distinction. While so engaged, though, he drew a doodle on a napkin, which came to be known as the "Laffer Curve." It purported to demonstrate how tax cuts pay for

themselves by stimulating economic activity.

The Curve was used to justify immense tax cuts, which—*mirabile dictu*—never produced the promised results. Instead they generated tremendous budget deficits, which were used in turn to justify the cancellation of an array of federal spending programs which had benefited the poor.

Take from the poor, give to the rich, and be honored for your contribution—that's what we're talking about.

What else can we find in our grab bag of grotesquerie? Here's a likely candidate....

Every Soldier a Meal Ticket

America's legendary middle class was a shorter-lived phenomenon than most people think. Its heyday really only lasted for a couple of de-

Since any mention of John McCain tends to put the C-in-C in touch with his inner Captain Queeg, White House staffers asked the Pentagon in May to assure that his delicate gaze would not be offended by the sight of the guided missile destroyer which bears that name.

Neither the Pentagon nor the Park Service can dictate what civilians wear, though—not yet, anyway. VoteVets and Rags of Honor USA will be handing out thousands of T-shirts—made in the U.S.A., of course—emblazoned in huge red letters with the name of the *U.S.S. John McCain*. VoteVets works to elect progressive veterans to public office. Rags of Honor is a silk-screening and apparel company which hires chronically-unemployed and homeless veterans. Its slogan is, "They Had Our Backs, Let's Keep The Shirt On Theirs.™"

Add it all up: thousands of active-duty soldiers dragooned into marching on their day off, tanks churning up the streets (over the protests of local officials), a flyover including Air Force One...what else could one possibly ask for to make this Independence Day a farce to be remembered?

Gregory Lee Johnson, the man who went to the Supreme Court to make America safe for flag burners, recently told *USA Today*, "I am going to D.C. on the Fourth of July and I'm going to burn the flag in protest (of his) whole fascist agenda."

One thing is still missing, though. History's most spectacular violation of the Hatch Act, using government property for political campaign purposes, just took place.

Could the allegedly-opposing party please find the courage to at least point that out?

cadres, from the late Forties to the late Sixties, and it was almost entirely a creation of organized labor and the GI Bill.

The original GI Bill paid college tuition and backed a mortgage for honorably discharged veterans. For white ones, anyway. Subsequent versions have been less generous, but still helpful. Since everybody loves the veterans these days, you'd think that their GI Bill would be kept sacrosanct. Not so fast, though. That would be contrary to the principles of—here comes that word again—neoliberalism.

Let us descend, step by step, into its hellish logic. First we'll entertain the proposition that there's nothing inherently wrong with setting up a college whose primary purpose is making a profit. Now, let's take it a step further and permit that

for-profit college to set its sights on veterans in particular.

Why would they do that? Because of the 90/10 loophole.

For-profit colleges are required by law to get at least 10 percent of their revenue from sources other than Title IV education funds—the primary federal source of student aid. Thanks to the 90/10 loophole, assistance from the GI Bill qualifies as private, so it counts towards that 10 percent. Lose the veterans—or the loophole—and the schools lose their right to tap into the federal revenue stream.

Some might ask, what's the big deal? The college is providing value in exchange for the tuition, isn't it? As Erik Hananoki explained, in

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from page one

a post for *Media Matters* on June 26th, no.

"The for-profit college industry has been plagued by reports of scams and fraudulent advertising that lead to many students ending up with essentially worthless degrees and large debts. Multiple states have taken action against the industry while the Trump administration has protected it. As NBC News reported in April, the Obama administration had 'created new rules intended to help rein in the worst-performing schools and to protect taxpayer dollars. ... Now, the Trump Administration is trying to overturn those rules—and veterans and low-income Americans are the most at risk. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has begun a months-long process to unwind the Obama-era rules, easing oversight of for-profits' use of tax dollars and protections for defrauded students."

A number of veterans organizations have been asking Congress for years to close the 90/10 loophole and protect their former brothers-in-arms from these predators.

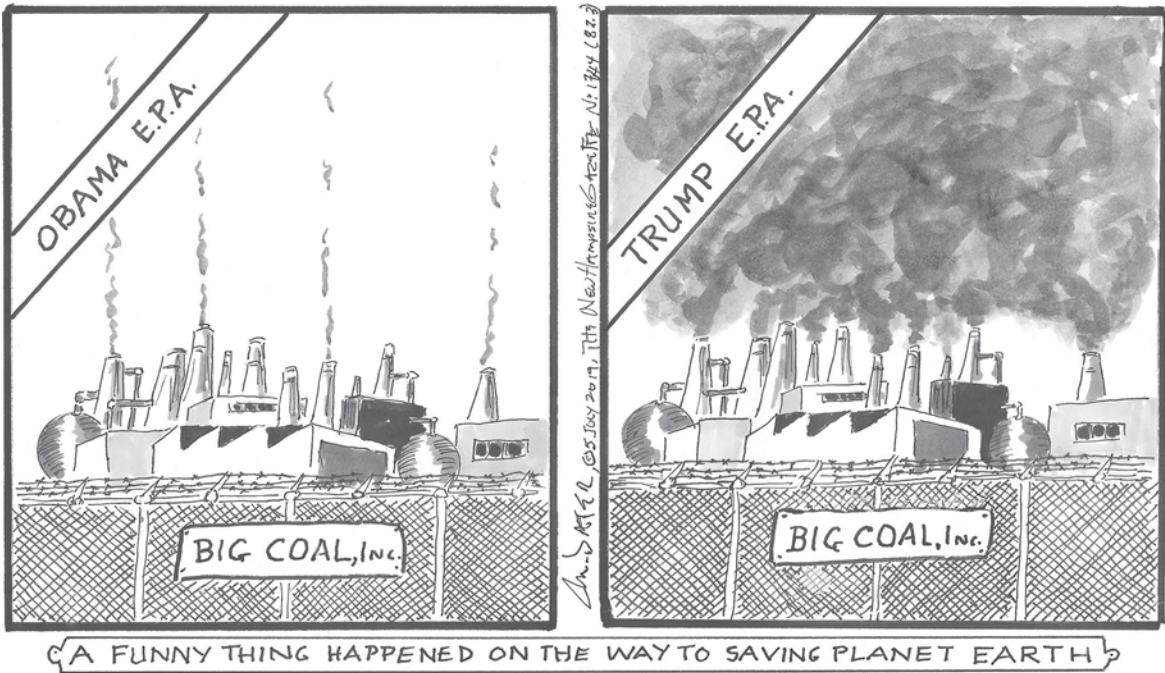
Then there's Pete Hegseth. A veteran himself—a former officer, so, to certain old-school enlisted personnel, not to be trusted to begin with—Hegseth is on the payroll of Career Education Colleges and Universities, which lobbies for for-profit colleges.

According to Hananoki, "Hegseth has denied that for-profit schools have preyed on veterans, attacked veterans groups as being 'really drunk on the swamp,' and said he could potentially lobby President Donald Trump on the issue.

"Hegseth also wrote a *FoxNews.com* opinion piece in support of for-profit colleges, saying they are 'improving the lives of veterans every day!' But Fox News didn't disclose that Hegseth is working with the lobbying group."



The Flag Police are beginning to lose patience with a certain habitual offender. Were they not so professional they might begin to think that the financial institution on State Street flying this wreck of a flag was mocking them, and their sacred oath: "Eternal vigilance is the price of upholding the fetishization of material objects which symbolize the values of a purported republic in the absence of any perceptible functionality." In this extraordinarily rare case of flying a flag to rags, a vertical seam has ripped open, separating the fly end of the canton from the hoist end of the upper stripes. Unless this situation is remedied, the Flag Police may be forced to suggest that the bank's patrons threaten to take their money elsewhere.



Every Crisis is an Opportunity
Remember John Kelly, the fine, upstanding former Marine general who was Secretary of Homeland Security for six months, before being called upon to provide adult supervision in the Oval Office? He's got a new gig.

As the head of DHS he used to write checks on government funds that paid \$775 a day to keep children locked up in filthy cages without toothbrushes or running water.

Now he cashes those checks. He's on the board of Caliburn International, which owns the Homestead gulag. This is all fine, according to neoliberal principles.

John Bellamy Foster, editor of *Monthly Review*, explained this perverse way of thinking in a speech titled "Absolute Capitalism." He quoted Michel Foucault:

"Instead of accepting a free market defined by the state and kept as it were under state supervision ... [neoliberals] ... turn the formula around and adopt the free market as [the] organizing and regulating principle of the state.... In other words: a state under the supervision of the market rather than a market supervised by the state...."

Let's not pretend it doesn't exist.

6th Annual N.H. Rebellion Seacoast Walk

Saying, "This Independence Day, we remember what sparked the American Revolution: citizens who were tired of a government that did not represent them," committed "N.H. Rebellion walkers" will walk from Kittery, Maine to Market Square, Portsmouth to combat the influence big money has on our democracy.

Over the past few years, thousands of reform-minded citizens have walked more than 40,000 miles across N.H., from Dixville Notch in the north, Nashua in the south, Keene in the west, and Portsmouth in the east, in the summer heat, or through winter chill, to draw attention to the need for campaign finance reform.

This Sunday, at 2:00 p.m., the July 7 Seacoast walk will kick off from John Paul Jones Memorial Site, Kittery, Maine, and join with Civil Rights Sunday in Market Square, Portsmouth, N.H. Speakers will include Adam Eichen, author of the book *Daring Democracy*, and local activist Ella McGrail.

"With the 2020 elections ahead of us, the time is now to reform the way elections are funded," said Olivia Zink, Executive Director of Open

Democracy in Concord, N.H.

"The current system of private financing of our elections, means of elected officials are only talking to the donors. We want voter-owned elections so that politicians are accountable to the people."

"Big Money infusion into our government creates economic and social inequity and corrupts our grassroots politics" said Lester Cuff, planning committee member for the Portsmouth Walk.

"Granny D had her priorities right in 1999 by addressing the root cause...Money in Politics. By focusing on getting the influence of corporate money out of our political system, we will diminish many of the remaining corrupt political practices and symptoms. That is why we walk for and with Granny D."

Ella McGrail, a local college activist says, "I was fifteen when my classmates and I marched across New Hampshire to call for an end to the influence of money in politics. Five years later, I am still working on this issue because of its wide reach. Practically every modern American issue, from the climate emergency to gun control to immigration, finds its root in money-based corruption. If we can solve the problem of money

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in our government and make our democracy one that answers to each person equally regardless of their wealth, then we are far on the road to solving many of our other problems.”

N.H. Rebellion is a project of Open Democracy, the Concord-based nonpartisan reform organization founded by legendary N.H. hero Granny D. To learn more about the N.H. Rebellion, please visit: www.nhrebillion.org. To register for the walk please visit: www.nhrebillion.org/walk_to_declare_independence_from_big_money_in_politics. For details about planned events, see Twitter @nhrebillion and [facebook.com/nhrebillion](https://www.facebook.com/nhrebillion).

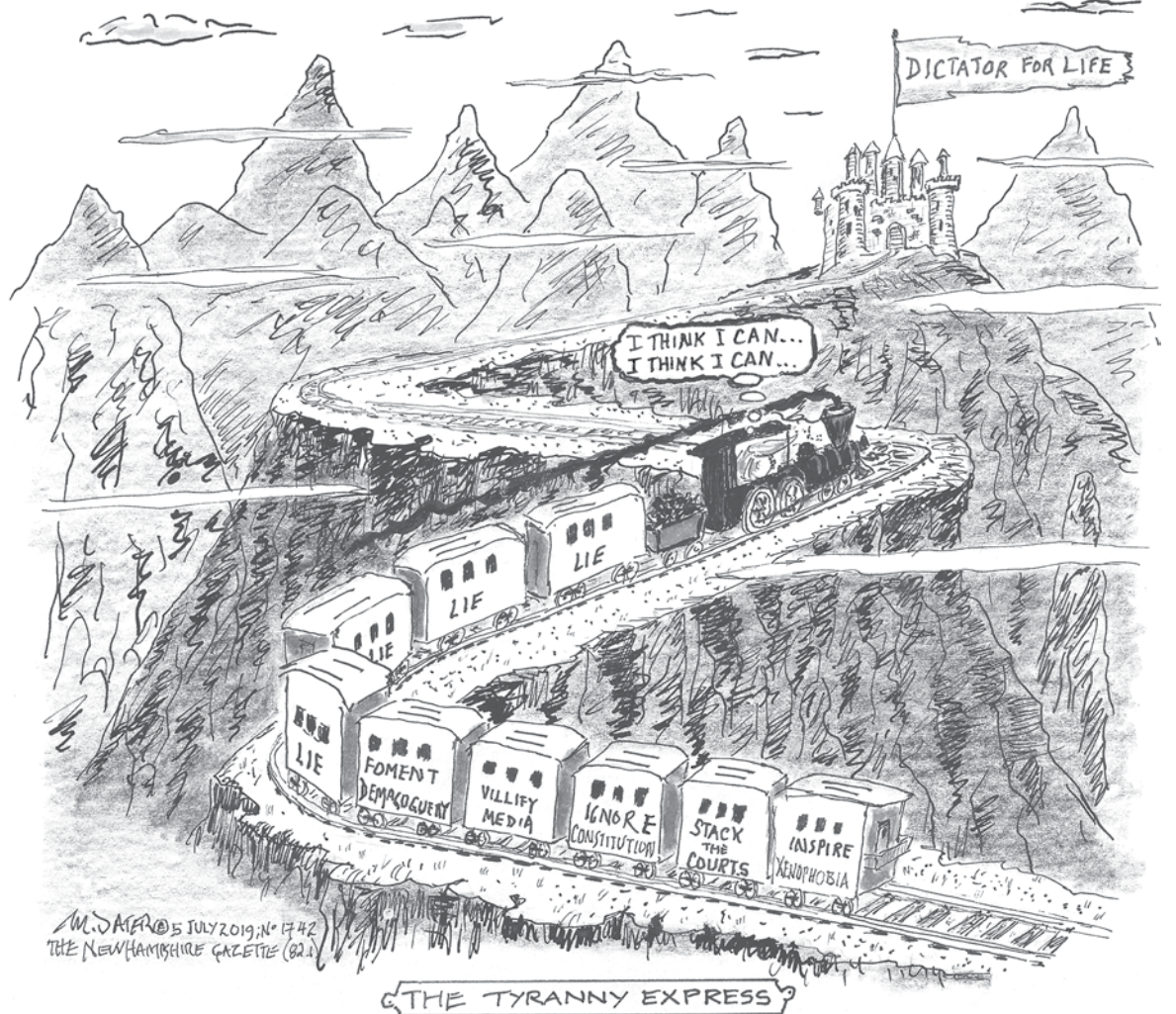
See the Piscataqua From the Piscataqua
We beg the reader's indulgence, but our superannuated condition—this being our 263rd year of operation—has imbued us with a tendency to take the long view. It's the only view we've got, to tell the truth, so we've come to accept it. One side effect is an apparent inability to draw readers' attention to a unique local attraction without delving into 399 years of history.

Some 133 years before our founding, this area was settled—which is to say, when the indigenous inhabitants began to be displaced—largely because a sunken valley upriver created a current so vigorous that it made for a harbor which remains conveniently ice-free all year round.

This being the case, there is no true understanding of the region without at least a cursory familiarity with that river and its challenges and opportunities, factors which shaped the gundalow, the region's unique utilitarian watercraft.

Often called the tractor-trailers of their day, gundalows were ubiquitous and essential for about three hundred years. They carried cargo of all sorts throughout the watershed. The tides were their primary means of locomotion, aided by huge oars and sails.

Gundalows would have vanished forever, were it not for the local boat-builders, historians, and educators who built the *Captain Edward H. Adams* in 1982. The *Adams*, having retired from the river, still sparks imaginations, though on dry land at Henry Law Park in Dover. Her replacement, the *Piscataqua*, however,



The gundalow *Piscataqua*, under full sail on her eponymous river. In the background, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The U.S. Navy's oldest continuously operating shipyard, it was established in 1800. The U.S.S. Constitution was overhauled here in 1855. Way in the background, partially obscured by the *Piscataqua*'s sail: the infamous Portsmouth Naval Prison.

is now in its eighth year of carrying passengers on its eponymous river.

Harbor sails aboard *Piscataqua* are scheduled on many afternoons, setting off at 3:30 p.m. from the dock next to the Sheafe Warehouse at Prescott Park. Ticket holders will have a relaxing, hour-and-a-half sail through Portsmouth's historic harbor, past forts, lighthouses, the Naval Shipyard and prison, learning along the way about the cultural and natural history of the region aboard this watershed's unique signature vessel.

Sunset sails start at 6:00 p.m., and last for two hours. Passengers are invited to join the crew in raising the sail and steering the ship. Twice this coming fortnight, onboard educators will share their knowledge of the Piscataqua maritime region as part of the Tales on the Tides Speaker Series.

On Tuesday, July 9th, K.G. Fairbarn, an engineer with the UNH Center for Coastal & Ocean Mapping, will talk about oceanographic research, robotic boats, and seafloor mapping.

On Tuesday, July 16th, Melissa Paly will describe what it's like having "The Coolest Job Title," namely, Great Bay-Piscataqua Waterkeeper.

Guests on these cruises will be welcome to ask speakers questions about the cultural and natural history of the area, or just relax and take in the sights. Reservations are advised and can be made online at Gundalow.org, where a full schedule can also be found.

The *Piscataqua* will also host two Up-River Sails, past the towns of Kittery, Newington, and Eliot, on July 7th and 21st, lasting approximately two hours and 45 minutes.

Passengers may bring a picnic and beverages. The gundalow will depart from the River House Restaurant dock, off Ceres Street in Portsmouth, at 3:30 p.m., and return to the Prescott Park Dock, just a 5 minute walk from the River House Dock, at about 6:16 p.m.

Our Newsreel Division has delved into the archives to retrieve two relevant videos and post them at NHGazette.com. The first, from December, 2011, shows *Piscataqua* being trucked from Strawberry Banke to Pierce Island and being launched. In the background, towards the end, the rusty old Memorial Bridge really drives home the passage of time.

The other, taken from *Piscataqua*'s deck in May of 2012, shows smoke from the U.S.S. *Miami* rising from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

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No Time for Middle Ground in War
To the Editor:

My favorite of many malapropisms delivered by former President G.W. Bush was: "Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we."

What Bush must have subconsciously meant by "we" is a system embraced by the Republicans, and a good portion of Democrats, that has left behind the exact people whom members of Congress were elected to represent. Instead, they favor the obscenely wealthy and powerful special interests who fund their campaigns. The people's struggle, then, is not only against the major political party establishments but also the special interests consisting of Wall Street; the health insurance, pharmaceutical, agricultural and fossil fuel industries; and the prison, educational loan and military-industrial complexes. These enemies of the people are further bolstered by the support of mainstream corporate media including the Right Wing conservative media, the National Rifle Association, and the religious right, who all work to advance the causes of said special interests and the politicians they own.

This enemy, with its unlimited wealth and resources, feels no need to compromise. We will not be able to defeat them with the middle-ground proposals being put forth by a number of the Democratic presidential candidates. There can be no middle ground on healthcare. We need Medicare-for-All so all Americans can seek treatment when they're sick or hurt, and for a much stronger and more sustainable economy. There's no time for the middle ground in addressing Climate Change. We must have a Green New Deal to keep the planet habitable. We can't allow middle ground when it comes to corporate socialism. We must assure corporate America starts paying its fair share of taxes and that we stop bailing out Wall Street. America has nationwide infrastructure repair to fund and millions of good jobs to create while doing so.

Winning the war against this formidable enemy to transform America into a nation that works for all citizens is going to take a massive people-powered political revolution fueled by big and bold Progressive ideas.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.
Wayne:

Perhaps the GOP snuck a Department of Bad Ideas into the Cabinet when no one was looking. Bush #43 was bad enough, but this crowd is obviously hell-bent on applying its reverse-Midas touch to every aspect of government that threatens to "promote the general welfare."

The Editor

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"Socialist" Programs Benefit Society
To the Editor:

As rhetoric heats up leading into the 2020 election season, one Republican strategy seems clear. It is to brand Democratic social welfare policies such as Medicare For All and free college education as "socialism." The socialist label is a useful pejorative for Republicans but it is used with little discrimination and without understanding of how and when socialist policies are effective and appropriate.

Republicans support their socialism critique with an ideology that claims free markets are the best means for achieving economic growth and widespread prosperity. According to this belief, government's role in regulating markets should be limited and the provision of social welfare programs should be severely constrained as they represent a form of socialism antithetical to American values. Free market ideologues, however, ignore or diminish the benefits that "socialist" policies have provided. The democratic socialist countries of Scandinavia, for example, have achieved high levels of material prosperity accompanied by low levels of income inequality and high social mobility. In the U.S., Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, as well as fire and police forces and the military, are all examples of successful, government-administered programs that have provided benefits to American citizens.

The idea that unregulated mar-

kets always produce efficient and fair outcomes has been discredited by economic theory and history. Financial market failures have generated a succession of severe downturns that include the Great Depression and the 2008 Great Recession. Product markets often provide monopoly power to a relatively few competitors that results in inefficiency and excess profits for those with market power. Historic examples include the railroad, oil, and steel industries during the age of the Robber Barons. The pharmaceutical industry and social media giants such as Facebook and Google provide more modern examples. Market-based decisions by profit-oriented firms are responsible for the loss of millions of manufacturing jobs through offshoring and the use of robotic technology. Although these decisions were applauded by the market and benefited the firms that laid off workers, there was no market solution for the social costs of these decisions. The decline in well-paying blue collar jobs and a decrease in the incomes of middle and lower class Americans were ignored by market forces and are left to government to solve.

Markets fail to provide socially beneficial solutions when bargaining power between buyers and sellers is disproportionate because of size, control over critical resources, or information asymmetry. Additionally, markets are not effective in dealing with external costs (e.g. air and water pollution), long term prediction, the early development of risky new technologies or the provision of services where the returns to social welfare exceed likely private returns (e.g. the provision of unemployment insurance or the building of infrastructure).

When markets fail, government must either regulate or replace them. The antitrust legislation of the early 20th century is a good example of necessary regulation of monopolies.



An example of an industry in the U.S. that would benefit from government control is healthcare. The industry is a chaotic, inefficient, enormously expensive system that excludes millions from care. Markets pit pharmaceutical producers, regional health care providers, healthcare insurers and pharmacy benefit managers in a struggle to maximize their profits while patients and taxpayers pay. In contrast, most of the democratic socialist countries of Northern Europe have some type of socialized healthcare. These programs provide high quality care to all citizens at a fraction of the cost of the U.S. system while generating better overall outcomes. Healthcare in the U.S. cries out for reform but it is not amenable to market-based solutions because of the monopoly and political power developed by the pharmaceutical industry, large regional hospital networks and insurers. Additionally, healthcare providers have the advantage of information asymmetry over patients (how many of us can objectively evaluate a life threatening diagnosis or question the six figure treatment regimen suggested by a medical specialist?). The most logical solution is to use the countervailing power of government to defend citizens from the market power of the healthcare industry participants. Socialized medicine will provide social benefits to we, the people, not big pharma or medical providers.

Programs or policies that enhance social welfare when the private sector is unable to do so do not destroy American values as some Republicans claim. They are squarely in the tradition of defending the rights of all rather than promoting the profit of the few. They allow markets to work for everyone rather than just the elites.

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

Robert:

Feed lots shovel antibiotics into animals to maximize profits, which leads to increased antibiotic resistance, and that's fine, because it increases the GDP. Pharmaceutical companies don't bother to develop new antibiotics because it's more profitable to tweak old drugs and extend copyright. It's a system, and it works—for capitalists.

The Editor

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Freedom From Corporate Polluters
To the Editor:

The three main values of the United States are freedom, democracy, and human rights, and we are fighting for these ideals in the Town of Nottingham, other towns in New Hampshire, and in towns all over the Country! The people of Nottingham have approved two rights based ordinances (RBO's) to protect our health, safety, and ecosystem. The first ordinance, approved at Town Meeting in 2008, prevents commercial water extraction, thereby protecting our wells and preserving our groundwater. That ordinance saved our Town from USA Springs!

The second was passed at Town Meeting this year providing Nottingham with "Freedom from Chemical Trespass" to ban toxic waste dumping and protect our water, land, and air. There is already a challenge to this human right before the New Hampshire Superior Court.

The question is who decides? Do the citizens of our towns have the democratic right to ban corporate polluters, including fossil fuel pipelines, high tension power lines, and greenhouse gas producers? It's urgent that people get involved! Contact the N.H. Community Rights Network (info@nhcommunityrights.org) for more information.

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tracey.noonan@va.gov



Sincerely,
Peter A. White
Treasurer, Nottingham Water Alliance and Board, member of N.H. Community Rights Network
Nottingham, N.H.
Peter:
Nottingham's successful fight against USA Springs was tremendously inspiring. We wish you continued success in defending Nottingham's right to not be used as a toxic waste dump.
The Editor

Only the Deplorables Want Peace

To the Editor:
It is refreshing to note the Gazette finally is recovering from the Trump Derangement Syndrome and is reporting on some important news, well, sort of reporting.
Yes, it is true that we are on the brink of another ginned-up war that is being pushed by lunatics such as Mike Pompeo, John Bolton, the Israelis, and both the liberal and neoconservative news media and of course the Military-Industrial-Complex. However, what is not mentioned is that much of the support is coming from liberal interventionists. In fact, the push for war is coming from both sides and we witnessed this by comments made after Trump decided not to bomb Iran in response to the alleged downing of a United States drone over international airspace.
When it comes to war with Iran both the liberals and Democrats influenced and supported by the same individuals and groups are in total agreement with the neoconservatives. And we must remember it was those deplorables who voted with Trump on the basis of his promises to disengage from the Middle East that might have influenced Trump's decision to apply

the brakes on the accelerating drive toward war.
And those liberals' intent of removing Trump surely knew that if he were removed that Vice President Pence, another warhawk, would have replaced him.
John Dente
Wilmington, Del.
John:
We would caution you against assuming that the *resident is winning us over. Yes, we support his decision not to further exacerbate the world's woes by going all John McCain on Iran. A lower bar could not be set.
The Editor

Congressional Oversight

To the Editor:
Don't look now, but the twentieth credible accusation of sexual assault just rolled off Donald Trump like water off a duck. Why? Old news? "He said she said"? Too many other horrifying atrocities to report?
If the crime of rape has fallen this low on America's list of newsworthy priorities, then clearly the list of atrocities committed by Person-1 has grown far too long—for much too long. Yet, Congress continue to snooze, waking only to yawn and pocket more cash from their Wall Street benefactors.
Donald Trump's cumulative history of bad behavior with the ladies may seem superfluous, but it is highly predictive of poor impulse control. Predictive that, one of these days, Trump will pull something so stupid and ill-advised that even Mitch McConnell and his wrecking crew will no longer have the luxury of looking the other way. It will be Trump's hide or theirs.
Mitch McConnell knows it's coming. Hell, we all know it's coming.
Rick Littlefield

Barrington, N.H.
Rick:
As an anonymous Danish philosopher once said, "Det er vanskeligt at spaa, især naar det gælder Fremtiden"—in English, "It is difficult to make predictions, especially about the future."
Yes, we know—everyone thinks that line came from Yogi Berra. As Berra himself said, though, "I really didn't say everything I said." That said, we predict your prediction will prove to be true.
The Editor

The Truth About Medicare

Dear Sir:
There has been quite a bit of debate and false information being spread regarding the Medicare for all proposals by a number of possible Presidential candidates. Most of the negative commentary focuses on false and exaggerated claims of the evils of "socialized medicine," the huge tax increases people would be forced to pay, and the end of the private health insurance industry.
I have studied health care policy since the 1970's as a graduate student in public health, and have taught health care policy at the collegiate level. While I realize that there are no perfect solutions to an issue as complicated and emotional as health care, the benefits of a universal health care system, with as few payers as possible, has proven to work very well in most industrialized nations. Please allow me to list some of the benefits our nation and each of us would enjoy from a Medicare for all system.
1. Everyone would be covered with comprehensive, low cost health insurance.
2. Governments at all levels would pay less to provide health coverage to their employees, saving taxpayer money.
3. Premiums would be paid as a payroll tax by every worker, part-time or full-time, as well as their employers.
4. Your health coverage would not be terminated if you left a job or became unemployed.
5. You would be able to choose any health care provider and facility that accepts the Medicare for all system, which would be almost all of them.
6. Out of pocket expenses for health care, in the form of deductibles and co-pays, would be reduced or even eliminated.
7. There would no longer be a need for states to maintain the expensive Medicaid program, with all its costs and bureaucracy which we taxpayers pay for.
8. Other health care programs such as CHIP would no longer be required, further reducing bureaucracy.
9. Private insurance should still be available to provide Medicare supplemental coverage as they currently do for traditional Medicare, to cover what Medicare for all would not.
10. Private insurance could also offer Medicare for all advantage programs, as they currently do with traditional Medicare as a substitute for Medicare for all coverage. This would allow consumers to have a choice between traditional Medicare or a private insurance plan.
11. Americans would be able to access preventive and early disease screening care. That will save lives and reduce the overall cost of health care.
12. Americans would no longer fear the threat of a financial crisis or bankruptcy due to an unexpected serious illness or injury.
13. As with the current Medicare, the Medicare for All is not "socialized medicine." Health care would continue to be provided as it is currently by private providers and hospitals, not the government.
14. Health care providers would no longer be forced to provide uncompensated care, which adds to the costs of health care for all of us.
15. The administrative overhead for traditional Medicare is much lower than private insurance carriers. This would also be the case with Medicare for all, further reducing costs with more of our funds going toward providing health care.

For too many years, Americans have been fed a steady diet of hysteria and lies regarding universal health care by those special interests who greatly profit from the current system, and do not consider the best interests of the public. As a society, we pay almost double per person what any other country pays for health care, and yet, we do not enjoy the benefits of universal coverage, or even better health outcomes. Ask almost any senior over age 65 if they are willing to give up their Medicare, and then ask, why would I not also benefit from this program? It behooves all of us to do our homework, dismiss hysterical pronouncements, and keep an objective open mind when considering these proposals.
Rich DiPentima, BA, BSN, MPH
Portsmouth, N.H.
Rich:
Thank you for doing your part—particularly as a person with professional experience in the topic—to undermine the monumental edifice of self-serving lies and devious propaganda which the industry has created over the past seventy years.
The Editor

After the Cluster-Debates

Dear Editor,
Beyond rhetorical zingers, there is a critical need for thoughtful, compassionate, courageous, honest, responsible leaders to regain the cockpit and reverse our country's descent into an abyss of disrespect, irrationality, incompetence, and corruption. Many candidates have the good will to do so. A few have well-thought plans for doing so. Some have the experience of actually getting positive changes done in Washington. Some have a life history that commits their soul to improving a middle-class economy for working people. Some have the fire to burn Donald Trump. All candidates have some of these qualifications. Elizabeth Warren has all of them.
She is real. She is qualified. And, she is natural enough to crack a smile
Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.
to page six

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Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"Sarcasm is when you tell someone the truth by lying on purpose."
— Chuck Klosterman (1972-) author, from *Downtown Owl*

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"May the forces of evil become confused on the way to your house."

— George Carlin

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.

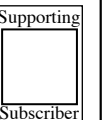


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Tax Dodgers Incorporated

Fats Domino sings: "I found my thrill, on Blueberry Hill." Maybe, but America's richest corporate powers know precisely where to find their thrill: On Capitol Hill!

They rushed there in 2017 with a passion hotter than high school love, spewing the pheromones of campaign cash into the Republican Congressional caucus. Sure enough, the GOP Congress came through for the corporations, satisfying their

lust to have their tax rate lowered from 35 percent to 21 percent—lower than a modest-income working stiff pays.

Actually, the corporate elites had not been paying anywhere near 35 percent, since they used dozens of loopholes to cut their average rate to about 13 percent. Yet, Republican lawmakers coddled these privileged giants with a rate cut—plus they kept intact most of those gaping

loopholes. Thus, many corporate behemoths paid zero in federal taxes this year. Or less!

How is it possible to pay less than zero? By riddling the tax code with so many special deductions and gimmicks that the government owes you money! On tax day this year, a watchdog group called ITEP (Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy) issued a report documenting that 60 of America's biggest corpo-

rations used the GOP's tax cut and special breaks to avoid paying a dime in taxes on the \$79 billion in profits they'd hauled in.

Indeed, they were given millions of dollars in rebates from our public treasury. For example, Amazon, which had \$11 billion in profit last year, paid zero in federal income tax, instead plucking \$126 million in rebates from us. Likewise, Chevron, John Deere, GM, and Prudential

grabbed more than \$100 million.

This plutocratic ripoff is so shameful and unAmerican that a group of embarrassed rich people are calling for its repeal. For information go to PatrioticMillionaires.org.

—==—

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from page six

16th Amendment and replace the income/payroll tax system with the FAIRtax bill HR 25, the only fair tax. Learn more a bigsolution.org

Paul Livingston
Jacksonville, Fla.

Paul:

Still peddling the same old hogwash, eh? Your "Big Solution" is a big scam. Pigs will fly before Congress abolishes the income tax and replaces it with a 23 percent sales tax. If it ever did happen, it would only tip the scales farther in favor of the haves, at the expense of the working stiff.

Why, then, is this zombie scheme still doddering around? Neal Boortz, famous chickenhawk, wrote a book about it. He makes money every time some rube buys a copy. Unless you're getting a percentage of the proceeds—congratulations, chump.

The Editor

—==—

Yet Another Correction

Hi Editor,

One of your almanac entries for June 20 is incorrect—off by a month. Pancho Villa actually died on July 20, 1923. There also seems to be some doubt as to whether he uttered the lovely last words attributed to him. Here's the relevant bit from Wikipedia:

"On Friday, 20 July 1923, Villa was killed while visiting Parral. He frequently made trips from his ranch to Parral for banking and other errands, where he generally felt secure. Villa was usually accompanied by his entourage of Dorados, or bodyguards, but for some unknown reason on that day he had gone into the town without most of them, taking with him only three guards and two

other employees. He went to pick up a consignment of gold from the local bank with which to pay his Canutilo ranch staff. While driving back through the city in his black 1919 Dodge touring car, Villa passed by a school, and a pumpkinseed vendor ran toward his car and shouted Viva Villa!, a signal to a group of seven riflemen who then appeared in the middle of the road and fired more than 40 rounds into the automobile. In the fusillade, nine dum dum bullets, normally used for hunting big game, hit Villa in the head and upper chest, killing him instantly. Claro Huertado (a bodyguard), Rafael Madreno (Villa's main personal bodyguard), Danie Tamayo (his personal secretary), and Colonel Miguel Trillo (who also served as his chauffeur, were also killed. One of Villa's bodyguards, Ramon Contreras, was badly wounded but managed to kill at least one of the assassins before he escaped; Contreras was the only survivor. Villa is reported to have died saying, "Don't let it end like this. Tell them I said something," but there is no contemporary evidence that he survived his shooting even momentarily. Historian and biographer Friedrich Katz, wrote in 1998 that Villa died instantly. *Time* also reported in 1951 that both Villa and his aide (Tamayo) were killed instantly."

Keep up the good work!

Paul Fischler
Rochester, N.H.

Paul:

Once again we are in your debt; it appears that item fell into the wrong

folder. Since the attribution appears dubious, we'll retire it.

As it happens, then—President Álvaro Obregón, who is considered a likely instigator of Villa's assassination, makes his own appearance on page eight of this issue, under the entry for July 17th.

The Editor

—==—

Vice is a Timely Reminder

To the Editor:

Vice, the biopic about former Vice President Dick Cheney, was an absolute must see for me the moment I heard an excerpt from actor Christian Bale's Golden Globe acceptance speech, in which he thanked Satan for giving him the "inspiration" on how to play the role of Cheney.

I highly recommend this film to anyone who might be feeling nostalgic for the Bush/Cheney years and who have obviously forgotten the long-term damage the regime inflicted on this nation: an economy on the verge of sinking into a second Great Depression, and a costly war on at least two major fronts (Afghanistan and Iraq).

The film reminded me that Dick Cheney, the former CEO of Halliburton (an energy infrastructure company which profits from war), was able to obtain far more power than a typical Vice President. Taking full advantage of a gullible and unenlightened G.W. Bush allowed Cheney to oversee important matters related to energy, foreign policy, intelligence and the military. It was obvious, to all paying attention, that

Cheney had successfully usurped Executive power from Bush and even implemented the Unitary Executive Theory, which basically says anything the President does is legal just by virtue of being President.

Vice highlights that Cheney, with the help of Project for a New American Century Neoconservatives in the administration, was able to use the power he hijacked and the 9/11/2001 al Qaeda attacks on America as a launching pad for the invasion and occupation of Iraq. He justified his actions with lies about Iraq having huge stockpiles of WMDs and ties to al Qaeda. Our war with Iraq caused tremendous death and destruction, greatly increased our National Debt, was a major impetus in the creation of ISIS, and caused the massive refugee crisis we are witnessing today.

I urge you to let *Vice* serve as a timely reminder. We currently have a very similar scenario in which V.P. Pence, Secretary of State Pompeo, and National Security Advisor John Bolton have clearly usurped Executive power from their dotard boss and are intent on instigating war with Iran, which would be a terrible mistake on many levels.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

—==—

Public Servants Take Heed

To the Editor:

The sovereign people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies or the public servants which serve them. All are defined as substitutes and agents of the peo-

ple and at all times accountable to them. See Article Eight of our Bill of Rights.

The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. They are limited by the chains of the Constitution. Hence, the people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created. Those public servants who chose to disregard their sworn obligations, (and I believe they know who they are) have personally decided to follow a path of dishonor. This is a voluntary choice and one that places them subject, *ipso facto*, to the penalty of RSA 92:2 and exposes them and their spouse, as being personally liable, financially and criminally.

It is a privilege to serve the people and it should be honor to do so.

Rep. Dick Marple
Merrimack (#24), N.H.

Readers:

We're not exactly sure what Dick is getting at here, but whenever we read the word sovereign, we reach for the RSAs. For the record, here's New Hampshire RSA 92:2 "Oath Required. — No person chosen or appointed to any public office or to any position where an oath is required, under any law, shall exercise such office or position or perform any act therein until he shall make and subscribe the oath or declaration as prescribed by part 2, article 84 of the constitution of New Hampshire, and any such person who violates said oath after taking the same shall be forthwith dismissed from the office or position involved."

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, July 7	Monday, July 8	Tuesday, July 9	Wednesday, July 10	Thursday, July 11	Friday, July 12	Saturday, July 13
1986—Reagan’s A.G., Ed Meese, achieves quasi-legislative status for Presidential Signing Statements, which previously had had little impact, by persuading West Publishing to include them in law books. 1967—General Nguyen Chi Thanh dies of a heart attack after excessively celebrating the Politburo’s approval of his Tet Offensive plan. 1954—As puppet Premier Diem arrives in Saigon, U.S. Gen. John W. O’Daniel, says “the war in Vietnam can be won without bringing in one single American soldier to fight.” 1950—FBI Chief J. Edgar “Mary” Hoover proposes the permanent detention of 12,000 people he deems “potentially dangerous to the internal security of the country.” 1905—Kentucky hangs Robert Mathley, but he’s six feet tall and the rope stretches. Officials with shovels dig until his feet don’t touch the earth. 1863—The U.S. begins exempting men with \$100 in cash from the draft. 1844—In Philadelphia, nativist Protestants and Irish Catholics armed with cannon fight it out at the Church of St. Philip Neri. 1826—In Frankfort, Ky., Jereboam O. Beauchamp, Esq. is hurriedly hanged for murder before he can bleed to death from a self-inflicted knife wound. Beauchamp and his wife Anna are then buried, embracing, in the same coffin; her end of their suicide pact having succeeded. 3:113:529:329:53	2016—Dallas Police use a bomb on a robot to kill a man suspected of having murdered five officers. 2004—The rotor chops the tail off a Robinson R22 in Rochester, Minn. The pilot dies, his instructor is injured. 1976—The State of New York yanks Richard Nixon’s law license. 1969—The U.S. begins withdrawing troops from Vietnam. 1962—The U.S. detonates a nuke 250 miles up, knocking out phones in Hawaii, 900 miles to the east, and crippling seven satellites. 1959—Viet Cong forces attack Bien Hoa air base, killing two U.S. advisors as they watch a movie. 1947—Radio reports say a UFO has crashed at Roswell, N.M. 1945—At a POW camp in Salina, Utah, Army Pvt. Clarence V. Bertucci machine guns 29 Germans; nine die. 1876—In Hamburg, S.C., 100 white men attack 40 black militiamen, capturing 25, of whom they murder five. No one is ever convicted. 1860—<i>Clotilda</i> lands in Mobile Bay with an illegal cargo. It’s the last ship to import enslaved Africans. 1853—Commodore Perry convinces the Japanese it’s better to trade with Americans than get shelled by them. 1835—The Liberty Bell cracks tolling the death of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. 1776—Philadelphia’s Liberty Bell summons citizens to hear the Declaration of Independence read. 4:084:4910:2510:53	2004—“I trust God speaks through me,” George W.[MD] Bush tells a group of Amish people. “Without that, I couldn’t do my job.” 1986—Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese publishes a 1,960 page report on pornography meticulously listing 100 pages worth of obscene movie, magazine, and book titles. 1982—Unemployed and barefoot Englishman Michael Fagan, 31, climbs a drainpipe, enters Buckingham Palace, and wakes Queen Elizabeth in her bedroom. 1958—Fourteen thousand U.S. troops, equipped with nuclear-capable rockets, invade Lebanon. 1958—A landslide falling into Lituya Bay, Alaska, causes a megatsunami over 1,700 feet high. 1951—Dashiell Hammett, 57, tubercular author of <i>The Maltese Falcon</i>, is sentenced to six months in prison by the House Un-American Activities Committee for his reticence. 1937—Oliver Law, a battalion commander in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and the first African-American to lead white troops, is killed in action in Spain. 1918—Two trains collide head-on in Nashville killing 101 and injuring another 171. It is the deadliest train wreck in U.S. history. 1846—Marines of the <i>U.S.S. Portsmouth</i> row ashore and raise the flag at Yerba Buena (now San Francisco) claiming California for the U.S. 5:095:4811:2211:57	2007—China executes its Director of the State Food and Drug Administration. Zheng Xiaoyu took bribes which led to 40 deaths. 2001—George Tenet tries to warn George Bush and Condi Rice about Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, but can’t get their attention. 1985—French secret police in the South Pacific blow up Greenpeace’s boat, <i>Rainbow Warrior</i>. 1972—Water used to fight an arson fire destroys the <i>U.S.S. Forrestal’s</i> computers and nearly capsizes her. 1972—Elephants driven mad by the heat stomp a village in India, 24 die. 1949—<i>Pamir</i>, a four-masted barque laden with barley, becomes the last sailing vessel to ’round Cape Horn with commercial cargo. 1929—The <i>Portsmouth Herald</i> reports that the Coast Guard has seized 129 cases of booze in Rye Harbor. 1926—Lightning hits a powder warehouse in Picatinny, N.J. Three days of explosions destroy 187 buildings, kill 19, and injure 38. 1925—The Scopes “Monkey Trial” begins serving its purpose—attracting attention to Dayton, Tenn. 1805—RIP Revolutionary War soldier Col. William Butler, court martialled for refusing to cut off his ponytail. “Bore a hole through the bottom of my coffin,” his will said, “[so] the damned rascal [his ex-CO] will see that, even when dead, I refuse to obey his orders.” 6:136:4812:20	2003—Condi Rice lies about White House knowledge of Joe Wilson’s Niger investigation; Ari Fleischer outs Valerie Plame as a CIA officer; Karl Rove lies to <i>Time</i> about Wilson’s wife, Plame; and CIA head George Tenet takes the rap for the White House’s lies about Iraq buying uranium. 1991—A defective heater sets a loaded ammunition carrier afire at Camp Doha in Kuwait. It explodes, scattering bomblets; blasts and fires consume 102 other vehicles, including four M1A1 Abrams tanks. The fires injure 49, three die cleaning up the mess. 1958—Richard and Mildred Loving are rousted out of bed in Central Point, Virginia and arrested for being married while black and white. 1955—Congress puts “In God We Trust” on all U.S. coins and paper currency; which god is not specified. 1953—Ike OK’s the overthrow of Iran’s Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddeq. What could go wrong? 1917—A Bisbee, Ariz. posse herds 1,186 striking copper miners into cattle cars and sends them by rail towards New Mexico with no food or water. 1864—Four miles north of the White House, at Ft. Stevens, Abraham Lincoln comes under enemy fire. 1804—At Weehauken, Hamilton fires into the ground in front of Burr. Burr aims and shoots Hamilton dead. 1713—Queen Anne’s War ends as Indians sign the Treaty of Portsmouth. The settlers soon renege. 7:197:481:021:20	2011—In Flandes, Colombia, a Robinson R66 helicopter sheds parts, then crashes, killing the former head of the Civil Air Patrol and his pilot. 1982—FEMA pledges that even in a nuclear war, the mail will get through. 1979—The White Sox are forced to forfeit a game after explosives damage the field during Disco Demolition Night at Comiskey Park. 1973—A fire in St. Louis, Mo. destroys the service records of 16 to 18 million Army and Air Force veterans. 1917—After 30 hours in cattle cars without food or water, 1,286 striking copper miners are left stranded in the New Mexico desert. No relief comes until the next day. 1908—Birth of Milton Berle, the first American transvestite to have his own television show. 1892—The Pennsylvania militia arrives at Homestead, Pa. to protect Andrew Carnegie’s right to make a buck. 1872—Orangemen avoid casualties by refraining from marching through Irish tenements in New York. 1871—Orangemen are attacked as they march through Irish tenements in New York; 60 die this time. 1870—Orangemen are attacked by an Irish mob as they march through Irish tenements in New York; eight die. 1864—The Natchez [Miss.] <i>Courier</i> reports that Jones County has seceded from the Confederacy. 1817—Pencilmaker and troublemaker Henry David Thoreau is born. 8:238:452:072:18	1999—Sen. Bob Smith (R-N.H.) drops out of the Presidential race, and the Republican Party to boot, to run as an Independent. 1987—Senator Warren B. Rudman [R-N.H.] sets Ollie North straight during the Iran-Contra hearings: “The American people have the constitutional right to be wrong.” 1977—During a heat wave and a financial crisis, with Son of Sam on the loose, lightning strikes cause a blackout in New York City. Chaos ensues. 1959—A sodium-cooled nuclear reactor in Simi Valley, Calif. has a partial meltdown, releasing 300 times more radiation than Three Mile Island, a fact kept secret for 20 years. 1950—A B-50 Superfortress crashes in Lebanon, Ohio, killing its crew of 16. The fissile core of the nuclear weapon on board not being installed, the crater made by its high explosives was only 25 feet deep. 1948—Israeli troops drive 70,000 Palestinians from their homes in Lydda and Remleh. 1943—Student Alexander Schmorell and Professor Kurt Huber, co-conspirators in the anti-Nazi pamphleteering group White Rose, are guillotined in Munich. 1863—A New York mob, enraged by draft laws exempting the rich and egged on by Democrats, go on a three-day rampage. They level whole blocks and attacking Greeley’s pro-Union <i>New York Tribune</i>. 9:249:403:073:15
Sunday, July 14	Monday, July 15	Tuesday, July 16	Wednesday, July 17	Thursday, July 18	Friday, July 19	Saturday, July 20
2004—The GOP tries to ban gay marriage but can’t rise to the occasion. 2003—Robert Novak outs CIA officer Valerie Plame in his column. 2000—A Florida jury orders five tobacco companies to pay \$145 billion in damages. An appeals court later lets them off the hook. 1989—Alabama tries twice, 19 minutes apart, to electrocute Horace F. Dunkins, who’s black and developmentally-disabled. The first try fails because the chair is wired wrong. 1981—New Hampshire businessman Max Hugel’s stint as Deputy Director of Operations at the CIA ends after 64 days due to revelations of unseemly stock market shenanigans. 1976—In Traves, France, unknown persons celebrate Bastille Day by burning war criminal Joachim Peiper’s house—with him in it. 1970—R. Nixon approves the Huston plan to burgle and surveil Americans. It’s so bad J. Edgar Hoover nixes it. 1948—Southerners walk out of the Democratic convention to form the pro-segregation States’ Rights Party. 1921—Massachusetts’ show trial of Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti ends with a guilty verdict. 1798—The Sedition Act passes, making it a crime to criticize the government—especially President Adams. 1791—In Lausanne, Vevey, and Rolle, Switzerland, citizens celebrate the liberation of the Bastille, shouting “Live free or die.” 10:2010:314:034:08	1995—A derecho sends hurricane force winds through New York and New England, toppling thousands of trees and killing three people. 1979—Jimmy Carter delivers his “malaise” speech, in which the word “malaise” does not appear. 1974—In Florida, on live TV, newsreader Christine Chubbuck pulls a loaded pistol from a shopping bag and shoots herself dead. 1971—Nixon says he’ll go to China. 1964—The Republican Party saddles itself with Barry Goldwater as a presidential candidate. 1954—“Operation Wetback” begins throwing “Mexican-looking” people out of the U.S. 1919—The then-honestly-named War Department calls 337,000 Americans draft dodgers. 1877—President John W. Garrett, of the B & O Railroad, gives his shareholders a 10% dividend and his workers a 10% pay cut. 1865—In Rye, N.H. an optical illusion causes the Isles of Shoals to appear to be only a mile or two offshore. 1779—General “Mad Anthony” Wayne’s troops take 700 prisoners with a bayonet charge at Stony Point. 1685—Executioner Jack Ketch eventually beheads the Duke of Monmouth, after eight ax blows. 1381—Lollard preacher John Ball, for inspiring the Peasants’ Revolt, is hanged, drawn, and quartered as Richard II looks on with approval. 11:1111:194:544:58	2010—As a running Robinson R44 helicopter is being loaded on a truck at Salt Lake City, an accident kills one person and seriously injures three. 1991—The Trump Taj Mahal files for bankruptcy 467 days after opening. 1979—A dam, badly built on shaky ground, collapses in Church Rock, N.M., spilling 1,100 tons of radioactive mill waste, 93 million gallons of effluent, and as much radioactivity as Three Mile Island. 1973—Al Butterfield reveals he’s been bugging the Oval office at the behest of The Man himself. 1964—A white cop shoots James Powell, black and 15, dead. The Harlem riots begin. 1963—In NYC, Tom Cornell and Chris Kearns stage the first anti-Vietnam War demonstration. 1945—The Atomic Age begins with a bang at Alamogordo, N.M. 1934—Workers in San Francisco conduct a four-day General Strike. 1877—B&O RR firemen in Martinsburg, W.Va. strike against wage cuts. 1858—To resist prostitutes, Thomas P. “Boston” Corbett castrates himself with a pair of scissors. Seven years later he will kill John Wilkes Booth. 1854—A conductor in New York City tells Elizabeth Jennings Graham to get off his streetcar, since she’s black. She refuses. In court, she wins desegregation, \$250, and court costs. 1790—Congress votes to build the nation’s capitol in a swamp. 11:5811:546:246:26	2015—Portsmouth cops grill Mike Thiel at his office about a letter in which he complains about helicopters. 1995—An Australian, herding cattle with a Robinson R22 helicopter, is killed after it breaks up in mid-air. 1979—Ex-dictator Anastasio Somoza flees Nicaragua for Miami, bringing with him family caskets and much of the national treasury. 1965—An American press officer in Saigon tells Morley Safer “if you think any American official is going to tell you the truth, then you’re stupid.” 1962—The U.S. conducts its last near-ground atmospheric nuke test: the .018 kiloton “Little Feller.” A company of soldiers is marched through ground zero 26 minutes later. 1955—Lightning ignites a huge mine placed near Ypres in 1916. A cow is the only casualty. 1944—Two munitions ships explode at Port Chicago, Calif., killing 322, mostly black bomb handlers. 1935—RIP Cudjoe Lewis, in Africatown, Mobile, Ala., last known survivor of the Atlantic slave trade. 1928—Partying with Mexican Revolution veterans, President Alvaro Obregon tells strolling caricaturist Leon Toral, “Make sure you make me look good.” Toral says, “I will,” and shoots him dead. 1877—Gov. Henry Mathews calls out a local militia company to suppress the Martinsburg, W.Va. railroad strike. It sides with strikers, instead. 12:0312:416:246:26	2012—Rep. Darrell Issa [R-Car Alarm] proposes naming U.S. territorial waters after Ronald Reagan. 1985—Doped up after cancer surgery five days earlier, Ronald Reagan OKs an arms-for-hostages deal with Iran. 1984—James O. Huberty tells his wife he’s “going to hunt humans,” then kills 21 and wounds 19 at a San Diego McDonald’s. A sniper gets him. His widow sues Mickey D’s for poisoning his mind with MSG. Her suit fails. 1981—Norman Mailer’s protege Jack Abbott, on work release after a stretch for bank robbery, stabs a man to death in the East Village. 1972—The <i>U.S.S. Ranger</i> is disabled after bolts and a paint scraper are intentionally dropped into the gears. 1969—Senator Ted Kennedy gives Mary Jo Kopechne a ride part of the way home from a party, goes for a swim, then takes a nap. 1944—Ordered by <i>der Führer</i> to kill a fly, aide Fritz Darges suggests it’s a job for the Luftwaffe. He’s immediately banished to the Eastern Front. 1938—Douglas “Wrong Way” Corrigan lands in Ireland after an unauthorized trans-Atlantic flight. 1925—H.L. Mencken is nearly run out of Dayton, Tenn. on a rail by its pious Christian inhabitants. 1877—Governor Henry Mathews of West Virginia pleads for U.S. Marines to suppress the B & O railroad strike. 1862—Confederate rangers use fake cannons to capture Newburgh, Ill. 12:451:217:057:07	2011—Wendi Murdoch deftly deflects a pie aimed at her husband Rupert, as he’s being grilled about phone-hacking by Parliament. 2010—Terrified by a malignly-edited <i>YouTube</i> clip, Sec. of Ag. Tom Vilsack has USDA employee Shirley Sherrod pulled over by the side of the road and summarily fired. 2001—Deputy Chairman of the British Conservative party Lord Jeffrey Archer is convicted of perjury and sentenced to 4 years. 1994—Dining with reporters in the Capitol, Sen. Howell Heflin (D-Ala.) pulls what he thinks is a hankie from his pocket, and wipes his nose with a pair of panties. 1991—South Africa’s government admits it paid Zulus to undermine the African National Congress. 1985—Concord, N.H. teacher Christa McAuliffe is chosen to be first “Teacher in Space.” 1979—Sandinistas march triumphantly into Managua. 1972—The AFL-CIO announces it won’t support George McGovern. 1957—A two-kiloton nuclear warhead carried by an air-to-air missile explodes 18,000 feet above five Air Force volunteers at Yucca Flats. 1919—White Washingtonians enraged by racist headlines begin attacking blacks in the nation’s capital. 1848—At the first Women’s Rights convention held at Seneca Falls, N.Y., “Bloomers” are introduced. 1:252:007:437:48	2017—Secretary of State Tillerson tells other Administration officials that President Trump is “a moron.” 2002—The FBI arrests three former NASA interns for stealing a 600 lb. safe holding moon rocks. 2001—Lori Klausutis, 28, a Congressional aide, is found dead in the Fort Walton Beach office of Rep. Joe Scarborough (R-Fla.). 1985—Mel Fisher begins hauling \$400,000,000 worth of gold off the ocean floor near Key West, Fla., where it had lain for 363 years. 1984—Famed runner and fitness fanatic Jim Fixx, dies of a heart attack while jogging at 52. 1973—Martial artist and fitness fanatic Bruce Lee dies at 32. 1969—Neil Armstrong goes for a walk—on the moon. 1956—A scheduled election intended to reunify Vietnam is blocked by the South, with Ike’s concurrence. 1948—Harry Truman kicks off the U.S.’s first peacetime draft. 1944—German generals try but fail to kill Hitler with a bomb. 1929—The Mt. Washington Railway’s “Old Peppersass” busts an axle. Somehow only one man dies. 1919—Rioting intensifies in Washington, D.C.: white mobs beat blacks in front of the White House. 1877—The B & O Railroad strike spreads to Maryland, where workers threaten to blow up bridges and run trains into rivers. 2:032:388:218:28

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