

The Fortnightly Rant

Profit or Survival?

Wow—David Koch is dead; the Business Roundtable is reconsidering the Gospel According to Milton Friedman; and Fox News says a peace deal with the Taliban could come any day now. Is the Age of Aquarius finally upon us?

Probably not.

Our first thought on hearing of Koch's demise, was, "Damn, Billy the Shake was right again."

The evil that men do lives after them;

The good is oft interrèd with their bones.

Googling "philanthropist David Koch" produced 82,900 results on Tuesday, reflecting a public image carefully burnished by donations to medical research, the arts, and prison reform. By giving away a tiny fraction of his vast annual income, Koch was able to pose as a great and selfless benefactor of mankind. Tax laws let him buy high status with what, for him, was petty cash. A search for "David Koch" and "rapacious planet-killer," on the other hand, draws a blank. A failure of the algorithm, a success for the PR.

At best, such benign philanthropy was a distant third item on the agenda for David and Charles Koch. Item number one, of course, was to profit from the fossil fuel industry. Item two was the development of a political machine designed to defend item one at all costs.

While David molders, young people today must fight for their lives—and it's a two-fronted war, at that: against a rapidly destabilizing climate and the propaganda juggernaut he created to hide it.

Milton Friedman's Big, Bad Idea

Page eight of this paper commemorates, in the entry for September 12th, *The New York Times'* publication in 1970 of an essay by Milton Friedman.

Coming in at 2,000 words, "The

Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits" amounted to its ten-word title reiterated 200 times, to assure that everyone got the point.

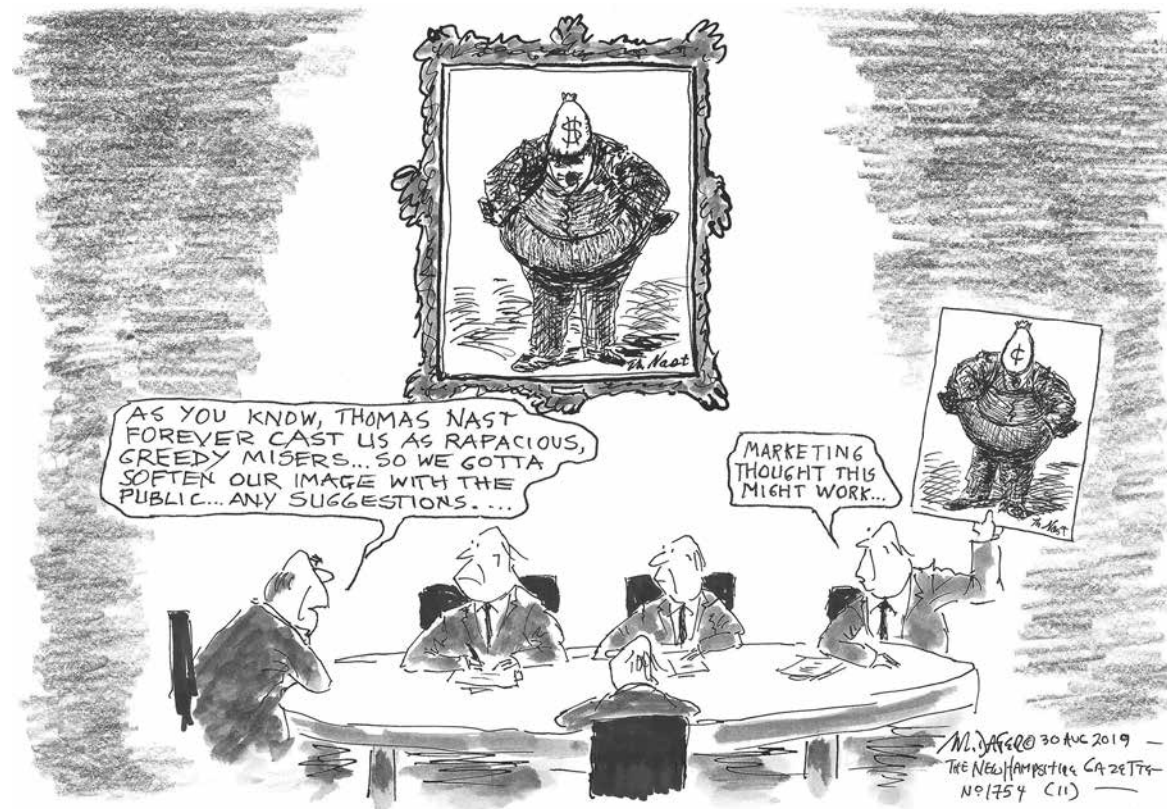
Get the point they did, too. The Friedman Doctrine, as it's now called, spread like kudzu. A lot of CEOs, though—about 98 percent, by our rough guess—missed a little rhetorical flourish Friedman added to distinguish the modern corporation from its predatory predecessors: a business is free to "use its resources and engage in activities designed to increase its profits *so long as it stays within the rules of the game, which is to say, engages in open and free competition without deception or fraud.*" [Emphasis added.]

In retrospect, one might argue that more oversight would have been helpful.

When the Friedman Doctrine was just getting started, Joseph L. Bower, a professor at Harvard Business School—hardly a bastion of socialism—told NPR that the Friedman Doctrine was "pernicious nonsense." Subsequent events seem to have proved him right. Wages have been flat for decades while the cost of living has soared. Our biggest export has been good-paying manufacturing jobs. As for deceit and fraud, it is now firmly established as a business sector unto itself.

In 2017, Bower was still at it. An article he co-wrote was featured in the *Harvard Business Review*: "The Error at the Heart of Corporate Leadership: Most CEOs and boards believe their main duty is to maximize shareholder value. It's not."

Now, we are asked to believe, the message has finally gotten through to our benevolent corporate overlords. On August 19, the Business Roundtable—"an association of



chief executive officers of America's leading companies"—released "a new Statement on the Purpose of a Corporation signed by 181 CEOs who commit to lead their companies for the benefit of all stakeholders—customers, employees, suppliers, communities and shareholders."

Better late than never, we suppose. Pardon us if we cling to our skepticism.

Peace With Honor, The Sequel

Tuesday morning NPR warned listeners that, since the U.S. is apparently getting ready to get out of Afghanistan, we can also expect a rerun of the intractable argument that accompanied the Fall of Saigon.

That segment would have been more illuminating if NPR had gone back another quarter-century. Returning to page eight of this issue, we see that on September 3, 1950, Harry S Truman sent U.S. military advisors to Vietnam. They went to shore up France, our NATO ally, which was still weak after WW II.

This put the U.S.—bastion of democracy, promoter of self-determination—in the somewhat awkward position of assisting a colonial power as it was waging a war against an indigenous insurgency. It was OK though, because the insurgents were communists. That's the magic word, apparently.

What was our beef against Communism? It was perceived as a threat to capitalism. Truman wasn't about to take any chances, either. The Republicans were already going ape on him for "losing China." It was more convenient to blame Truman, a Democrat, than their own man, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Chiang, the leader of the Kuomintang and our ostensible ally in China during WW II, was more interested in graft, corruption, and drug-running than fighting the Japanese or Mao Zedong.

Strip away the patriotic mumbo-jumbo, and here's what we're left with: 58,220 men died 50 years ago

to protect the right of corporations to continue to profit off the labor of workers—who, in the intervening years, have more likely than not been prevented from joining together to form a union to protect their own interests from capitalists.

Fortunately, the central issue these days is less obscure than it was half a century ago. Unfortunately, the stakes are higher.

The atmosphere is today's Vietnam. Kids want to keep breathing. Capitalists don't want to give up their vested interests in businesses which profit from strip-mining the kids' ability to breathe in the future.

Nikhil Pal Singh, an NYU professor and "historian of racism, empire, national insecurity," recently tweeted, "In the 1940s, the modern GOP's granddaddy Robert Taft said fascism was less dangerous than socialism because the American people might actually like socialism the more they learned about it."

Let us hope it's not too late.

The Alleged News®

There's Got to Be a Pony In Here Somewhere

Occupant #45 has been taking up space in the nation's most expensive public housing unit for 952 days now—which is actually reassuring. August of 2019 seemed unimaginably remote and purely speculative in January of 2017.

For some reason, though, we keep thinking about a joke, the way a song can get stuck in your head. A man was asked "how's it going?" as he plummeted past an open window on the fifth floor of an office building. "Fine, so far," he replied.

Maybe it's because on Wednesday morning, a Google search for "Trump hurricane nuke" returned nearly 50 million results. That's a little disconcerting.

Jonathan Swan and Margaret Talev, reporting for *Axios*—a not-unreliable news outlet—posted the ur-story Sunday. Quoting "sources who have heard the president's pri-

vate remarks and been briefed on a National Security Council memorandum that recorded those comments," the story described a White House briefing on hurricanes in which the President said—one can almost see him leaning forward in one of those school chairs with a writing arm, waving his hand in the air, except that would imply he was being polite—"I got it. I got it. Why don't we nuke them?... They start forming off the coast of Africa, as they're moving across the Atlantic, we drop a bomb inside the eye of the hurricane and it disrupts it. Why can't we do that?"

Swan and Talev write that the Commander-in-Chief made this proposal several times. Anticipating the inevitable question, at least one such suggestion predated John Bolton's hiring as National Security Advisor.

The source said, of the room's reaction: "You could hear a gnat fart in that meeting. People were astonished. After the meeting ended, we thought, 'What the f___? What do we do with this?'"

The story dropped late Sunday. Early on Monday, from Europe, the President tweeted that the story was "ridiculous," denied he ever "said this," and called it "just more FAKE News!" Late Monday he reiterated that message. Tuesday evening he took the time to write his own counter-narrative: "Axios (whatever that is) sat back and said GEEEEEE, let's see, what can we make up today to embarrass the President? Then they said, 'why don't we say he wants to bomb a hurricane, that should do it!' The media in our Country is totally out of control!"

Hmmm... what might he propose to bring the media under control?

Family Feud

This just in: They're probably safe—if any news organization has a functioning nuclear bomb shelter, it's Fox News—but on Wednesday morning, *El Presidente* went ballistic, aiming his ire at his own Ministry of Propaganda.

"America's Newsroom," Fox's morning "straight news" program [Guffaw.], had the temerity to interview DNC spokeswoman Xochitl Hinojosa.

Host Sandra Smith—who, as it happens, is an attractive blonde woman—spoke with Hinojosa about the Democratic candidates, recent polling, and the upcoming debates. We listened carefully, but heard no references to hand size, comb overs, or tax returns. Even so, the segment clearly agitated the stable genius whose finger hovers over the nuclear launch button.

As the Nation's Oldest Newspaper,™ we include the full tirade for the benefit of posterity, on the off chance there will be one:

"Just watched @FoxNews heavily promoting the Democrats through their DNC Communications Director, spewing out whatever she wanted with zero pushback by anchor, @SandraSmithFox. Terrible considering that Fox couldn't even land a debate, the Dems give them NOTHING! @CNN & @MSNBC... are all in for the Open Border Socialists (or beyond). Fox hires "give Hillary the questions" @donabrazile, Juan Williams and low ratings Shep Smith. HOPELESS & CLUELESS! They should go all the way LEFT and I will still find a way to Win - That's what I do, Win.

The Alleged News®

from page one

Too Bad!...I don't want to Win for myself, I only want to Win for the people. The New @FoxNews is letting millions of GREAT people down! We have to start looking for a new News Outlet. Fox isn't working for us anymore!"

That last line cut too close to the quick for a few of Fox's [Cough.] journalists.

"Fox News isn't supposed to work for you," Brit Hume replied. That response, of course, raised questions. If Fox "isn't supposed to" work for the President, why does it? Also, if Hume doesn't approve of Fox working for the President, shouldn't he take that up with his boss, rather than the President?

The Chosen One

A week ago last Wednesday, while standing on the White House lawn

belligerently justifying the trade war he began against the Chinese, as one does, President Trump was saying "Somebody had to do it..." when he turned to his left, looked up towards the heavens, said "I am the Chosen One." He then went back to his irregularly-scheduled programming, repeating, "somebody had to do it," &c., &c.

After the media and the public sputtered for a while over this grotesque proclamation, Trump said he had just been joking. This newspaper is probably the last place anyone should look for qualified judgments on theological matters—with one exception: we know that when it comes to reporting on specific Presidential inanities, we're damned if we do, and damned if we don't. We're putting this one in the file to gauge what it takes for his evangelical base to quit him.

If blasphemy won't do it, the trade war with China might. Few work-



The Flag Police are a humorless lot of workaholics, as we all know. They could not, however, turn down an invitation to the recent North Mill Pond Regatta. Once there, though, they reverted to type. Following an anonymous tip, they collected the evidence seen above. Despite years of experience, they were briefly at a loss. Is a coat of paint on a slab of concrete even a flag? Taking neither chances nor prisoners, as is their wont, the Flag Police ruled in the affirmative. As a flag, it was clearly in violation of the Flag Code: the blue field—which sports an anachronistic thirteen stars—is displayed in the upper right. Fortunately, the object in question appears to be on property belonging to an operation with access to heavy equipment. A 90° counter-clockwise rotation should bring it into compliance.

ing people are in any position to ride out a deep global recession. In fact, when it comes to economic security, most working people are no better off than they—or their parents or grandparents—were on March 18, 1968, when Martin Luther King, Jr. said this in Memphis, two weeks before he was assassinated:

"[I]t is a crime for people to live in this rich nation and receive starvation wages. ...Do you know that most of the poor people in our country are working every day? And they are making wages so low that they cannot begin to function in the mainstream of the economic life of our nation. These are facts which must be seen, and it is criminal to have people working on a full-time basis and a full-time job getting part-time income."

A Lot of Gall at the Galt House

We have one more item in this same vein. As it happens, it's from the same day. The Individual in Question was apparently invited to address the annual convention of

AMVETS. Either that, or he just barged in, grabbed the podium, and started talking.

AMVETS is one of the nation's smaller Veterans Service Organizations,* but apparently its agenda was huge. Its booking at The Galt House in Louisville ran for ten days.

Always suspicious, we wondered if Galt House was named after a certain Ayn Rand's character. It wasn't, but we were not disappointed.

Galt House was named for an earlier hotel in the same vicinity. There, in 1862, Union General Jefferson C. Davis—no relation to the President of the Confederate States of America—argued with, scuffled with, and then shot fellow Union General William "Bull" Nelson. Nelson died two days later. Davis was never charged, and soon resumed his duties—competent generals were in short supply. The

* The American Legion claims about two million members, the Disabled American Veterans claim 1.2 million, and the VFW claims 1.15 million. AMVETS has about 250,000.

incident did put a damper on Davis' chances for promotion, though.

Now, where were we? Or, when are we? Ah, yes, it's 157 years later, and there's a Republican in the White House. It's not Abraham Lincoln, though, it's Donald Trump.

Speaking to an audience which doubtless included a considerable proportion of veterans of the war that he dodged, Trump mused, "Medal of Honor...nothing like the Medal of Honor. I wanted one, but they told me I don't qualify. I said, 'Can I give it to myself anyway?' They said 'I don't think that's a good idea.'"

Vermine the Libertarian?

That's about as much absurdity as we can handle in one fortnight. Let's move on to more cheerful and serious topics.

Vermine Supreme is running for President again. The bushy-bearded gentleman so suave he looks dapper with a big rubber boot on his head, announced on August 21st that, after seven independent campaigns,

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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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he has filed with the FEC for the nomination of the Libertarian Party. It was unclear at press time whether he would continue to use his former slogan, “The friendly fascist, a tyrant you can trust.” His highly-popular platform seems unchanged: mandatory dental hygiene, pony-based economy, &c.

Full Disclosure: We’ve been in the tank for Vermin since 2004, when he offered us footage of an exclusive interview with John McCain. The Senator had alleged that Karl Rove dynamited the Old Man of the Mountain, out of spite for McCain’s victory over George W. Bush in the First in the Nation™ Presidential Primary Election.® That video can still be seen online at nhgazette.com/?p=6487.

—==—
In Which We Go Postal!

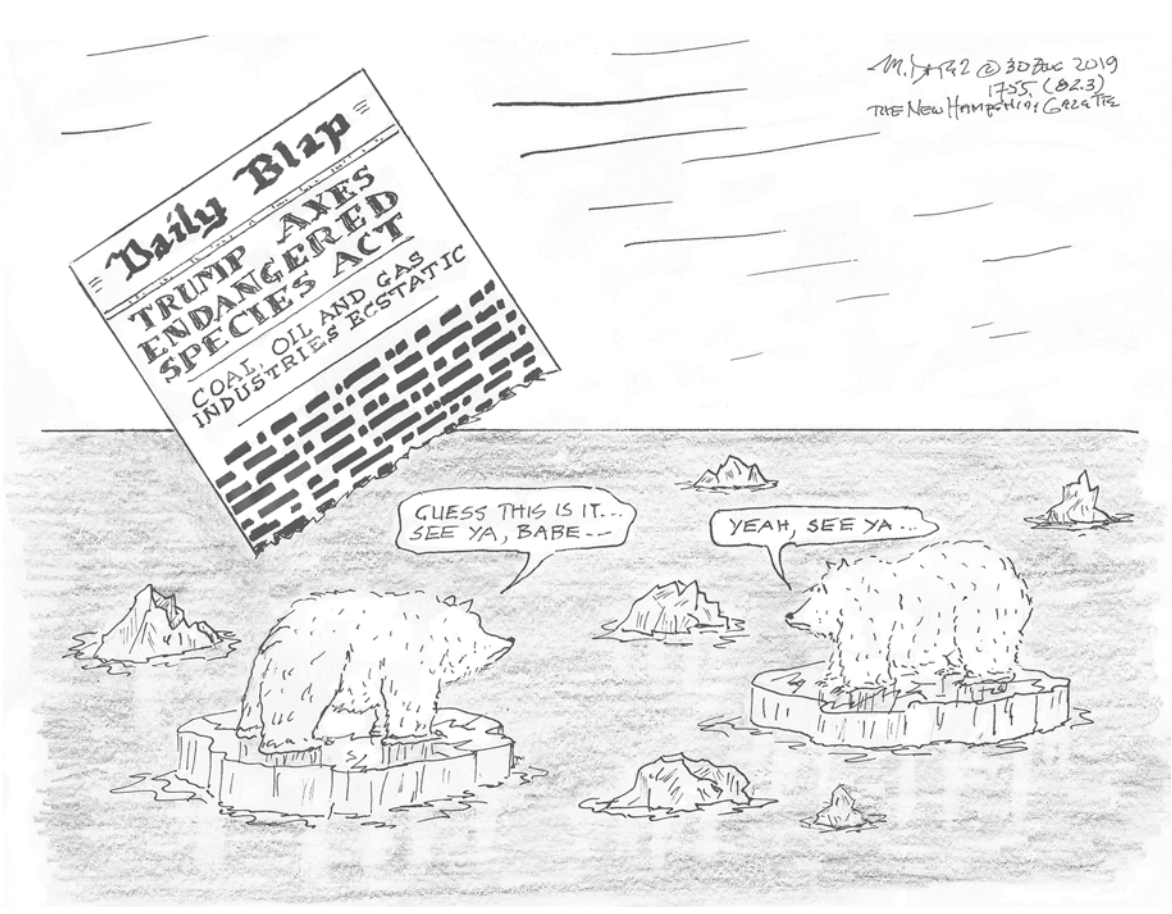
Years ago, Stoddard, New Hampshire, population under 150, had a postal counter in Eaton’s store, along with a small block of Post Office boxes. As of Tuesday, September 3rd, downtown Portsmouth will lack even that basic amenity. Henceforth until God knows when, thousands of people living and doing business here will be driving five miles to buy a damn stamp.

It took a lot of poor decisions to reach this dismal outcome, but it was Senator Judd Gregg who planted the bad seed in 2003.

Under his plan the GSA would use a \$25 million appropriation engineered by our frugal Senator to put up a new federal building—the Gregg building, perhaps?—at the Pease Tradeport. The City of Portsmouth would then be able to buy the vacated McIntyre building from the General Services Administration for \$1.

At that point the City could do as it liked. Naturally, demolition was the first thing on most people’s minds. Gregg dangled visions of plentiful parking, a few appropriately-scaled, buildings, in tasteful Federal style, and a generous patch of greensward leading from Daniel Street down to Ceres and Bow streets. It sounded great. People couldn’t wait.

Six years later, they were still waiting. A February 13, 2009 headline in the *New Hampshire Business Review* read, “Red tape mires Portsmouth federal building project.” A GSA factsheet quoted by the magazine said planning for the new building was about 30 percent complete. That may be as far as it got.



Like any self-respecting city or town, Portsmouth used to have a conveniently located downtown Post Office. Come Monday, though—barring any highly-unlikely, last-minute reprieves—this is what it will look like.

February, 2009 was an interesting month. On the 2nd, newly-inaugurated President Obama offered Senator Gregg the position of Secretary of Commerce. Gregg was quite eager to take the job—until he wasn’t.

That quick change of heart was a puzzlement to many—until February 27th, when AP reported that Senator Gregg had “steered taxpayer money to his home state’s redevelopment of a former Air Force base even as he and his brother engaged in real estate deals there.” Gregg denied any connection between the AP story and his withdrawal, but the revelations would have made confirmation hearings before his peers in the Senate...awkward.

Gregg was Governor when Pease Air Force Base closed in 1991. He responded by creating the Pease Development Authority. Its bonds were backed by the state. The state spent “at least \$10 million in state roadwork to help transform Pease from a military installation to a business

center. “Such efforts to convert defunct bases were encouraged by the federal government,” AP’s Sharon Theimer wrote. “But the personal financial involvement of Gregg and his brother, Cyrus, at Pease sets it apart from other bases’ redevelopment.”

According to the wire service, the Senator had invested hundreds of thousands in his brother Cyrus’ projects at Pease, and “collected at least \$240,017 to \$651,801...while helping arrange at least \$66 million in federal aid for the former base.

“Gregg said he violated no laws or Senate rules.” While apparently true, the statement damns Senate ethics rules more than it praises his fiscal probity.

As he was turning Curtis LeMay’s old SAC base into Disneyland for corporate commandos, he was also struggling to balance the state’s budget. Again he showed a flair for financial creativity.

His predecessor, John H. Sununu,

father of our current Governor, had bragged about leaving behind a comfortable surplus. It turned out instead to be a huge deficit.

Gregg solved the problem with an imaginative little thing which came to be called Mediscam. He established a new tax on hospital revenue, tapped the federal government for matching funds, then kicked the tax money back to the hospitals. The federal matching funds were used to cover Sununu’s deficit.

As with so many pernicious practices, it became a habit. The state has collected billions with this method over the years. As the *Concord Monitor* put it in a 2013 editorial, though, “in 2011 the state started sending less back to hospitals. They were no longer held harmless but harmed to the tune of some \$250 million. That led to the loss of hundreds of hospital jobs and at least one hospital’s decision to stop seeing Medicaid patients.”

Still no income tax, though!

Murph’s Fortnightly Quote

“The point is, you can never be too greedy.”

— Donald Trump

“If voting changed anything, they’d make it illegal.”

— Emma Goldman (1869–1940)
Lithuanian-American philosopher and activist

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“America owes a lot to John Wayne. If it wasn’t for John Wayne, we would have lost the Vietnam War even in the movies.”

— Professor Irwin Corey, The World’s Foremost Authority

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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

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He's Lives!

To the Editor:

Considering the promises, the last Democrat [*sic passim*] Presidential Primary debates should have been in Disney's Fantasyland. No entity in American history has been more harmful to poor and middle income, especially black, Americans than Democrats.

Democrats supported slavery, created the KKK and protected it, made former KKK leaders honored Congressional leaders, passed and enforced Jim Crow laws and segregation, President Wilson re-segregated government employment, passed minimum wage and the Davis-Bacon acts to reduce black work opportunities, and set dogs on peaceful civil-rights protesters. Democrats opposed the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. Democrats opposed Republican President Eisenhower's Civil Rights Act of 1957, and a smaller percent of Democrats than Republicans voted for the Civil Rights and Voting Acts of the 1960s.

Democrat Welfare laws have destroyed poor, and especially black, families. Out-of-wedlock births have skyrocketed from 5 percent overall and 25 percent in the black community in the 1960s to over 40 percent overall, and almost 80 percent in the black community. Children in households without fathers are often poor and prone to problems.

Democrats do little to nothing to help poor and middle income people prosper so they can earn the money they need to support themselves and their family, live as they want, put their children through college, save for retirement, and have pride in their own accomplishments.

Education is key to success; but public education, which is Democrat controlled, fails millions of students annually despite continuous funding (by increased taxes) increases. E.g., Baltimore had 13 high schools (2017) without a single student doing math at grade level! A private business with such a track record would be bankrupt, but Democrats protect failing schools.

Democrats fight efforts to allow

school competition/choice so students can escape failing and dangerous schools. Democrats sacrifice the lives of students for teacher's union contributions.

Democrat policies drive businesses out of cities. This reduces good job availability without costly commutes and extra hours away from families.

Democrat open borders and high immigration policies provides higher profits and cheap labor for their rich donors, but harms (with job competition, lower wages, crime, drugs, increased housing costs, degraded schools, burdened hospitals, etc.) poor and middle income Americans.

Democrat support of unions benefit Democrat politicians, union officials, and some union members but most workers and taxpayers suffer from lost jobs, higher taxes, and higher cost of living.

Future letters will address other Democrat promises. What Democrats deliver for poor and middle income Americans are revealed by Democrat-run cities; they are characterized by crime, drugs, high taxes, and a huge income gap between the rich and poor.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

It's a pleasure and a relief to get your letter. Seriously—we've been worried about you. Well, we're still worrying about you, but clearly you're still with us. Broadly speaking, anyway. We're happy for that: good hate mail is harder to find than one might think.

We see you haven't changed a bit. For one thing, you continue to make the same old grammatical error. We hope you won't be offended, but, because we like you, we're going to explain where you went wrong.

The word "Democratic" is an adjective. "Party" is a noun. When you refer to the "Democratic Party," you're using an adjective to describe a noun. That is as it should be, presuming you're attempting to speak English.

"Democrat" is a noun. Thus, when you refer to the Democratic Party as "the Democrat Party," you're trying to use a noun to describe another noun. That's not how English works. German, maybe.

In addition to being grammatically



incorrect, "Democrat Party" grates on the ear. As writer named Liz Bureman has explained, "Sometimes it's just the sound of the word that enraptures us, or maybe it's two words put together that, when combined, are the epitome of sonic euphoria. When that happens, we experience euphony."

"You've probably heard the word 'cacophony' before, right? It's descriptive of loud, obnoxious, aggressive noise that assaults the ears and is generally unpleasant."

"Well, words can be cacophonous as well. If a word is made up of harsh sounds or hard consonants, it's an example of cacophony."

In this instance, "Democratic Party" is at least neutral, if perhaps not quite euphony. "Democrat Party," on the other hand, is cacophonous. (Odd, isn't it, how adding "ick" makes the term sound... less-icky? Just another reason to love English.)

Now, let's pick on a different bone.

Your general demeanor causes us to suspect you're... what's the best euphemism?... a man of some experience. Like so many apologists for the Trump/McConnell/Pence regime [in order of importance], you delight in bringing up the Democratic Party's racist history. That's a boldly ahistoric strategy, Don—let's see if it holds up to scrutiny.

Umm, no.

Lyndon Johnson signed a couple of Civil Rights acts that blew the Democrats' Solid South all to hell. All those racist Democrats down there—and a hell of a lot of other places, New Hampshire included—felt betrayed when the Party renounced its racism. Perhaps you've forgotten, but they became Republicans. Apart from party affiliation, though, they stayed about the same. So, if you're trying to make your friends look like beacons of enlightenment, you might want to rethink this tactic.

Finally, let's grapple with your litany of allegations regarding specific Democratic policies. They have a rather oily odor about them. Did they come from

Koch-sponsored Americans for Prosperity? Perhaps they came from the Heritage Foundation. Maybe it was the American Enterprise Institute. It could have been the Bradley Foundation, of course. Go to the dreaded Swamp—aka the Capitol of the country all you conservatives profess to love—and you can't throw a pair of Guccis without hitting a propaganda mill sponsored by the beneficiaries of Republican tax cuts.

For starters, we'll stipulate that all the numbers are suspect. To the extent that they are accurate, your attribution is misleading. Since when did Democrats have the power to unilaterally "shove X down Y's throat." Bill Clinton presided over a lot of bad legislation. Most of that which passed was also supported by Republicans.

Keep writing, though, Don—we need the exercise.

The Editor

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William Marvel's "Forgotten Frank"

To the Editor:

There are numerous reasons that President Franklin Pierce should be forgotten. Just pull up his bio on line and one gets a quick reason that he's been, consistently, ranked near the bottom of all of our presidents.

Dr. J.K. Folmar I
California, Pa.

Dr. J.K.:

Pace, Bill Marvel and David Snell, but we're with Dr. J.K. here.

The Editor

=====

They're At It Again

To the Editor:

No man did more to protect and improve capitalism in the United States than Franklin D. Roosevelt. His policies gave hope and jobs to millions upon millions of Americans and renewed their faith in the capitalist system when many were turning away from it, yet the Republicans labelled

him a socialist!

Social Security and Medicare are the two most successful government programs in our history. They have saved millions of elderly Americans from a life of poverty and pain, and provided them with universal health care coverage. Republicans have labeled them "socialism," and continue to try to undermine both.

Now they're at it again! Every proposal by a Democratic candidate to help workers and the middle class, they label "socialist." Every effort made to level the economic playing field, they label "socialism." Every policy proposal to give preference to mere human beings rather than corporations they call "socialism." Every effort to protect consumers from unfair practices, they label "socialism."

No matter who becomes the Democratic candidate for president, the Republicans and their Fox News mouthpiece will label his/her policies, whether centrist, conservative, or just plain compassionate capitalism, as "socialism."

I call that hogwashism!

Michael Frandzel
Portsmouth, N.H.

Michael:

Hogwashism! That's nice.

Someone whose name does not immediately come to mind suggested a great response to this tired old tactic: since Republicans are going to call whatever you propose socialism, you might as well go ahead and propose socialism!

The Editor

=====

Times Are Bad. They Will Get Worse.

To the Editor:

Those on the left ranting about Trump should concentrate on finding someone to oppose him. The list of candidates is dismal and their plat-

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form is either non-existent or insane.

We have Joe Biden who is so confused that he does not remember that he was not Vice President at the time of the Parkland shootings. And as vice president, all he did was to peddle influence that brought billions of dollars to his family through contracts in the Ukraine and China. Now he is attacking white privilege. The last time I looked it was he who is white and privileged. If he is so concerned he should drop out of the race and defer to another candidate.

Perhaps he should defer to Cory Booker, who addressed the electorate in Spanish during his introduction in the first debate. Cory does not seem to know that he should at least have had an interpreter as the official language is English. And I guess South African apartheid was bad, but Israeli apartheid is good in Cory's mind.

Then there is Elizabeth Warren, who is doing the traditional liberal thing of rewarding bad behavior and punishing good behavior by wanting to bail out those who took student loans and refuse to pay them back while making chumps of those who paid off their loans. So if one took out loans for an expensive private school instead of attending a state school, if they spent their money on spring break in Cancun instead of working, if they decided not to take the military option of serving to help with their education then they will be rewarded by shifting the burden of their loans to the taxpayer which of course makes those who paid off their loans responsible for the loans of the dead beats.

And once again there is Bernie Sanders, who now wants to reduce the prison population by fifty percent. What a platform—opening the borders and the gates of the prisons. But,

he will at least disarm the law-abiding citizens by making guns illegal so that the criminals can be assured that their innocent victims cannot defend themselves. Besides who cares about the Constitution and the Second Amendment? They don't care about the First Amendment either, as they voted to endorse the anti-BDS resolution and thus give the stamp of approval to states that pass laws punishing those who participate in the BDS movement.

Now that impeachment is dead as an issue the liberals, and their supporters in the media now concentrate on the issue of racism, which to them can only be found within the hearts and soul of white America. So under the banner of inclusion, they exclude whites and further divide the nation.

In the end, the choice in 2020 will be between idiots on the left and fools on the right. And when the Democrats lose, will we be looking to the second coming of Mueller?

And, by the way, that former chief executive you referred to in the August 16th Gazette had so many trips on Lollita Airlines that he no doubt qualified for frequent flier miles. But, that's another story.

John Dente
Wilmington, Del.

John:

My, my, [or should we say, "our our"?] what a diatribe!

To an editor who delights in rebuttal you offer what the Pentagonese call a "target-rich environment." We'll pick just one: white privilege. We're no experts but we feel obliged, for reasons we hope will be clear, to reveal the limits of our own understanding. Please tell us where we're wrong in the following analysis.

The editor inherited this paper in the form of a story, which was told to him by his father: "There was a printer in the

family, back in the olden days, and he printed something the authorities didn't like. So they threw him in jail."

That story—along with a mis-spent youth, a few decades of misadventure, and an immodest helping of curiosity—put him in the editor's chair. Considering his general demeanor in his younger days, if he hadn't been white, he might not have stayed free. So, whiteness and nepotism: like quartz and gold, they're frequently found together.

That's just one small, side dish of white privilege. Here's the entree:

This newspaper was founded by Daniel Fowle, the editor's third cousin, five times removed—also white. Daniel was married to Lydia Hall. Her wealthy, dotting father Hugh was one of many Bostonians who were active in the slave trade. During the first two or three decades of this paper's existence, Daniel had the benefit of the unpaid labor of an enslaved African man. We suspect he was Lydia's dowry.

He was called Primus, or Primus Fowle. Today we call him Primus X, to acknowledge the identity which was stolen from him.

Daniel had many good qualities—but he profited from enslaved labor. Such were the times he lived in.

If we're to be honest today, we must acknowledge all the above. Without the Gazette, the editor would be adrift. Without Primus there would likely be no Gazette.

The Editor

==~==

A Fictional Event

Hi Editor.

Your almanac today (August 20th) reports: "1974—The House of Representatives votes 412-3 to recommend Articles of Impeachment against Richard Nixon."

This struck me as probably wrong because: (1) as I remembered it, Nixon resigned before Articles of Impeachment could be voted on and, (2) Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974.

As an old man who no longer trusts his memory, I checked it out. Sure enough, something significant relating to the Articles of Impeachment did happen on August 20th. Essentially, the House voted to put them in the official record...even though Nixon's resignation meant that they'd never be advanced. Here's how Wikipedia put it: "With President Nixon's resignation, Congress dropped its impeachment proceedings. On August 20, 1974, the House authorized the printing of the Committee report H. Rept. 93-1305, which included the text of the resolution impeaching President Nixon and set forth articles of impeachment against him."

The rest of the Wikipedia article indicates that, had these articles of impeachment actually come up for a House vote, at least 75 Representatives would have voted against them. So, the real fictional component in this almanac entry is the bravery you've attributed to the Republicans of yore.

Keep up the good work!
Paul Fischler
Rochester, N.H.

Paul:

You've not only corrected our error, you've made us laugh. Thank you, and, please—keep doubting us!

The Editor

==~==

Are They Leaders?

To the Editor:

When I think of individuals in positions such as selectman, mayor, member of state legislature, governor, the cabinet, congress, or president I always ask myself - are they leaders?

Are they honest?

Are they truthful with themselves and others?

Do they steadfastly adhere to a strict moral or ethical code?

Do they work well with, feel empathy for, and respect other people or nations?

Are they good communicators?

Are they capable of planning, and making well-qualified decisions based on facts? Can they envision the results of their decisions whether positive or negative? Are their decisions designed to help others, make our lives better,

improve the environment, or move in a positive direction?

Are they accountable for their actions?

Do they delegate, and empower others?

Are they creative, and are they willing to accept innovative ideas of their own or others?

Do they look for good in others?

When I look at our so called leaders in DC I see few to none of these traits in any member of any branch of our government certainly none in the executive branch.

Arthur Bradbury
Lee, N.H.

==~==

Bernie's Road Trips to Canada

To the Editor:

The most memorable moment for me from the first 2016 Democratic presidential debate came when debate moderator Anderson Cooper asked each of the five candidates: "Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, 'I ask you to judge me by the enemies I have made.' You've all made a few people upset over your political careers. Which enemy are you most proud of?" to which U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders unequivocally replied, "As someone who has taken on probably every special interest that there is in Washington, I would lump Wall Street and the pharmaceutical industry at the top of my list of people who do not like me."

Given Bernie's long record of standing up to special interests and fighting for his constituents as a Mayor and member of Congress, he could have just as easily declared himself Public Enemy #1 of the Big Banks, Fossil Fuel Industry, the Health Insurance Industry or the Military or Prison Industrial Complexes.

However, Bernie has certainly earned the right to proclaim himself a proud enemy of Big Pharma as he has been one of very few Congress members who, for decades, has refused the company of pharmaceutical industry lobbyists and their large bags of money. Meanwhile, he has been fighting all

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Government for the rich, the poor be damned

by Jim Hightower

While the Trumpistas are presently plowing a multibillion-dollar subsidy into big grain farms—they're using a tangle of federal red tape in a mingy effort to deny a meager level of food assistance to millions of poor families.

To qualify for food aid, federal rules say that a family of three should have an income under \$27,000 a year. But with rents, utilities, health care, and even food prices constantly

rising, millions of Americans can't make ends meet on such a low income. Thus, 40 states have stepped in to loosen that restriction so families at least get the basic nutrition they need. Trump's minions demean these people as welfare moochers, but overwhelmingly they're working families, children, the elderly, and Americans with disabilities. And the benefit is hardly lavish, averaging only \$127 a month – but even this modest outlay has proven enormously successful in mitigating

poverty.

Congress actually authorized states to make such pragmatic income adjustments in a 1996 revamp of the law. But—*look out!*—here comes Trump's reactionary ag secretary, Sonny Perdue. He recently rose up on his hind legs to proclaim that naughty state officials are using that authority as a “loophole” to circumvent Trump's federal authority. So Sonny and Donnie are demanding a whole new bureaucracy of “eligibility police” to monitor the financial as-

sets of food stamp recipients. They'll spend tens of millions of your and my tax dollars to harass the poor in an autocratic hope of nabbing a couple of hungry families who have a dime more in assets than miserly Trumpistas claim they should have.

What we have here is government by plutocratic authoritarians who'll gleefully dole out millions in tax breaks and subsidies to wealthy families, then just as gleefully take food off the tables of poor families.

—==—

“The Cruel Farce of Cutting Food Stamps,” *The New York Times*, July 29, 2019.

“Closing the food stamp loophole,” *Austin American Statesman*, July 28, 2019.

—==—

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

We should be mindful when doing business with our corporate municipal and state public servants.

The Oath of office is a quid pro quo contract of [U.S. Const. Art. 6, Clauses 2 and 3, *Davis vs. Lawyers Surety Corporation*, 459 S.W. 2d. 655, 657., Tex. Civ. App.] in which clerks, officials, or officers of the government pledge to perform (Support and uphold the United States and state Constitutions) in return for substance (wages, perks, benefits).

Proponents are subjected to the penalties and remedies for Breach of Contract, Conspiracy of [Title 18 U.S.C., Sections 241, 242]. Treason under the Constitution at Article 3, Section 3., and Intrinsic Fraud of [*Auerbach v Samuels*, 10 Utah 2nd. 152, 349 P. 2nd. 1112, 1114. *Alleghany Corp v Kirby*, D.C.N.Y. 218 F. Supp. 164, 183., and *Keeton Packing Co. v State*, 437 S.W. 20, 28].

Rep. Dick Marple
Merrimack #24
Hooksett, N.H.

Dick:
If you say so.
The Editor

—==—

Trump Blocks Wage Gains for Americans

by Lawrence Wittner

On June 19, 2019, President Donald Trump bragged at his re-election kickoff rally in Orlando that, thanks to his leadership, the wages of American workers “are rising at the fastest rate in many decades.”

The reality, however, is that they are not. Indeed, wages rose at a faster rate only a few years before, under

his predecessor. And a key reason for the very limited wage increases since Trump entered the White House is his administration's success in blocking any wage increases for some workers and in reducing wage increases for others.

In fact, Trump has never been enthusiastic about increasing the pay of America's workers. “Our wages are too high,” the billionaire businessman complained back in November 2015, during his campaign for the presidency.

Naturally, then, Trump and his fellow Republicans have blocked any increase in the federal minimum wage during his time in office. In 2016, Trump stated his opposition to setting any federal wage and, since then, has never proposed raising it. As a result of years of Republican resistance in Congress and the White House, the federal minimum wage has remained stuck at a poverty level—\$7.25 an hour—for a decade and has lost much of its purchasing power, making it the lowest minimum wage throughout the industrialized world. The minimum wage for waiters and other workers relying on tips is even lower: \$2.13 an hour.

Moreover, the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress continue to oppose any minimum wage increase. In early May 2019, Trump's Secretary of Labor, Alexander Acosta, testified before two Congressional committees, declaring: “We do not support a change in the federal minimum wage at

this time.” In response, Senator Patty Murray, alluding to the 10-year gap since the last increase, asked: “If workers do not deserve [a raise] at this time, then when do they?” But Acosta did not answer her question.

In July 2019, the new, Democratic-controlled House of Representatives passed legislation to phase in an increase in the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, thereby—as the AFL-CIO noted—giving “40 million Americans a raise.” But only three House Republicans voted for the measure, while Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declared that he would prevent a Senate vote on it. Although, in mid-June, Trump said he was “looking at” the idea of a \$15 an hour minimum wage, he quickly countered that by stating, falsely, that he had “already created a minimum wage because wages have gone up more than . . . in many decades” under his administration. Since then, nothing about a minimum wage increase has been heard from the president, and the Democratic wage raise legislation remains banned from consideration in the Republican Senate.

Trump has also gone out of his way to undermine the income of public sector workers. In August 2018, he announced that he would scrap a scheduled 2.1 percent pay raise, plus locality paycheck adjustments, for two million federal employees. “Federal agency budgets cannot sustain such increases,”

he declared, avoiding any mention of the fact that he had previously secured a sharp reduction in federal income through legislation for a \$1.5 trillion tax cut that largely benefited the wealthy and their corporations. In late December 2018, Trump followed up by issuing an executive order to freeze the pay of federal workers. But, subsequently, Congress overrode his action and partially restored the pay increase—raising the pay for federal employees by 1.4 percent (two-thirds of the scheduled increase), with additional money factored in for locality pay adjustments.

In the winter of 2018-2019, Trump attacked the livelihoods of public workers once again, when his shutdown of the federal government forced 800,000 federal employees to go on unpaid leave or to work without pay.

One of the factors advancing the income of American workers, as well as helping to safeguard them from excessively-long workweeks, is the provision in the Fair Labor Standards Act that guarantees them time-and-a-half pay for more than 40 hours of work per week. But coverage is based upon workers remaining under a specific income level and, thanks to inflation over the past few decades, fewer and fewer workers remained below that level. Recognizing that only seven percent of American workers were still covered by the law, the Obama administration raised the income level

for eligibility substantially. But, upon taking office, the Trump administration severely cut back Obama's expansion of eligibility, thereby depriving as many as 8.2 million workers of the overtime coverage they had previously been promised.

Despite these actions taken by Trump and his administration to reduce wage gains, what economists call real wages (that is, wages and salaries adjusted for the rising cost of living) have been rising—in part because many states and localities have passed laws raising their minimum wages far beyond the pathetic \$7.25 level set by the federal government.

But, overall, increases in real wages during the Trump presidency have remained minuscule. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor, the real average weekly earnings for American workers increased by just 0.2 percent between June 2017 and June 2018. From June 2018 to June 2019, the increase in their real average weekly earnings was only 1.2 percent. Consequently, as Senator Bernie Sanders has stated, correctly, the average American worker earns less today than he or she did 45 years ago.

Although the pundits say the U.S. economy is booming—and it certainly is for the country's billionaires—it's not doing much for the incomes of American workers. And much of the responsibility for this situation lies with Republican officeholders, especially Donald Trump.

Dr. Lawrence Wittner, syndicated by *PeaceVoice*, is Professor of History emeritus at SUNY/Albany.



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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, SEPTEMBER 1	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
2005—New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin calls for George W.[MD] Bush and FEMA to “get off your asses and do something” about his flooded city. 1989—Narcs trying to score crack near the White House for a George H.[H.]W. Bush presidential photo-op get the drug on their third try but not the film—their camera operator gets mugged by a homeless person. 1983—The USSR shoots down KAL Flight 007. Among the victims: John Birch Society President and Congressman Larry McDonald (R-Ga.). 1982—The U.S. Air Force Space Command becomes operational. 1976—Rep. Wayne Hays (D-Ohio), “The meanest man in Congress,” resigns three months after a sex scandal revealed by his secretary/mistress, whom he treated most shabbily. 1970—“This chamber reeks of blood,” charges George McGovern on the floor of the U.S. Senate. 1952—A freak wind hits Carswell AFB in Texas, knocking two-thirds of SAC’s B-29s out of commission. 1921—A looted Gatling gun briefly gives miners an edge on Blair Mtn., W.Va. The Sheriff responds by hiring biplanes to drop bombs on them. 1920—Portsmouth-built <i>S-5</i> sinks off Delaware, but all hands escape. 1894—Thomas P. “Boston” Corbett, the self-castrating Cavalryman who shot John Wilkes Booth, dies in Hinkley, Minn. along with 800 others in a four-hour firestorm.	1983—Mississippi’s execution of Jimmy Lee Gray goes badly, possibly because executioner T. Berry Bruce is drunk. Eight minutes after the poison gas is released, officials clear the witness room because Gray is still gasping, moaning, and banging his head on a steel pole. 1957—Gov. Orval Faubus calls out the National Guard to defend segregation at Little Rock High. 1945—VJ Day—Japan surrenders to General “Dugout Doug” MacArthur aboard a battleship named after Harry S Truman’s home state. 1945—Cribbing freely from the U.S. Declaration of Independence, Ho Chi Minh declares Vietnam to be sovereign and independent. 1939—G-Man J. Edgar Hoover creates a “Custodial Detention Index,” a list of left wingers to detain without trial in case of “national emergency.” 1935—Recently rousted from Washington, D.C. by General Douglas MacArthur, 259 veterans working on the Overseas Highway are among those killed by the Labor Day Hurricane when it hits the Florida Keys. 1921—Two battalions of U.S. troops finally convince miners on Blair Mtn., W.Va. to begin disarming. 1885—White railroad workers rioting in Rock Springs, Wyo. massacre 28 Chinese railroad workers. 1841—Whites attacking blacks in Cincinnati, Ohio escalate, firing scrap iron from a cannon.	2003—To uphold the principle that life is sacred, Florida poisons Paul Hill, who shotgunned Dr. John Britton and his bodyguard to uphold the principle that life is sacred. 1991—Locked doors, dead phones, and a lack of fire alarms kill 25 workers in a North Carolina chicken plant. 1971—As Richard Nixon speaks at a Milk Producers’ convention in Chicago, an aide pockets his fee: a \$5,000 bribe, which will pay the Plumbers who are, this day, breaking into the office of Daniel Ellsberg’s psychiatrist—at Nixon’s behest. 1950—American advisors arrive in Saigon to support NATO: France wants Vietnam, so the U.S. helps it fight Vietnamese anti-colonialists. 1948—Duval County officials “find” 200 votes, making LBJ a Senator. 1925—On a PR tour of the Midwest, ordered by Navy brass over the objections of its Commander, an Ohio native who knows its summer storms, the airship <i>U.S.S. Shenandoah</i> crashes in Ohio in a summer storm; 14 die. 1923—Milo, Maine holds a Centennial Parade. Marchers include 75 Klansmen in full, hooded regalia. 1903—Griffith J. Griffith, the closeted drunk who gave Los Angeles Griffith Park in 1896, shoots his kneeling wife for conspiring with the Pope to poison him. She loses an eye but lives, he gets two years in San Quentin. 1833—First successful penny paper appears in N.Y.C.: Benj. Day’s <i>Sun</i>.	1992—Ex-South Vietnamese fighter pilot Ly Tong hijacks an Air Vietnam Airbus out of Bangkok. As it flies low and slow over Ho Chi Minh City, he drops revolutionary propaganda, then safely parachutes—but into captivity. 1981—The Reagan Administration proposes that school cafeterias consider ketchup and relish as vegetables. 1976—George W.[MD] Bush is arrested for DUI in Kennebunk, Maine. 1973—R. Nixon’s flunkies John Ehrlichman and G. Gordon Liddy are indicted for felonious burglary. 1967—“I just had the greatest brainwashing ... [in] Vietnam,” says Gov. George Romney (R-Mich.). 1957—Ford’s Edsel debuts. 1957—Gov. Orval Faubus [Dem.] orders the Alabama National Guard to keep nine Black children from entering Little Rock Central High school. 1949—In Peekskill, N.Y., after a Paul Robeson concert, a mob, including cops, beats the audience, including Eugene Bullard, a black WW I fier. 1942—<i>The Washington Post</i> reports that an anti-aircraft gunner has accidentally hit the Lincoln Memorial with three .50 caliber rounds. 1918—U.S. troops land at Archangel, Russia, to “protect American interests.” 1886—Apache chief Geronimo surrenders at Arizona’s Skeleton Canyon. 1875—Whites in Clinton, Miss. slaughter 50 Blacks at random. 1833—<i>The</i> [N.Y.] <i>Sun</i> hires Barney Flaherty, 10, America’s first newsboy.	2005—Barbara Bush says Hurricane Katrina was “working very well” for thousands of homeless refugees. 2002—Portsmouth loses Jay Smith, creator of the Press Room, Patron Saint of The Music Hall, &c. RIP. 1990—L.A. Police Chief Darryl Gates tell the Senate Judiciary Committee that “casual drug users should be taken out and shot.” 1975—Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme, dressed as a nun, is busted pointing an unloaded .45 at Gerry Ford. 1934—N.C. Gov. John Ehringhaus [Dem.] calls out the National Guard to break a textile strike. Other states follow with pro-plutocracy actions. 1931—Consolidated Edison worker George Metesky is injured on the job. Denied Workmen’s Compensation, “The Mad Bomber” plants 32 bombs over 16 years before he’s caught. 1930—Carl Panzram to Leavenworth’s hangman: “Hurry it up you Hoosier bastard. I could hang a dozen men while you’re screwing around.” 1925—Colonel Billy Mitchell blames the recent crash of the <i>Shenandoah</i> on the “almost treasonable negligence” of the Navy & War Dept.’s top brass. 1917—The Justice [Hah!] Department raids Socialist Party and IWW offices nationwide, and shuts down the newspaper <i>American Socialist</i>. 1905—The Treaty of Portsmouth ends the Russo-Japanese War. 1877—Crazy Horse, while in U.S. Army custody, is fatally bayonnetted.	2010—Alabama prison officials ban the reading of a Pulitzer-winning history of black forced labor. 2006—Entering her Portland, Ore. home, Susan Kuhnhausen is attacked by a man with a hammer. She chokes Ed Haffney—custodian at her husband’s porn shop—to death. Her husband is convicted and dies in prison. 2004—“Too many OB-GYNs are not able to practice their love with women all across this country,” says George W.[MD] Bush. 2002—Explaining the timing of an announcement about attacking Iraq, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card says, “From a marketing point of view, you don’t introduce new products in August.” 1978—The U.S. House opens hearings on the assassinations of JFK & MLK. On Dec. 30th they conclude that conspiracies were likely. 1964—Thousands of white kids riot in Hampton Beach, N.H., causing extensive property damage. Bill Loeb blames it on the pinks. 1949—World War II vet and devout churchgoer Howard Unruh kills 13 of his N.J. neighbors in 12 minutes. 1939—FDR authorizes the FBI to investigate “subversive activity.” Oops. 1901—Pres. Wm. McKinley is assassinated by anarchist Leon Czolgosz. 1869—The unregulated, poorly-ventilated Avondale Colliery in Pennsylvania burns, killing 110 miners. OSHA passes a mere 101 years later.	2003—Warren Zevon sleeps. 2000—[“When I am President, we] will not have our veterans standing in line waiting for benefits that they’ve been promised,” George W.[MD] Bush asserts falsely. 1996—Two women walk into the Norfolk (Va.) Naval Base with a banner reading “Love Your Enemies.” They’re promptly arrested. 1988—“Today is Pearl Harbor Day,” says George H.[H.]W. Bush. 1970—“Plant one, plant two [Secret Service agents] on [Ted Kennedy],” Richard Nixon says to aides. “We might just get lucky and catch this son-of-a-bitch—ruin him for ’76. It’s going to be fun.” 1964—Lyndon Johnson’s infamous “Daisy Ad,” airs, once. 1960—Norman Vincent Peale, noted hack, opines that any Catholic president would be “under extreme pressure from the hierarchy of his church.” 1936—Buddy Holly is born. 1918—F. Scott meets Zelda at an Alabama country club. 1914—French generals send 6,000 infantrymen from Paris to the Battle of the Marne in taxicabs. They hold the line and save the city. 1812—Napoleon takes Borodino: Moscow will be his, but not for long. The cost: 75,000 French and Russian casualties. Among them: 76 generals. 1737—Thomas Penn’s “Walking Purchase” swindles the Lenni Lenape out of an area the size of Rhode Island.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

2002—*The N.Y. Times* publishes fake news about aluminum tubes based on a White House leak. Later that day the White House cites the story as proof Iraq plans to build nukes.

1988—Dan Quayle says, “Republicans understand the importance of bondage between parent and child.”

1978—The Shah of Iran uses U.S.-made tanks and helicopter gunships to put down the Black Friday riots in Tehran; 89 die. Six months later the Ayatollah’s in charge.

1974—Ford pardons Nixon.

1972—In exchange for a \$200,000 contribution from Ray A. Kroc to R. Nixon’s reelection campaign, the Federal Price Commission OKs a previously-denied hike in the price of McDonalds quarter-pounders.

1964—Concord, N.H.-born “Rebel Girl” Elizabeth Gurley Flynn is given a state funeral at the Kremlin.

1935—Senator Huey P. Long [D-La.] gets a bullet in the torso. Dr. Carl Weiss, who may have shot him, is riddled with 60 bullets by Long’s bodyguards—one of whom might have actually shot Long.

1934—In a nor’easter off New Jersey, its captain dead of a heart attack, the *Morro Castle* catches fire. The blazing hulk runs aground with 137 passengers and crew dead.

1923—Poor navigation leads a squadron of 14 new Navy destroyers astray off the California coast. Seven ships run aground and 23 sailors are killed.

2013—Two out of three lanes to the George Washington Bridge are closed without warning in Fort Lee, N.J., delaying commuters and emergency personnel.

2009—As President Obama addresses Congress, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) yells at him, “You lie.”

2008—Lehman Bros., the nation’s fourth largest investment bank, loses 45 percent of its value.

2005—“You know,” says Glenn Beck, “it took me about a year to start hating the 9/11 victims families...When I see a 9/11 victim family on television...I’m just, like ‘Oh, shut up.’”

1999—Louis T. “Moondog” Hardin, American composer, street musician, and blind, Viking-helmet-wearing eccentric, dies at 83 in Germany.

1988—Dan Quayle says he got into law school “fair and square,” despite relying on an “equal opportunity” program for disadvantaged minorities.

1971—Rioting prisoners take nine guards hostage at the Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, N.Y.

1949—Canadian Albert Guay becomes the first person to destroy an airliner with a bomb. His recently-injured wife was on board, he was not. He’s hanged 16 months later.

1919—Boston cops go out on strike.

1739—In South Carolina, 20 enslaved people kill two storekeepers, steal guns and powder, recruit allies, kill about 20 whites, and march towards Florida.

2008—Lehman Brothers execs say the firm has all the capital it needs, five days before it declares bankruptcy.

2001—Donald Rumsfeld says the Defense Department can’t account for about \$2.3 trillion dollars.

1980—“Approximately eighty percent of our air pollution stems from hydrocarbons released by vegetation,” says Candidate Ronald Reagan.

1977—One-legged Tunisian pimp Hamida Djandoubi is the last man to die by a French guillotine.

1969—The AEC fires off a nuke beneath Grand Valley, Colo., to “liberate large quantities of gas.” It worked, but no one wanted radioactive natural gas.

1945—In Fruita, Colo., Lloyd Wilson chops the head off “Mike,” a young rooster which then goes on to enjoy an 18-month career as “The Headless Wonder Chicken.”

1939—B&M Railroad Engineer John Beattie and Fireman Charles Towle are killed when the Piscataqua Bridge, damaged during construction of the Mildred Long Bridge, dumps their locomotive into the river.

1939—*HMS Oxley* becomes the first British sub sunk in WW II — by another sub, *HMS Triton*.

1897—A posse massacres 19 strikers and wounds 36 at a Lattimer, Pa. coal mine; most are shot in the back.

1739—South Carolina militiamen overpower and kill the participants of the Stono Rebellion.

1676—RIP, Gerrard Winstanley.

2016—The GOP nominee for President tweets “best wishes to all, even the haters and losers, on this special date, September 11th.”

2013—Pastor Terry Jones and Marvin Sapp are arrested in Fla. for illegally towing a barbecue grill full of kerosene-soaked Qur’ans.

2012—*Benghazi!!!*

2006—At Ground Zero, President Bush and the First Lady stand for a photo op on an American flag carpet.

2001—Four American airliners are hijacked by Saudis and crashed; thousands die. George W.[MD] Bush scurries to safety, Donald Rumsfeld looks for excuses to attack Iraq, and Dick “Dick” Cheney authorizes the shooting down of civilian airliners.

1973—Salvador Allende, duly-elected President of Chile, is overthrown by CIA-backed thugs.

1957—A Denver H-bomb factory burns, releasing a pound of plutonium particles. The AEC says there’s only a slight risk of light contamination.

1942—Wheeler Lipes, a 22-year old dropout, successfully removes an appendix aboard the submerged *U.S.S. Seadragon*. The U.S. Surgeon General threatens to court martial him.

1857—*En route* to California at Mountain Meadows, Utah, 120 Arkansans are murdered by Mormons.

1777—Washington is defeated at Brandywine, the largest, longest battle of the Revolution, but N.H.’s Gen. Sullivan staves off catastrophe.

2008—Treasury Sec. Hank Paulson, formerly of Goldman Sachs, tells Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers the Fed can’t save them.

2004—WSCA-LP goes live.

1994—Frank E. Corder dies at 1:49 a.m., crash-landing a stolen Cessna on the White House grounds after drinking and smoking crack all evening with his brother.

1983—Puerto Rican nationalists *Los Macheteros* rob a Well Fargo depot in West Hartford, Conn. of \$7 million in cash. They throw some from the roof to display their disdain of capitalism.

1977—Steven Biko dies in the custody of South African police.

1970—*The New York Times Magazine* publishes Milton Friedman’s article, “The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits.” Bad idea.

1970—The Weathermen help Tim Leary bust out of prison.

1964—Unwilling to leave his Vermont farm, condemned to build I-91, Romaine Tenney, 64, shoots himself as it burns down around him.

1880—H.L. Mencken is born.

1860—William Walker, the American-born ex-dictator of Nicaragua, deposed by Cornelius Vanderbilt and captured by the British, is executed by a Honduran firing squad.

1857—*S.S. Central America* sinks in a hurricane off the Carolinas, drowning about 420. Ten tons of gold go down with the ship, the loss of which contributes to the Panic of 1857.

2005—Two weeks after the catastrophe, George W.[MD] Bush admits the Federal response to Hurricane Katrina was less than ideal.

2001—Reverend Jerry Falwell says “The ACLU’s got to take a lot of blame for [9/11].” Reverend Pat Robertson replies, “I totally concur.”

1981—William Loeb, alleged newspaperman, goes to his eternal torment at the age of 75.

1971—In the Oval Office, discussing the Attica uprising, Richard Nixon tells Bob Haldeman, “You know what stops them? Kill a few.” Haldeman replies, “Sure.”

1971—To restore order at New York’s Attica state prison, five hundred state troopers fire 2,200 rounds in nine minutes. The dead include 29 prisoners and ten guards.

1948—Rollie Free sets a speed record for bikes at Bonneville going 150 mph on a Vincent Black Shadow wearing just sneakers and a Speedo.

1945—*U-3008*, now *U.S.S. U-3008*, motors into Portsmouth harbor.

1940—A Luftwaffe plane drops six bombs on Buckingham Palace.

1913—Mary, an elephant who had killed her cruel, untrained trainer the day before, is hanged from a railroad crane in Erwin, Tenn.

1848—Lebanon, N.H. native Phineas Gage, working for a Vermont railroad, loses a good chunk of his brain when an iron bar is blasted through it, but lives 12 more pretty good years.

2008—At his gym, Lehman Brothers CEO Richard Fuld gets punched in the face by a complete stranger.

2005—At the UN, during the World Summit, the Leader of the Free World passes a note to his Secretary of State saying, “I think I may need a bathroom break. Is that possible?”

2001—Standing in rubble created in part by his own failure, George W.[MD] Bush declares that America’s “responsibility to history” is to “rid the world of evil.”

2001—One U.S. Representative, Barbara Lee of California, votes against giving George W.[MD] Bush the power to do whatever he wants.

1964—At the White House, LBJ pins the Medal of Freedom on notorious crypto-fascist and arch-propagandist Walt Disney.

1959—Ike signs the Landrum-Griffin Act. An “anti-union corruption” measure, it’s really just anti-union.

1938—The *Graf Zeppelin II*, world’s largest airship, first flies.

1899—New Yorker Henry Bliss becomes the first person in the U.S. to be killed by an automobile.

1874—In a bloody coup d’etat, the White Leagues take over Louisiana’s state government.

1867—*Das Kapital* is published.

1836—On the day her divorce becomes final, Eliza Jumel’s ex-husband Aaron Burr—the first Vice President to shoot a man—dies. Her lawyer was Alexander Hamilton’s son.



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