

The Fortnightly Rant

The Axis of Stupid

A fortnight ago the world got the news that General Qassem Soleimani had just been killed in Baghdad. The head of the Quds Force, often described as the second most powerful person in Iran, Soleimani had been, for a decade or so, a favorite target of Republican foreign policy wonks during their ritual Two Minutes Hate.

[Correction: *The Two Minutes Hate* is actually a fictional device in George Orwell's novel 1984. During these mandatory events, the subjects of a totalitarian regime are herded into auditoriums and exhorted to express hatred loudly towards a figure who, as it happens, is also blamed for the widespread material shortages which render their lives miserable. The Gazette regrets the error. — The Ed.]

Playing to type, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Joe Biden all expressed their concern over what seemed to them, and many others, to be a rash act. Brian Kilmeade, co-host of "Fox & Friends," the top-rated TV show at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, asked Allen West for his reaction.

The disgraced former Army Lieutenant Colonel—drummed out of the service for having subjected an Iraqi policeman to a mock execution—performed his assigned role flawlessly: the three Enemies of the People named by Kilmeade were "not starting off 2020 on a good political footing," he said, "if they're going to start siding with Iran."

Senator Chris Murphy [D-Conn.], who is not even running for President, had tweeted the night before, "Soleimani was an enemy of the United States. That's not a question. The question is this—as reports suggest, did America just assassinate, without any Congressional authorization, the second most powerful person in Iran, knowingly setting off a potential massive regional war?"

Kilmeade assigned the task of lambasting Murphy to retired General Anthony J. Tata. "The assassination language," Tata said, right on cue, "that's just insanity."

Moments later a Fox reporter carelessly used the term assassination himself. His assignment to an affiliate in remote northern Utah

is probably pending. He wasn't the only one to go off-script, though.

The Iraqi Prime Minister, Adil Abdul-Mahdi, referring to Soleimani and to Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who also died in the drone strike, along with eight other persons of no apparent account, was quoted in his government's official Twitter feed saying, "We condemn in the strongest terms the assassination by U.S. forces of Iraqi and Iranian figures who were symbols of the victory against Daesh [aka ISIS]."

Wait, what? "Symbols of the victory against Daesh"? If Soleimani was the enemy of our enemy, does that mean he was...?

It's complicated. Damn complicated, as Dexter Filkins made clear in a 2013 profile of Soleimani published in the *New Yorker*.

For several months after 9/11, Iranian negotiators were meeting in Geneva with Ryan Crocker and other State Department officials, providing intelligence that helped the U.S. track down al-Qaeda operatives and fight the Taliban government of Afghanistan. "It seemed clear to Crocker," Filkins wrote, "that the Iranians were answering to Soleimani...."

This unlikely arrangement lasted until late January, 2002, when George W.[MD] Bush delivered his State of the Union speech, labeling North Korea, Iraq, and Iran an "Axis of Evil."

Filkins relates that an Iranian negotiator in Geneva "told Crocker that, at great political risk, Soleimani had been contemplating a complete reevaluation of the United States, saying, 'Maybe it's time to rethink our relationship with the Americans.' The Axis of Evil speech brought the meetings to an end. Reformers inside the government, who had advocated a rapprochement with the United States, were put on the defensive. Recalling that time, Crocker shook his head. 'We were just that close, he said. 'One word in one speech changed history.'"

Ordinarily, Republicans have to work a lot harder than that to create chaos. They're usually willing to go the extra mile, though. Take, for example, 40 years ago....



After decades of suffering under increasingly autocratic rule, in January of 1979, Iranians deposed the Shah. He wanted entry to the U.S., but President Carter, fearing that would trigger a repeat of February's Embassy takeover, would not allow it. The Chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank overruled him.

According to his autobiography, *Memoirs*, David Rockefeller was initially reluctant to help the Shah*—one of his Bank's biggest clients. His mind was changed by Happy Rockefeller, the widow of his recently-deceased brother Nelson, a personal friend of the Shah, and by Henry Kissinger. David D. Kirkpatrick wrote the story for the December 29th *New York Times*. It was based on a cache of papers donated to Yale by a participant in the scheme, but sealed until after David Rockefeller's death because the donor thought they would be "potentially embarrassing to his patron." Rockefeller died in 2017, at the age of 101. [*The "seven heart transplants" rumor is bogus. — The Ed.*]

* "Some even believe we are part of a secret cabal working against the best interests of the United States, characterizing my family and me as 'internationalists' and of conspiring with others around the world to build a more integrated global political and economic structure—one world, if you will. If that's the charge, I stand guilty, and I am proud of it." — David Rockefeller, *Memoirs*, Random House, 2003.

David Rockefeller—it goes without saying, a Republican to the bone himself—put together a team including Henry Kissinger and former CIA Director Richard Helms, to overrule Carter and get the Shah into the country. Through guile, pressure, and outright lies, they succeeded.

On October 22nd, the Shah landed in Florida. Sure enough, Carter was right: 13 days later, Iranian students stormed the embassy and took 52 hostages.

As it happens, Rockefeller's team included Chase executive and former CIA agent Archibald B. Roosevelt Jr., who had a personal link to an earlier Republican adventure. Archibald's cousin Kermit Roosevelt Jr. had been directly involved in the 1953 coup which overthrew the democratically elected Prime Minister, Mohammad Mossadegh, and re-installed the hated Shah. That grand scheme had been concocted by the Dulles brothers—Allen at the CIA, and John Foster, Secretary of State—under level-headed old Ike: Republicans, all.

Thus Ronald Reagan owed his win over Jimmy Carter in no small part to a mob of pissed-off young Muslim followers of the Ayatollah Khomeini. A few years later, Reagan would go on to sell arms to the Ayatollah and give the proceeds to

nun-murdering drug traffickers in Nicaragua.

Also on the Gipper's watch: On July 3, 1988, the U.S.S. *Vincennes* shot down Iran Air Flight 655, killing 290 passengers and crew. The Captain of a nearby Navy ship called the incident "the horrifying climax to Captain [William C. Rogers III's] aggressiveness," but the Navy gave Rogers the Legion of Merit.

Reagan apologized to Iran. George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush, his Veep, running to replace his boss, could not afford to do so. A few weeks later he made his position clear: "I will never apologize for the United States—I don't care what the facts are...."

The corporate media has dutifully forgotten the whole incident.

What will be the consequences of our draft dodger-in-chief's assassination of Soleimani? No one can know, but we're not optimistic.

Republicans, on the other hand, are delighted. They're like the boy in Reagan's favorite joke: finding a pile of manure under the Christmas tree, he starts digging excitedly. Asked why he's so happy, he replies, "There's got to be a pony in here somewhere."

Republican policies towards Iran represent 67 years of failure piled upon failure. They can smile and laugh, but there is no pony.

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The First District Begins to Heat Up

After fidgeting around the starting blocks a time or two, Dover's Matt Mayberry seems to be serious about a run for the First District nomination. In March of 2018, the *Union Leader's* John DiStaso noted that the former Vice Chair of New Hampshire's GOP, and employee of noted local capitalist Bill Binnie, "had been actively considering running for the seat since shortly after the November 2016 election and stepped up his activities after he

decided in early 2017 not to run for the chairmanship of the NHGOP." Makes Hamlet seem decisive.

Mayberry told WMUR's Adam Sexton he finally got into the race because he "found poor veterans who were denied access to mental health care because the V.A. was not paying their bills."

Unfortunately, Sexton failed to follow up on this perplexing statement. The V.A. is surely not charging veterans for mental health services

provided by its own employees—if it was, our seismograph would have fallen off the bench.

It would not be surprising at all, however, to hear that outside providers, working under contract to manage the huge caseload from Iraq, Afghanistan, &c., &c., are not being paid in a timely fashion. This suspicion was reinforced by Mayberry's alleged solution: "I raised \$10,000 privately and told the practitioner to never turn away a veteran again."

He has to be talking about a private practitioner—one who has stopped treating clients because the V.A. is not paying. If not that, what? Did he turn the check over to Steve Mnuchin at Treasury, earmarked for the balking treatment provider?

Sadly, Sexton failed to pin down Mayberry on that point. The next stanza of his monologue reinforced that suspicion.

"We found 90 veterans who were about to be denied access to home

health care. We have since learned that New Hampshire practitioners are owed \$168 million from the Veterans Administration." Again, Mayberry seems to be saying that an overloaded V.A. health system is failing to pay outside contractors in a timely manner.

A majority of veterans oppose V.A. privatization because they ex-

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from page one

pect exactly that outcome. What self-respecting Republican would dare propose anything else, though? “Raise more taxes, to increase the budget, to pay more staff? Are you mad, sir?”

The incumbent, Democrat Chris Pappas, though he sits on the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, is not a veteran. He is also openly gay.



Mayberry, seen here in a still from an online promotional video, is a co-founder of the New Hampshire

Log Cabin Republicans, “an avenue for gay republicans to influence politics of the Party.” He also served in the Air Force in the 1980s.

Gay veteran goes after a seat held by a gay non-veteran—who has the edge? Republicans may say the veteran, but it should be the guy who’ll protect the V.A.

Two Milestones of American Democracy CONCORD—With money in the 2020 Presidential and New Hampshire’s gubernatorial races expected to reach all time highs, a New Hampshire campaign finance group is commemorating two American democracy milestones next week: one good, the 110th birthday of Doris “Granny D” Haddock; and one not so good, the tenth anniversary of the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision.

Funeral for Democracy “Tuesday’s ‘Funeral for Democracy—If We’d Only Done Something Sooner’ commemoration of Citizens United, which allowed for unlimited spending in federal and New Hampshire elections campaigns, is not an event we wanted to hold,” said Brian Beihl, deputy director of Open Democracy Action,



It was cold around here on Thursday evening, January 9th. Nothing out of the ordinary for this time of year—about 20° Fahrenheit, or 12° with the wind chill—but cold enough to make a lot of people think twice about standing around outside. People all over the country, though, were standing up to be counted for their opposition to a war with Iran. These folks weren’t about to stay home.



which works on campaign finance reform in New Hampshire. “But voters need to know how precarious our Democracy has become due to the abuse billions of special interest campaign money has done to our system. Politicians are no longer responsible to the people who elected them. They’re beholden to their donors.” Beihl said.

The event will be held beginning at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at City Hall Plaza, in front of the N.H. State House. A casket procession will take place on the sidewalks of Main Street, followed at noon back in the plaza with eulogies by framer of the U.S. Constitution James Madison, and acquaintances Gerry Mander, Sue Pression among others. More information is available by calling (603) 620-8300.

Granny D Day Luncheon A related but happier event will takes place Thursday. The public is invited for a noon luncheon at

St. Paul’s honoring Doris “Granny D” Haddock, a New Hampshire grandmother who, before Citizens United and the McCutcheon cases exploded reasonable levels of political spending, recognized how the private funding of elections was taking power away from average citizens. At 89 years old, Haddock walked 3,200 miles from California to Washington, D.C. to raise the alarm about this issue with voters, and created a movement of hundreds of thousands of followers, befriending everyday citizens and Presidents alike along the way.

The luncheon will feature a welcome by Haddock’s grandson, Lawrence Haddock, memories from a friend and associate of Haddock’s, Peterborough’s Francie Von Merten, and a review of the Democracy reform legislation being proposed in the New Hampshire legislature this term, including an independent redistricting commission and voting

rights bills.

Haddock died in 2010 at age 100, shortly after the Citizens United decision. This year also marks the twentieth anniversary of her arrival in Washington, a feat which took her 14 months to complete. To date, volunteers in her organization Open Democracy have walked over 40,000 miles in New Hampshire carrying on her legacy. The next day, January 24, has been proclaimed Granny D Day by Governor Christopher Sununu, and a bill before the legislature aims to make Granny D Day a permanent acknowledgement by the state.

The luncheon will be held at the St. Paul’s Church basement, 21 Centre St., Concord. Parking is on-street only, and not the church lot. RSVP to Doreen at doreen@opendemocracy.me or calling (603) 608-6211.

For more information contact (603) 715-8197. Open Democracy Action is a non-partisan, non-prof-

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The Fechheimer Building, one of the finest examples of a cast-iron facade in Portland, Oregon, was built in 1885. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it was restored in 1981 by Russell Fellows Properties, the principals of which enjoy a subscription to this newspaper.

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— Joe Keefe

it organization with over 38,000 members. Open Democracy Action's mission is to bring about and safeguard political equality for the people of New Hampshire.

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N.H. Women's March 2020 Tomorrow
A coalition of local organizations has come together to organize another New Hampshire Women's March, intended as "an empowering event in support of women's rights, human rights, social and environmental justice."

Beginning at 1:00 p.m. tomorrow, January 18th, in Market Square, six speakers will address what we suspect will be a considerable crowd. Though billed as a "Women's March," the notification on Facebook specifies that it is an *inclusive* event, and *everyone* who supports women's rights and human rights *for all* are welcome, including: women, girls, gender non-conforming, men, boys, trans, people of every race, religion and nationality, refugees, immigrants and citizens, the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities, climate change advocates, veterans, Native Americans and anyone else who wants to come out in support

of all of our rights.
The sponsors are: Occupy N.H. Seacoast, New Hampshire Youth Movement, 350 New Hampshire, Rights & Democracy N.H., The Resistance Seacoast, South Church Social Justice, and New Hampshire Youth Movement.

Following the speakers, there will be "an *actual march* around downtown Portsmouth with the magnificent Leftist Marching Band!" The route will be along the sidewalks, up Daniel Street towards the Memorial Bridge, then back to the Square by way of State street. Peacekeepers will help crossing the roads and keeping stragglers on sidewalks.

South Church of Portsmouth will be hosting a sign-making party at noon on the day of the event.

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Lecture Explores the Lives of Former Slaves who Moved to Maine after Emancipation
Next Thursday, January 23rd, at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Candace Kanes will present "From Slavery to Maine," a talk based on the exhibit of the same name which she curated for the Maine Historical Society in 2014. The lecture will be held at the



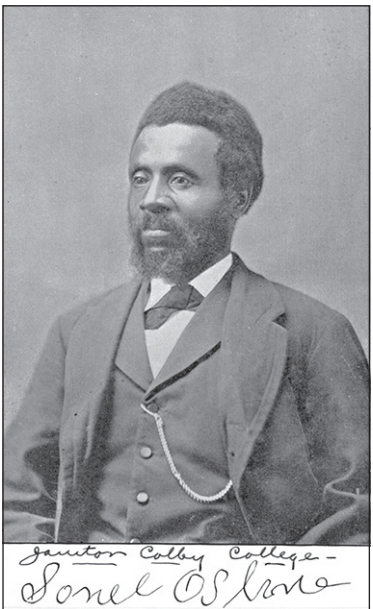
Last weekend was...interesting. Less than 48 hours after a perfectly normal Thursday evening—which is to say, damn cold [see the photo on the facing page]—we had a positively balmy weekend. With the temperature hitting 67° Fahrenheit, Saturday, January 11th turned out to be a perfect day for lollygagging around the Big Tree Whose Real Name is Verboten. Was this our January Thaw? If so, it came early by nearly a fortnight; also, at just two days long, we wuz robbed.

Berwick Academy Arts Center in South Berwick. Admission is free and open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Between the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863 and about 1869, formerly enslaved people came to communities throughout Maine to start new—free—lives. With a few exceptions, their lives in Maine have been largely forgotten. Details about them remain mostly in public records and newspaper articles—enough evidence to tell some of their stories.

A number of former slaves, probably several hundred, settled in Maine during and after the Civil War. Some came through the auspices of Gen. Oliver Otis Howard, a native of Leeds and head of the Freedman's Bureau; some with individual soldiers, and others on their own. Letters, photographs, and newspaper articles tell their stories.

Dr. Kanes, an independent historian and researcher, was the editor and curator of the Maine Memory



Samuel Osborne was born into slavery, and moved to Maine with his family after emancipation. Osborne took a job as a janitor, cleaning every building on the Colby College campus by himself for a few hundred dollars a year. The President's house on campus is named in honor of Osborne.

Network website and author of a number of the exhibits that accompany the essays. She worked at the Maine Historical Society as curator/historian for Maine Memory Network from 2003 to 2015. She holds a Ph.D. in modern American history from the University of New Hampshire and a master's in American and Women's Studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She has taught history, American studies and women's studies at Bates College, the University of New England, University of Southern Maine, and Maine College of Art. She is a former newspaper editor and reporter and has worked at *The Times Record* in Brunswick and the *Lewiston Sun-Journal*, and at newspapers in Ohio.

The Old Berwick Historical Society's 2020 lectures and hikes are generously sponsored by Kennebunk Savings and are supported by historical society members and donors. More information is available at www.oldberwick.org.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote
"Many a time freedom has been rolled back—and always for the same sorry reason: fear."
— Molly Ivins (1944-2007)
newspaper columnist, author

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In life may you proceed with balance and stealth."
— Patti Smith
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"When the wound is deep, the healing is heroic."
— Terrance Hayes
— 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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The Return of the Carpetbagger
To the Editor:

Following his cushy gig as Ambassador to New Zealand, our center-fold-worthy Republican glamour boy has returned stateside to take over as the grossly overpaid President of Mass Law. Next stop? The Supreme Court for sure! And a fitting partisan reward it would be for the twice defeated Mass. carpetbagger who temporarily moved to New Hampshire solely to unseat Senator Jeanne Shaheen.

Recall that Brown's greatest political contribution during that ill-fated election cycle was a fake news story attributing his defeat to the 100,000 Massachusetts voters who snuck across the border into New Hampshire to vote as Democrats. A conspiracy theory later co-opted by the big fat man in the orange rubber mask.

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:
Thanks for writing. We paid little attention to Brown's new job when it was announced, but at second glance—wow!

We're going to find a nice long stick and poke around in this mess.

The Editor

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Be Careful For What You Wish For
To the Editor:

I noted in your recent edition that you cried out for Civic Education Be careful for what you wish for.

Civic Education has become another public education attack being fomented by the same "back to the basics" crowd who called for defunding Social Studies classes (partly as being leftist inspired) back in the 80's when school enrollments were dropping.

The Mass. legislature passed a Civic Ed law a couple of years ago; the promoters gave off a bad smell. I checked into their organizations, which were free market, low tax, small government paper mills. The principals all had right wing pedigrees.

Checking further, the James Madison Institute (if my recollection serves me) has an entire curriculum right down to lesson plans for teachers. The plans pose straw man questions and the plan on Ronald Reagan was par-

ticularly vomit inducing.
[Included is a link, bit.ly/36X7bAn, to an article at EducationWeek, headlined, "Chief Justice Warns That 'Civic Education Has Fallen By the Wayside.'"] It begins, "U.S. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. focused on civics education in his annual year-end report on the federal judiciary, saying 'we have come to take democracy for granted, and civic education has fallen by the wayside.'"]

Jim Tartari
Wellesley, Mass.

Jim:
Thanks very much for this important cautionary note. We were shocked, but we should not have been. Propagandists for the right wing agenda are everywhere. That's what happens when you side with money against people: unlimited resources are available.

Ignorance is not the answer, though. We, the people, just need to outfox the plutocrats and their toadies in this field.

We should be able to succeed. They're only doing it for a buck. We're fighting for our lives.

The Editor

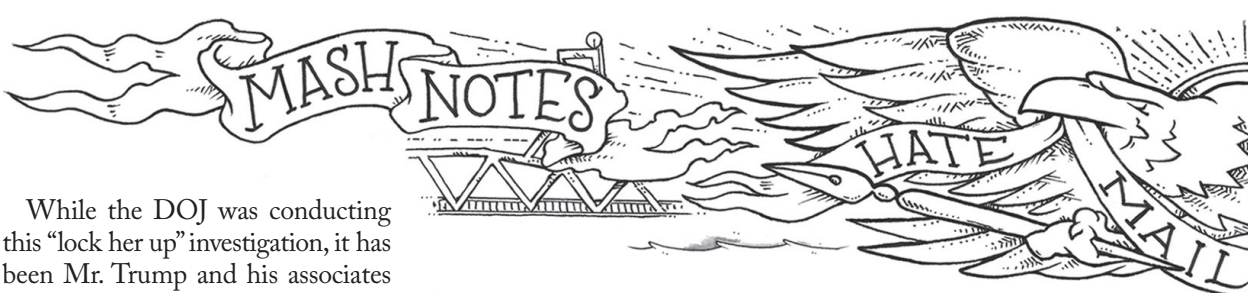
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A Deafening Silence

Dear Sir:

During a political rally this week, Donald Trump once again raised the "crooked Hillary, lock her up" mantra to his adoring followers. Interestingly, this happened almost at the same time that the conclusions of the more than two year investigation of Hillary Clinton by the Department of Justice (DOJ) "has effectively ended with no tangible results."

The U.S. Attorney of Utah, John Huber, was appointed by then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions, to investigate the imagined crimes committed by Ms. Clinton. An investigation that was initiated to satisfy the demands of Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans. This investigation looked into the Clinton Foundation, the Uranium One sale, and other false accusations. The results of this real "witch hunt" and "hoax," as well as other previous DOJ investigations into Hillary Clinton, have found absolutely nothing to warrant further criminal investigation or anything of concern.



While the DOJ was conducting this "lock her up" investigation, it has been Mr. Trump and his associates who have been convicted of crimes, plead guilty to crimes, are serving jail time or are awaiting sentencing, released from prison, shown to to have committed obstruction of justice, named Individual 1 as an unindicted co-conspirator, was required to pay fines due to illegal use of a "charitable" foundation, and paid \$25 million to settle claims against a fraud of a university. These include: Michael Flynn, the "lock her up" chant leader at the 2016 Republican Convention, who will be sentenced soon for his crimes; Roger Stone, awaiting his sentence; Michael Cohen, currently in prison; Rick Gates, completed sentence; Paul Manafort, currently in jail; George Papadopoulos, completed sentence; and, of course, Trump himself—nd this does not even consider the abuse of power and obstruction of Congress that resulted in Mr. Trump's impeachment.

Considering all of this, it is no wonder that Mr. Trump continues to project his own and his associates criminal behavior on to others.

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

Rich:
Surely it would be unreasonable to expect one obese, old man to carry such a burden all by himself.

The Editor

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A Well-Earned Endorsement From Putin
To the Editor:

Just one day after being impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives, President Trump (aka "the IMPOTUS") received a coveted endorsement for his reelection bid from Russian President Vladimir Putin. Putin told the Russian people, in a national address, that Trump deserves reelection for the job he is doing and even insisted, "I don't think Trump

will be voted out of power on made-up charges. Democrats lost the last election, and now they want to win by other means."

Putin's endorsement was certainly well-earned by the IMPOTUS, as I honestly can't think of anyone else, with the exception of the one percent of Americans who reaped 83 percent of the benefits from the Republican tax cuts, who has benefited more from Trump's presidency than Putin.

Trump has consistently opposed sanctioning Russia for its attacks on Ukraine and interfering in the 2016 election, and, despite Democratic-led House attempts to protect our elections, both he and "Moscow Mitch" McConnell have inexplicably blocked all attempts to prevent Russia from continuing to interfere, shaking Americans' faith in our elections and democracy. Trump's recent attempt to extort Ukraine by holding up a package of military aid and diplomatic support to the country (to ward off Russian aggression) surely has Russian fingerprints all over it. Also, no doubt at the behest of Putin, Trump has alienated us from and weakened the longstanding NATO alliance. He has furthermore been an outspoken advocate at G7 summits for readmitting Russia into the international economic organization, despite Russia's naked aggression in Ukraine and Crimea and interfering in our election.

If you don't think Trump has already earned Putin's praise and recognition based solely on what I described above, then I encourage you to take a look at how our President has placed the interests of Russia over those of the U.S. in locations where the U.S. and Russia have involvement with competing interests including Syria, Turkey, Afghanistan, Venezuela, China, North Korea and Iran.

The Mueller Report concluded that Russia wanted Trump to win in 2016, and now it is easy to see why that was the case—and why Putin will help Trump get a second term.

Wayne H. Merritt
Dover, N.H.

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"I am not the editor of a newspaper and shall always try to do right and be good so that God will not make me one."

— Mark Twain

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Hostages to Health Care

To the Editor,

This letter of endorsement for the New Hampshire Democratic Primary is different from the usual one. I will suggest candidates you should definitely vote for and others you should not. I do not intend to impugn the character, honesty, and integrity of any candidate; only to claim that some Democratic candidates will be much more easily elected than others, by virtue of their issue positions.

Donald Trump is the worst president in the history of the United States. I could fill this paper with reasons why this so. It is of prime and utmost importance that Democrats, thoughtful Independents, and discerning Republicans not blinded by tribal politics remove Trump from office in the 2020 Presidential Election.

Health care is a top issue of concern to American voters. Both Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren back Medicare for All, whereby everyone will be insured by Medicare. Approximately 150 to 160 million Americans currently hold private insurance, and most of them are satisfied with it. If you force them to switch to Medicare, there will be a general rebellion among voters against Sanders or Warren in the 2020 General Election, making it

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exceedingly difficult for either one to win the presidency.

By contrast, other leading candidates for the Democratic nomination offer voters, in one way or another, a choice between private insurance or one run by the federal government. Joe Biden would like to see the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) strengthened, but not forced on anyone. Amy Klobuchar favors the public option where a government plan would be put in competition with private plans. May the best plan win. The voters will decide which plan is best for them. Pete Buttigieg would allow citizens who want it to buy into Medicare. In all three cases, nothing is forced on people. They get to choose the form of health insurance they want.

Those solutions stressing choice will be more easily accepted by voters, making it much easier for Biden, Klobuchar, or Buttigieg to win the presidency than either Sanders or Warren. If you, like me, feel it is imperative to remove Donald Trump from office in the 2020 presidential election, I hope you will vote for Biden, Klobuchar, or Buttigieg, but not Sanders or Warren.

Gary Patton
Hampton, N.H.

Gary:

We're happy to pass along your take on this, but we don't agree.

People who rely on their employer for their health insurance don't have a real choice. Not only does their employer choose for them, he's effectively holding their medical care hostage. Looking for a better job, or becoming self-employed, is less viable as an option.

Most employers choose a for-profit provider. That guarantees the survival of an industry that, under the terms of capitalism, must put the interests of its shareholders first—no matter what their

glossy, expensive advertising campaigns would have you believe.

Only if Sanders or Warren get the nomination will we have a real debate on this issue.

The Editor

=====

Re-Engage Iran with Statesmanship
Dear Editor:

Some of our allies: France, Germany, Japan, the U.K. (and others) have never echoed Trump's hard-line approach to Iran or shown any interest in abandoning the 2015 multilateral nuclear accord that several countries (including Iran) negotiated in good faith.

Trump is now calling upon those countries (plus Russia and China) to step back from past agreements with Iran as the United States (utilizing Trump's haphazard, dysfunctional and extraordinarily dangerous decision-making process) doubles down on imposing punitive economic sanctions on the Iranian people.

Headlines have clearly reflected Trump's impaired thinking since he took office. No one knows for sure what motivates Trump (maybe his moods, his ego?) but his choices seem tethered in some fashion to his likes, dislikes, personal views of the day, and what he watches on cable news. The assassination of Iran's top General (Qassem Soleimani) was a roll of the dice act committed without any forethought, the consequences of which have weakened rather than strengthened U.S. influence in the region.

In addition to Trump's imposing even more sanctions on a beleaguered people, his strategically aimless threats have only served to inflame average Iranian citizens, many of whom harbor the hope and desire to witness improved relations with the west. Trump further intimidated the Iranian public

with his promise to attack Iran's cultural sites, a clear provocation as well as potential war crime. Cooler heads prevailed but the point was made, the damage done.

A drifting U.S. foreign policy in the hands of a President and an administration that doesn't know its own mind (much less the region), and a team of regime changers, sanction imposers and right-wing hawks looking for a fight or simply a distraction from the impeachment could (quite easily) lead to a war neither Iran or America wants or needs.

Rather than pursue a regressive policy of sanctions which will only drive hard liners further from the global community and unnecessarily hurt the Iranian people, would it not be better to join our allies, re-engage the Iranians, not with threats and intimidations but with statesmanship and good will.

To understand the world view of Iran's Supreme Leader (Ali Khamenei) and Iran's President (Hassan Rouhani) it will be helpful to look at the history of U.S. intervention in Iran.

In 1953 the Eisenhower administration helped engineer a coup against the democratically elected government of Mohammad Mosaddeq and Washington became the chief supporter of Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi's authoritarian regime, until its overthrow in 1979. Opposition to the Shah went hand in hand with opposition to the United States and resulted in the adverse circumstances which exist today, 67 years later.

Neither the Supreme Leader nor the Iranian President are anti-western or anti-American nor do either of them believe that the U.S. and the west are responsible for all the Islamic world problems. And, contrary to what we're told, neither the leaders nor the Iranian people are crazy, irrational, reckless zealots looking for an opportunity for aggression.

However, negotiations with the west

(especially after Trump's having made matters worse with his idiocy) will be far more difficult considering that and their deep-rooted and well-remembered experiences of the 1950's. Admittedly, achieving a level of trust necessary for long-term peace just got harder. But, there is an opportunity for the international community and Iran to move toward peace and constructive friendship and we should seize this chance and try our level best to insure our own leaders (Donald Trump and company) do not destroy it.

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.

David,

The Republican Party has browbeaten the Democrats into accepting bellicosity as the central tenet of our foreign policy. Given their authoritarian tendencies, it's natural. Self-defeating, but natural.

The Editor

=====

"I haven't any right to criticize books, and I don't do it except when I hate them. I often want to criticize Jane Austen, but her books madden me so that I can't conceal my frenzy from the reader; and therefore I have to stop every time I begin. Every time I read Pride and Prejudice I want to dig her up and beat her over the skull with her own shin-bone."

— Mark Twain

=====

Uncle Sam, Beach Bully

To the Editor:

What is wrong with us Americans?

Congress and the President have now imposed sanctions on all companies involved in the German/Russian joint Baltic Sea project, Nord Stream 2, building a gas pipeline to supply EU member states with gas. One can argue whether this pipeline makes Europe more dependent on Russia or not. However, irrespective of this, the decision to engage in such a joint adventure is purely one of the EU and Germany, and it is absolutely none of America's business to meddle in their affairs. It appears that America, and particularly Trump, feel that our transatlantic allies are no longer sovereign democratic nations that can decide

on their own which business ventures they want to pursue, but rather vassal states that must do explicitly what the U.S. wants or else.

Naturally, every sensible person knows that the main reason for these sanctions is not the fear of increased Russian influence, but rather that Russian gas is far cheaper than U.S. gas obtained by fracking, and thus Europe will need to buy less U.S. gas once the pipeline is finished. How would we Americans feel if Europe could dictate what businesses American companies can get involved in or not? Is it really in the best long-term interest of the U.S. to alienate all of its foreign allies and partners at a time when we already have sufficient real enemies?

As one German friend who lived in the States in the 1950s & 1960s told me, he recalls a U.S. television commercial (by a muscle builder named Charles Atlas) that he felt was a good metaphor for how most foreigners viewed America at that time. The scene takes place at a beach where a muscular male bully (representing any bad aggressive State) kicks sand in the face of a little guy (representing any State too small to defend itself) to impress a girl. However, a strong and handsome male (representing the U.S.A.) comes to the rescue. The only problem he said is that now the U.S.A. is playing the role of the muscular male bully. I also remember this TV cartoon and I agree that it truly appears to illustrate current U.S. foreign policy dictated by this bully Trump.

What will come next? Will Trump place sanctions on Danish companies just because their government refused to sell us Greenland?

Dr. Imre Somssich
Cologne, Germany

Dear Imre:

Thanks for providing, once again, an illuminating perspective.

The Editor

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Baby Dinosaurs on Noah's Ark

by James A. Haught

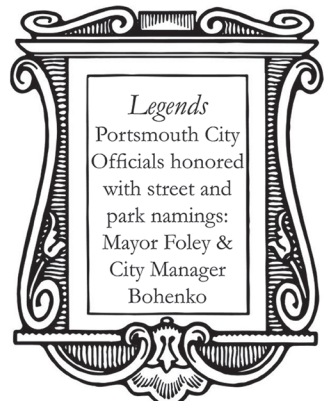
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to page six

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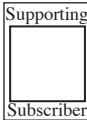
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The Northcountry Chronicle

Backwoods Bloomsbury

by William Marvel

I spent a week in Bloomsbury in August of 1993, while researching Confederate naval intrigues in England and its colonies. I selected my hotel mainly for its proximity to the British Library, but partly for the nearby buildings that Confederate agents and emissaries had frequented in the 1860s. The intellectual history of Bloomsbury exerted no influence on my choice: I had little interest in the literary emanations of the Bloomsbury Group, and even less in the more unconventional tendency of its extracurricular excesses.

Bloomsbury seemed far too crowded and noisy for the satisfactory indulgence of creative pursuits, which could explain my tepid enthusiasm for the artistic output of its more renowned residents. Visual arts may be less vulnerable to the distractions of street sounds and chattering neighbors, but assembling words in a pleasing and persuasive fashion requires long periods of silence—first for reflection, and then for expression. That maxim was continual-

ly reinforced during my years in a newsroom, where there was no door to close against the din of competing discussions.

Even before electronic appliances and the internal combustion engine began extinguishing silence, the clamor of family life impeded those who tried to scrawl thoughts on paper. A writer's worst enemy, after all, is the intruder knocking at the door, literally or figuratively, and would-be authors of yesteryear often had the misfortune to be saddled with numerous, persistently inquisitive siblings. The garret hideaway became emblematic of literary ambition precisely because it interjected an empty floor between the writer and the center of daytime activity, and because it took longer for anyone to think of looking there. Eventually, though, someone seeking the missing family member would come clumping up to the attic, and the scrivener's secret was gone forever.

For all her depictions of close-knit Victorian families, pestering interruptions from her sisters and her maundering idealist of a father sent

Louisa May Alcott looking for occasional solitude in isolated farmhouses. In the summer of 1874 she chose Danforth Atherton's farm in South Conway, probably having heard of its secluded location and inspiring views from the Concord kin of Atherton's first wife. She was working that summer on the novel she would call *Eight Cousins*, and with no one to bother her she must have made good headway, because the book was advertised for serial publication the following January. Descriptions in it hint that the abandoned church and the defunct Goshen Seminary provided her with subject matter, and perhaps with periodic refuge for composition.

North Conway drew tourists in search of spectacular scenery, or socialites who wanted to be seen with the right set at one of their era's more popular resorts. South Conway appealed to those who did not want to be seen at all—who could appreciate the mountains from a distance.

In 1890 Joseph Nesmith, a Harvard classmate of Theodore Roosevelt, started buying parts of several

decaying farms along South Conway's border with Eaton, building a hideaway where he could paint the scenery on the far side of Walker's Pond. Some of that land later found its way into the hands of other painters, but writers were more prominent along Nesmith's stretch of Potter Road.

In the 1920s Francis Westbrook took ownership of the Davidson farm, at the intersection of Potter Road and the McQuade Road, where he wrote books and articles on electrical and mechanical engineering. Westbrook divorced his wife while living there, taking up with one of Joe Nesmith's daughters. When the two of them decamped for Vermont, they sold the place to Ira Glackens. During 25 years or more at the old house, Glackens wrote a book about his father, William Glackens, and the other artists in the Ashcan Group—as well as biographies of soprano Lillian Nordica and the reputed ninth-century female pontiff, Pope Joan. He also wrote a Civil War novel set in a fictionalized South Conway.

The most prolific author in that sector bought a rural sanctum on the town line in 1937, a few weeks after graduating from Harvard University. Edmund S. Morgan taught at Yale for decades, earning academic acclaim in that vanished era when universities evaluated professors on their erudition, rather than by the degree of servility with which they embrace progressive orthodoxy. For three-quarters of a century, Morgan's summer home on Potter Road provided the tranquil surroundings that helped him produce more than a dozen books and an endless stream of scholarly articles.

I read Morgan's book on John Winthrop in college. His last book was on my nightstand when he died, in 2013, but I was still unaware that during my entire lifetime he had been so near a neighbor in this little backwater. That nevertheless made sense. Serious writers don't choose the country for the society, after all, but for the solitude.

$$- \approx -$$

from page five

church and state, American tax dollars are funneled to fundamentalist private schools teaching crackpot absurdities—such as a claim that Noah probably took two baby dinosaurs onto his ark.

To me, it's a form of child abuse to teach such lies to youngsters. However, that's what happens under the voucher system supported by U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and many Republican legislators across America.

Under the banner of “school choice,” vouchers are a device to pour taxpayer money into religion, despite the First Amendment’s prohibition of it. Pious parents who don’t want their children exposed to

public schools can obtain government vouchers to pay for religious schooling—some of it Catholic but more of it evangelical. The born-again schools provide shabby education.

The *Orlando Sentinel* examined 151 private Florida schools with 140,000 students—most of them funded with tax dollars through a voucher plan passed by Republican legislators. The *Sentinel*'s report began:

“Some private schools in Florida that rely on public funding teach students that dinosaurs and humans lived together, that God’s interven-

tion prevented Catholics from dominating North America, and that slaves who 'knew Christ' were better off than free men who did not."

It says some evangelical schools use texts from three fundamentalist publishers—Abeka, Bob Jones University Press and Accelerated Christian Education—adding: “The books denounce evolution as untrue, for example, and one shows a cartoon of men and dinosaurs together, telling students the Biblical Noah likely brought baby dinosaurs onto his ark.”

Actually, the last dinosaurs be-

came extinct nearly 65 million years before the first early humans appeared.

The books teach Religious Right politics, saying the historic civil rights movement occurred because “power-hungry individuals stirred up the people”—and that the Endangered Species Act is part of a “radical social agenda”—and they hint that gays are evil, and European whites are superior.

The *Sentinel* said some evangelical schools “hire teachers without degrees and with criminal records, and forge fire and health inspection forms, and...hold classes in aging

strip malls” where some face eviction for nonpayment of rent.

The *Huffington Post* likewise studied fundamentalist private schools and concluded that they “teach lies. These schools teach creationism, racism and sexism. They’re also taking your tax dollars.” It says one teacher called environmentalists “hippie witches.”

Intelligent, educated Americans should pity children from born-again families who suffer indoctrination with such right-wing hate and superstition. When the youths enter adult life, they're ill-equipped for modern scientific society.

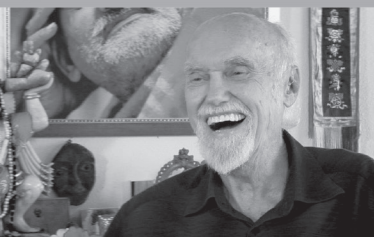
Regardless, the GOP and DeVos want to increase tax money for religious schools, despite the separation of church and state. Here's

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How do the rich become über-rich?

by Jim Hightower

As Ray Charles wailed in a song of true-life blues: “Them that’s got is them that gets/And I ain’t got nothin’ yet.”

While the workaday majority of Americans continue to be mired in our low-wage economy, the precious few at the tippy-top soared out of sight in 2019. They started the year wallowing in wealth—but by year’s end, the 500 richest people saw their

total haul increase by an average of \$2.4-billion each! Indeed, some needed bulldozers to bank their increased wealth. Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook, for example, piled up an extra \$27 billion last year; Bill Gates of Microsoft added \$22 billion to his stash; and even though Amazon czar Jeff Bezos dropped \$9 billion last year in a divorce settlement, his fortune multiplied so much that he’s still the world’s richest person.

Bear in mind that none of these

moneyed elites did anything to earn these extraordinary bonanzas. They didn’t work any harder, didn’t get smarter, didn’t add anything of value to society. They simply reclined in luxury and let their money make money. That’s a dirty little secret of our rigged economic system—unfettered inequality begets ever-expanding inequality.

Another dirty little secret is that billionaire-ism is hereditary. Right-wing media baron Rupert Murdoch,

for example, doled out \$10 billion to his six children last year. So—voila!—thus were born six brand-spanking-new baby billionaires, who did nothing to reach the top of the world’s financial heap, except please daddy.

Not only are the rich different from you and me, but the filthy rich are also different from the merely rich. It can take hard work, creativity, perseverance, and luck to become a millionaire, but in today’s skewed

wealth system, multibillionaires don’t need any of that—their money does all the work to lift them above everyone else.

—==—

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 Hightower-Lowdown.org.

from page six

an ominous court case: Conservative Montana legislators passed a 2015 law letting religious parents donate to private church schools and write it off their taxes. In 2017, Montana’s Supreme Court struck down this taxpayer funding of faith. Right-wingers appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which is to hear *Espinoza v. Montana* soon, on January 22.

Secular groups have filed briefs against the Montana travesty. But Republican appointees on the highest bench may ignore the First Amendment’s command that government must stay out of religion.

Stay tuned. Keep watching to see whether conservative justices funnel your tax dollars to church schools teaching that Noah took baby dinosaurs on his ark.

James Haught, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is editor emeritus of West Virginia’s largest newspaper, The Charleston Gazette-Mail.

—==—

Sowing Division, Reaping Lives

by Leslie D. Gregory and Tom H. Hastings

It’s textbook Institutional Racism.

Did Trump say out loud, “I’m going to gut the original environmental law of the U.S. and it will affect everyone’s health negatively but the health of black and brown people the most?”

Of course not. But that is exactly what is afoot with his intention to roll back major portions of the 1969 germinal environmental law—the National Environmental Protection Act—the original law upon which all such important protections are

built. The Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act—all these protections, and more, of our public health will be weakened and, in some cases, rendered virtually moot, when Trump finishes.

Big oil will profit. Huge corporations will skip previously required steps to pass assessments and protection measures, increasing profits for all manner of developers and increasing incidence of lung disease, heart disease and cancers associated with reckless release of toxic and hazardous material that speeds extraction, quickens construction, and jacks up mortalities. Industry benefits, people lose.

It’s not like environmental laws are perfect, but they need improvement, not evisceration. Rebecca Beitsch writes for The Hill:

The EPA found black Americans are subjected to higher levels of air pollution than whites. Another study found that communities of color and low-income populations are disproportionately exposed to chemical releases. Others have found that minority and low income communities were more likely to be near hazardous waste sites. Advocates often collectively refer to these towns as environmental justice communities.

So there is already a lethal bias against poor people and people of color in many respects—as if that means that middle-class white people are immune from these public

health threats. It does not.

But it does mean that institutional racism will be claiming even more victims—little children, innocent of anything other than being African American or Latinx or Native American/Pacific Islander, will be statistically more likely to suffer asthma, nascent heart damage, and a wide range of chemically/toxically related cancers.

When a little girl whose parents can only afford housing near some project or facility that is releasing unhealthy atmospheric elements or polluting the local drinking water, when that child gets sick, that isn’t a statistic, that is a little girl. Donald Trump should not be allowed to hurt her.

From caging children to poisoning them, this impeached guardian of corporate profits should not be permitted to get away with this and other crimes against humanity.

Racism is not primarily, or even much, about an ignorant white person calling a black person the n-word, nor about Trump calling refugees “animals.” It is far more common, far more deadly, when it’s baked in the cake of our laws, our governance, our education, our healthcare system, and our economy.

The hypocrisy of Trump labeling other countries, even some of those with universal healthcare and decent environmental law enforcement, as “sh__hole” while we descend to new lows ourselves, is truly abysmal. Our leadership in the world is being



dragged down by one unfit to lead in any worthy sense.

These diseases associated with proximity to toxicity are insidious, atypical in many cases, and deceptively chronic, all highly associated with resultant compromised self-concept, and other mental health risks. It is often hard to pinpoint a proven origin, but common sense epidemiology shows it clearly. Of course, access to the health care required is negatively associated with the populations most directly



Not for the first time, the Flag Police were perplexed. Whilst on routine patrol in the North End, they espied an unfamiliar object dangling from the flagpole o’er the grave of General William Whipple. Closer inspection by telephotographic means suggest that it is some sort of flag-themed bunting: a long strip of cloth, featuring red and white stripes interspersed with blue fields dotted with white stars, knotted around the halyard. Anyone with knowledge of how it came to be hanging above the grave of a signer of the Constitution is invited to contact the Flag Police via this newspaper.



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ADMIRAL FOWLE’S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua’s ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

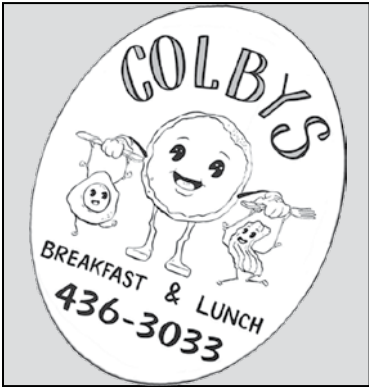
moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of

Badger’s Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19	MONDAY, JANUARY 20	TUESDAY, JANUARY 21	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22	THURSDAY, JANUARY 23	FRIDAY, JANUARY 24	SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
2004—Weeks after telling Chris Matthews, “we’re going to break up the giant media enterprises,” Howard Dean addresses a screaming crowd in Iowa. Video techs create a clip using sound from his mike only, which makes him sound unhinged. It is aired 633 times over the next four days. 2001—On his last full day in office, Bill Clinton admits he perjured himself when he denied having sex with “that woman,” Monica Lewinsky. 1996—Hollywood producer Don Simpson [<i>Crimson Tide</i>], 52, succumbs to his \$2,000/day drug habit. 1985—At the Houston Astrodome, 35,000 watch Canadian daredevil Karel Soucek’s 180-foot barrel drop go wrong; he dies hours later. 1968—The AEC sets off an H-bomb 90 miles from its usual test site in an attempt to placate Howard Hughes. Alas, the site is unsuitable. 1920—The ACLU is founded. 1915—Two Britons are killed and three injured in the first Zeppelin attack of WWI. 1915—Factory guards in Roosevelt, N.J. shoot 20 rioting strikers. 1847—Charles Bent, the new Territorial Governor of New Mexico, is scalped at his Taos home in front of his wife and children. 1810—Portsmouth’s temperature drops 50 degrees overnight. 1570—In Linlithgow, the Earl of Moray becomes the first man to be assassinated with a firearm.	2017—After D.J. Trump gives his “American Carnage” speech, George W.[MD] Bush says to Hillary Clinton, “Well, that was some weird shit.” 2009—Top Congressional Republicans gather and scheme to sabotage the administration of the newly-inaugurated President. 2009—Administering the Oath of Office to President Obama off the top of his head, Chief Justice John Roberts blows his lines. 2005—J.P. Morgan Chase admits two banks it swallowed had taken slaves as collateral years before. 1981—As per arrangement with the GOP, Iran releases 52 U.S. hostages. 1981—Awakened at 9:00 a.m. and reminded that he’ll soon be inaugurated, Ronald Reagan asks, “Does that mean I have to get up?” He will go on to trade arms for hostages, bankroll the future al-Qaeda, rob Social Security, and triple the national debt. 1953—Ike blurs the line between church and state by beginning his inaugural speech with a prayer. 1936—England’s King George V is euthanized with an injection of cocaine and morphine, timed so his death could be reported in the more-dignified morning newspapers, rather than the evening rags. His last words are, “God damn you.” 1902—In the Philippines, U.S. Major Littleton Waller summarily executes 11 native guides. He is acquitted of murder at court-martial.	2018—An Australian couple finds a message in a bottle, thrown overboard by German researchers in 1886. 2001—Ignoring the jeers of 20,000 demonstrators, the <i>New York Times</i> “reports” George W.[MD] Bush may usher in a “new era of ... social justice.” 2000—“When I was coming up,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “it was a dangerous world, and you knew exactly who they were. It was us vs. them, and it was clear who they was.” 1997—Newt Gingrich becomes the first Speaker of the House to be disciplined for unethical behavior. 1996—Bill and Monica enjoy their fifth illicit encounter. 1981—National Security Advisor Dick Allen does Nancy Reagan a favor, intercepting gifts from a Japanese reporter the law prohibits her from accepting. She repays the favor by exploiting that act to get Allen fired. 1977—Pres. Carter issues a blanket pardon to all Vietnam draft dodgers. 1968—The NVA begins a 78-day siege of U.S. Marines at Khe Sanh. Outnumbered 5 to 1 and suffering 737 KIA/MIA, Marines prevail. 1968—A heater SNAFU ignites unauthorized foam seats aboard a B-52 over Greenland. It crashes, scattering parts of four H-bombs—which are barred by treaty with Denmark. 1959—Former Little Rascal Carl “Alfalfa” Switzer is fatally shot in the belly by a bear-hunting companion in a dispute over a lost dog.	2008—The Center for Public Integrity documents 935 instances of “orchestrated deception” by President George W.[MD] Bush and seven top officials leading up to the Iraq War. 1997—Lottie Williams, walking in a Tulsa park, is hit on the shoulder by a small falling chunk of a Delta rocket. 1987—Pennsylvania Treasurer Budd Dwyer, charged with fraud, blows his brains out on live TV. 1973—The Supreme Court issues its <i>Roe v. Wade</i> decision. 1959—Ordered illegally to dig coal from under the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, with nothing to gauge their clearance, twelve miners drown when the river breaks through. 1958—The FBI, developing a program to read Americans’ mail, discovers the CIA is already doing that. 1957—George “The Mad Bomber” Metesky, stifed on a worker’s comp claim, is arrested in New York for planting 30 bombs over 16 years. 1945—Arthur Kasherman becomes the third muckraking Minneapolis newspaperman in 11 years to be shot dead on the street. 1932—El Salvadoran authorities begin settling a peasant uprising; over six months they murder 25,000. 1920—Civil libertarians report that the Army is torturing conscientious objectors on Alcatraz. 1905—Thousands of Russian peasants petition the Czar, hundreds are slaughtered on Bloody Sunday.	2016—“I could stand in the middle of 5th Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn’t lose voters,” says the Republican nominee in Sioux City, Iowa. 2001—The <i>LA Times</i> reports that “W” keys are missing from White House computers. It’s not true. 2000—Campaigning for President in Salem, N.H., John McCain tells reporters, “I would never do this again.” 1986—In a mixup, half a ton of uranium is pumped into the sea at Wind-scale, England. 1973—Richard Nixon claims his “peace with honor” deal with Ho does not betray our allies, abandon our prisoners, or let the war continue in Indochina. It does all three. 1968—North Korea seizes the <i>USS Pueblo</i> for spying within its waters. 1957—Klan members in Montgomery, Ala. force Willie Edwards Jr. to jump from a bridge. A judge quashes the indictment of 3 men 19 years later, saying “forcing a person to jump from a bridge does not naturally and probably lead to the death of such person.” 1909—After a London payroll heist, two Latvian socialists fire 400 pistol rounds during a two-hour, ten-mile attempt to escape on foot and by tram. They kill a cop, a kid, and themselves. 1870—On the Marias River in Montana, Maj. Eugene Baker’s soldiers massacre 173 Blackfoot women and children. Chief Heavy Runner dies holding a U.S. flag given to him to assure their safety.	2015—The winter’s first snow falls in Portsmouth. It won’t be the last. 2001—GOP hack Rich Galen reports (falsely) that outgoing Gore staffers slashed all the power cords in the Office of the Vice President. 1999—Joe DiMaggio, watching “Dateline NBC,” is disturbed to read in the “crawl” that he has died. 1992—Gov. Bill Clinton flies to Arkansas so the execution of self-lobotomized cop-killer Ricky Ray Rector—who asks jailers to save the dessert from his last meal “for later”—will enhance his campaign for President. 1963—The tail falls off a B-52 flying over Maine at 500 feet—one-seventieth of its design altitude—and it crashes into Elephant Mountain. Two men survive the crash, seven don’t. 1961—A disintegrating B-52 releases a pair of 3.8 megaton H-bombs over Goldsboro, N.C. One parachutes “safely”—a single safety switch prevents detonation. The other falls freely, and remains 180 feet underground. 1955—RIP Iwo Jima flag raiser Ira Hamilton Hayes, of exposure, at 32. 1946—President Truman, swearing in Rear Admiral Sidney Souers to head the Central Intelligrnce Group, presents him with a cloak and dagger. 1935—The first-ever canned beer [Kreuger] goes on sale in Richmond, Va. 1692—French priest Louis-Pierre Thury and hundreds of Abenaki raid York, Maine, killing 100 and taking 100 hostage.	2005—Conservative columnist Maggie Gallagher admits taking \$21,500 from the government for plugging Bush Administration proposals. 2004—Senator John McCain confirms to Vermin Supreme that Karl Rove dynamited the Old Man of the Mountain “in a fit of anger” over McCain’s defeat of George W.[MD] Bush in the 2000 N.H. Primary. 2002—White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales advises the Bush Administration that it can ignore the Geneva Conventions. 2002—Veep Dick “Dick” Cheney asks Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle to limit investigations into the events of 9/11. 1996—Billy Bailey, the 19th of 23 children raised in a two-room shack, is hanged by the State of Delaware, the last American to go that way. 1995—Aides to notorious drunkard Boris Yeltsin, getting a message about a rocket test gone wrong, hand him Russia’s “nuclear suitcase.” 1979—At a Ford plant in Flat Rock, Mich., Robert Williams, 25, becomes the first human killed by a robot. 1966—An SR-71 Blackbird flying at Mach 3.2 disintegrates 78,000 feet above New Mexico, but test pilot Bill Weaver lives to fly again. 1927—J. Frank Norris of Fort Worth, a Baptist preacher who fatally shot an unarmed man, is acquitted of murder. 1926—In Passaic, N.J. 16,000 textile workers strike.
6:10 6:47 12:30	7:11 7:52 12:43 1:34	8:10 8:53 1:43 2:35	9:05 9:47 2:41 3:30	9:56 10:36 3:34 4:20	10:44 11:22 4:23 5:06	11:27 5:48 5:08 5:48
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26	MONDAY, JANUARY 27	TUESDAY, JANUARY 28	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29	THURSDAY, JANUARY 30	FRIDAY, JANUARY 31	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
2015—Two more feet of snow fall on Portsmouth. 2006—On Sunset Blvd., Joaquin Phoenix is rescued from his rolled, gas-recking car by Werner Herzog. 2005—Gay hustler and accredited White House correspondent Jeff Gannon asks Pres. G.W.[MD] Bush how he can work with insane people like Harry Reid and Hillary Clinton. 2001—Britain’s <i>Guardian</i> reports [falsely] that Air Force One was “stripped bare” in “an orgy of pilfering” by outgoing Clinton staffers. 1998—The Project for a New American Century sends a letter, signed by E. Abrams, J. Bolton, W. Kristol, R. Perle, D. Rumsfeld, & P. Wolfowitz, to Bill Clinton, urging him to overthrow Saddam Hussein. He’s busy denying he had “sex with that woman.” Her name’s Monica Lewinski. 1979—Ex-Veep Nelson Rockefeller, 70, alone in his townhouse with 26-year old Megan Marshak, dies of a heart attack. An hour later his corpse is found by a security guard, five blocks away at Rockefeller Center. 1943—Famine-fighter, agronomist, and geneticist Nikolai Vavilov, imprisoned due to criticism from quack Trofim Lysenko, dies of starvation. 1940—R. Reagan marries J. Wyman in a chapel at Forest Hills Cemetery. 1894—Illinois drops George Painter. The rope breaks and he lands on his head. Bleeding profusely, he’s hanged a second time for good measure.	2015—It snows so hard in Portsmouth that mail carriers fail to make their appointed rounds. 2008—The NSA warns that a malfunctioning, bus-size spy satellite will fall out of orbit soon. 2005—Veep Dick “Dick” Cheney wears a down parka and ski cap to an Auschwitz memorial ceremony. 2005—<i>Salon</i> reveals that hack writer Michael McManus has been paid \$10,000 to promote Bush programs. 2000—“I know how hard it is for you to put food on your family,” says George W.[MD] Bush in Nashua. 1987—Gorbachev announces the new policy of <i>glasnost</i>. 1973—Eleven hours before a cease fire between the U.S. and North Vietnam takes effect, an artillery shell makes Col. William B. Nolde the last official American combat casualty of the Vietnam War. 1972—White house “plumber” G. Gordon Liddy presents Attorney General John Mitchell with a plan to disrupt the Democratic Convention using “mugging squads, kidnapping teams, and prostitutes.” The plan is rejected—because it’s too expensive. 1970—Nixon’s Palace Guard gets new uniforms: white with gold buttons and aiguillettes, topped by comic opera hats. They last two weeks. 1967—A fire in the <i>Apollo</i> capsule kills three astronauts. 1957—Martin Luther King’s home is bombed for the second time.	2008—In his last (yay!) State of the Union speech, George W.[MD] Bush promises his budget will keep the U.S. “on track for a surplus in 2012.” 2004—U.S. weapons inspector David Kay tells the Senate pre-war WMD intelligence was “almost all wrong.” 2003—In his State of the Union Address, George W.[MD] Bush cites misidentified aluminum tubes, non-existent viruses, fictitious alliances, and imaginary uranium as ample justification for his next war. 1986—Ronald Reagan puts off his State of the Union speech because the space shuttle <i>Challenger</i>, launched under adverse conditions, crashed. 1969—Unocal drillers using sub-standard pipe cause a 100,000-barrel oil spill off Santa Barbara, creating an 800 square mile oil slick and an environmental movement. 1958—In Nebraska, Charles Starkweather, 17, and Carol Fugate, 14, kill their 8th through 10th (out of an eventual 11) victims. 1936—Thrill-killer Richard Loeb is murdered by a fellow-prisoner at whom he made a pass. <i>The Chicago Daily News</i> writes that Loeb, “... a master of the English language, today ended a sentence with a proposition.” 1922—The roof of the Knickerbocker Theatre in Washington, D.C. collapses under thirty inches of snow, killing 98 and injuring 133. 1918—Texas Rangers murder all 15 Hispanic residents of Porvenir.	2002—Qassem Suleimani, Commander of the Quds Force—who had been considering a rapprochement between Iran and the U.S.—goes ballistic after George W.[MD] Bush’s “Axis of Evil” speech. Also: Bush asks Senate Majority Leader Daschle to limit investigations into 9/11. 1991—“Our forces in the Gulf will not stay there one day longer than is necessary,” says George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush. 1979—“I don’t like Mondays,” replies Brenda Spencer, 16, when asked why she shot eleven people, killing two, at a San Diego elementary school. 1975—The House, under Speaker Carl Albert [D-Okla.], votes to cover up the Pike Committee’s report on the crimes of U.S. intelligence agencies. 1925—The sub <i>S-48</i>, enroute to the Shipyard, grounds itself off Jeffrey’s Point, then again in Little Harbor. 1912—Anna LoPizzo, 34, is killed by a shot through the heart during the Bread & Roses strike in Lawrence, Mass. A cop probably did it, but anarchists are blamed. 1889—John M. Clayton [R-Ark.], a Congressional candidate in an election featuring armed white men stealing ballot boxes, is shot through his boarding house window. He’s declared the winner; the seat left vacant. 1863—U.S. Army troops and Shoshone Indians clash at the Bear River in Utah. After the Shoshone run out of ammo, rapes and a massacre begin.	2005—A U.S. official reports that \$9,000,000,000 is ... well ... sort of ... missing in Iraq. 1981—An FB-111A “Aardvark” based at Pease AFB crashes near homes at Mariner’s Village, about 1.25 miles northwest of Market Square. One apartment building is destroyed; no one is injured. 1976—The Supreme Court decides that limiting campaign contributions would unfairly restrict the speech of its favorite minority group: people with unlimited amounts of money. 1972—“Bloody Sunday” in Northern Ireland: British soldiers gun down 14 Catholic civil-rights marchers. 1968—Two hundred colonels in the U.S. MACV staff attend a pool party in Saigon. “Not one ... new Kewt was coming” the next day, an analyst says later. 1945—A Soviet sub sinks the <i>MV Wilhelm Gustloff</i>; some 9,400 drown, mostly civilians, half children. 1933—Destabilized by austerity, largely self-inflicted, Germany allows the Nazis to seize power. 1798—Rep. Matthew Lyon insults Rep. Roger Griswold on the House floor. Griswold calls Lyon a coward. Lyon spits in Griswold’s face. 1661—Oliver Cromwell, despite having been dead for two years, is posthumously executed and decapitated. His head goes unburied for 300 years. 1649—King Charles I discovers divine right has limits when Oliver Cromwell removes his head.	2003—At the White House, George W.[MD] Bush tells Tony Blair he’s going to invade Iraq with or without WMDs, and diplomacy will have to fit around the military strategy. 1984—President Reagan alleges the U.S. has a problem with “people who are sleeping on the grates ... homeless ... you might say, by choice.” 1971—In Detroit, Vietnam Veterans Against the War testify about U.S. policies in Vietnam. Few listen. 1968—The Viet Cong and NVA send a message with coordinated attacks from the Delta to the DMZ, including the U.S. Embassy in Saigon: we’re not giving up. The U.S. brass don’t hear it but the public does. General “Clueless” Westmoreland says Hue has been retaken. He’s off by a month. 1963—“The war in Vietnam is going well and will succeed,” says Bob McNamara, Secretary of Defense. 1958—A B-47 crashes on takeoff in North Africa and burns, but the armed nuke on board doesn’t go off. 1950—Truman orders the construction of the first H-bomb. 1945—Out of the 21,000 U.S. soldiers who desert during WW II, Private Eddie Slovik gets to be the one who’s executed by a firing squad. 1900—William Goebel is sworn in as Governor of Kentucky a day after being shot. Three days later he dies. 1606—Guy Fawkes falls—or leaps—from the scaffold and dies, thereby escaping his disembowelment.	2005—Canada OK’s same-sex marriage; world does not end. 2004—Janet Jackson bares a nipple on TV; world nearly ends. 2003—The space shuttle <i>Columbia</i> disintegrates over Texas. 1974—Richard Nixon meets for twenty minutes with the Reverend Sun Myung Moon. 1968—In Saigon, AP photographer and former Marine Eddie Adams snaps the anti-Iwo Jima Flag Raising photo of the Vietnam War: General Nguyen Ngoc Loan shooting VC Captain Nguyen Van Lem, whose hands are tied, in the head. 1964—Filthy-minded Governor of Indiana Matthew E. Welsh declares The Kingsmen’s song “Louie Louie,” which everyone else finds incomprehensible, to be obscene. 1963—Fleetwood Linley, the last living person to have looked upon the face of the dead Abraham Lincoln, dies at the age of 75. 1960—Civil rights sit-ins begin at Woolworth’s in Greensboro, N.C. 1951—An inevitable confluence: the first television broadcast of an atomic explosion. 1926—Col. Billy Mitchell, the lone U.S. military officer who understands the potential of aircraft in warfare, is court-martialled for criticizing his “superiors.” 1923—In Japan, most of Tokyo and all of Yokohama are destroyed by an earthquake; 143,000 die.
12:03 12:09 5:51 6:27	12:43 12:48 6:32 7:05	1:21 1:28 7:12 7:42	1:59 2:08 7:54 8:20	2:38 2:49 8:37 8:59	3:19 3:35 9:23 9:42	4:03 4:25 10:13 10:28



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