

The Fortnightly Rant

Not To Say We Told You So, But...

One year ago we ran a Rant under the headline, "Are We Our Own Sea People?" It noted that, in the Late Bronze Age, the Eastern Mediterranean was home to a whole array of highly developed civilizations living comfortable, stable lives. Then in 1177 BC, it all fell apart: "Orderly, comfortable cities collapsed without the trade which had made them livable. Essentially, the world ended—granted, with enough survivors to scrape by, generation after generation, until they could knit their society together again.

"One theory attributes this havoc to the enigmatic, mysterious Sea Peoples. What little we know about them is derived from a few hieroglyphics. Whoever they were—possibly some coalition of migrating hordes—they had, alas, no Homer to memorialize their story."

One presumes, however, that the Sea People at least had the wit to make sure that somebody was steering their damn boats. We, on the other hand, have...well, you know. We'll not try here to enumerate the failings of this so-called administration. Let more fully-staffed organizations scurry like squirrels after those acorns. We'll just stand in awe of the extent of the wreckage—while we still can.

It wasn't prescience that caused us to meditate last year on the collapse of those civilizations thousands of years ago. It was more like a decent respect for gravity.

A certain small subset of Americans—who else?—enjoy a sport called anvil shooting. Small hollows in the bottom of a standard-pattern anvil will hold about a pound of black powder. That's enough to lift a hundred-pounder 200 feet in the air. For some, this pastime needs no explanation; for others it will remain

forever inexplicable. Our point here is that even people who are crazy enough to send an anvil as high as the North Church's weathervane have enough sense to know that the damn thing's coming back down.

A certain large sector of America's political class, however, insists that the only good government is the Defense Department, plus as many hanging judges as the Federalist Society can name. Anything beyond that is a tyrannical effort to crush the American Way of Life under the bootheel of Godless Communism. Whatever you want, if you can't find it on the Free Market, you don't need it; if you can't afford it, you just need to work harder.

Decades of repetition of that line finally added America's electorate sufficiently—those whom the GOP's elections operatives permitted to vote, anyway—for them to elect a fake billionaire whose brand was only saved from the dumpster by a TV show which let him play an authoritarian bully. Talk about type-casting.

Luckily for him, star-struck CNN found his egregious financial crimes less interesting than his logorrhea. He doesn't know much, but he knows his best chance—his only chance—of avoiding prosecution for his crimes is to get re-elected. Hence the effort—no matter how futile—to cover up accurate Covid-19 numbers.

The Dementia-Patient-in-Chief told the Fox Falsehood Dissemination System on Tuesday, "Nobody ever expected a thing like this." It should come as no surprise to the sentient that the opposite is true. That same day *Politico* published a *Playbook for Early Response to High-Consequence Emergency Infectious Disease Threats and Biological*



Incidents. Prepared by the National Security Council, and bearing the Seal of the Office of the President of the United States, it was created in 2016.

Had the *Playbook* been competently used in a timely manner, we'd probably be talking today about cases of Covid-19 being tracked and isolated in small, localized hot spots. Instead, The Petulant One fired those whose job it was to follow the plan. As a result, we're now #1—in cases of Covid-19. We're barely testing, though, so the real number is bound to be much higher.

That's just nit-picking, though. The exact number is irrelevant because the rate of infections is doubling so fast.

Up until about a month ago, the official line of our corporate "free" press was that the economy was going gangbusters. Meanwhile, here on this planet, the Brookings Institute reported last month that "53 million Americans between the ages of 18

to 64—accounting for 44 percent of all workers—qualify as 'low-wage.' Their median hourly wages are \$10.22, and median annual earnings are about \$18,000."

Such findings are, of course, routinely scoffed at by dimwitted trust fund babies with comfortable securities at one of the innumerable oligarch-funded propaganda mills. "They're not poor," writes Archibald Balderdash IV, "they've got cell phones—they're just freeloaders who want you to pay for their health care"—as if you could drive for Uber without a cell phone, between your other two jobs.

With this as background, the current crisis has jacked up unemployment claims to about 1,000 percent. No, that's not a typo. It, too, may be an undercount, though. The St. Louis Fed said yesterday that next quarter's unemployment rate will be about 32 percent. Say goodbye to your lovely employer-based health insurance, people.

Confident, well-dressed individuals on TV have begun suggesting that to save the economy—and in this case, with all due respect to Kai Ryssdal, *Wall Street is the economy*—it may be necessary to lift restrictions and let people go back to working and shopping. Just your usual capitalist trade-off: kill a generation of old, obsolete workers; stave off any further deterioration of the portfolios of high net worth investors. Now we know who's on those death panels: the Forbes 400.

The Trump campaign is threatening to yank broadcast licenses from TV stations that air an ad in which the only words comes from his own mouth—which is currently babbling about packing the churches for Easter. He's probably more concerned about packing Mar-a-Lago's Annual Easter Brunch and Egg Roll.

He'd kill fewer people if he gave up Presidenting and just walked down Fifth Avenue firing a Thompson gun.

The Alleged News®

To Our Loyal Subscribers

Publishing the Nation's Oldest Newspaper™ has been—and continues to be—an all-consuming passion of the Alleged Editor. The many remarkable volunteers who take part in its operation are, if perhaps less clinically rabid than he, also committed to the continuing operating what we also believe to be the nation's *freest* paper.

Frankly, we cannot understand why so few people choose to take advantage of the incredible power of a 20-ton rotary offset press—the size of a diesel locomotive, and sounding like one, too, as it cranks out hundreds of papers a minute—and publish their own newspapers. They just don't know what fun they're missing.

To our ongoing astonishment, fortune has allowed us to couple that remarkable technology with this truly ancient institution. Elsewhere on this website (a phrase it shocks

him to write) the editor briefly explains its history in a video: a story told to him by his father long ago led him to discover that, for a mere \$40, he could acquire the rights to a newspaper which had been founded by a collateral ancestor twenty years before the American Revolution—a fully-documented lifespan that stretches halfway back to the time of Johannes Gutenberg. Adding greatly to the satisfaction of the transaction: by putting down that \$40, he whisked the paper away from the world's ninth-richest man.

On Saturday, May 1, 1999, we re-introduced this improbable confluence of history, technology, and chance to the town where it had been founded 242 years earlier. Over time, it received a warm reception. That acceptance has made it possible for us to publish 545 fortnightly issues since then, on the cheap but

eminently serviceable newsprint that we love so much.

Shortly after mailing our most recent *paper* paper, however—Volume 264, No. 13, on Friday the 13th of March—we had to reassess the practicality of our *modus operandi*. We could hardly ask our volunteers to venture out into a possibly-hazardous environment and distribute newspapers in places where there would be no one to pick them up. We have a robust taste for the absurd, but that would be too much.

Similarly, our mailing operation generally involves six or eight delightful volunteers—seasoned people, one might say—sitting around a big table in fairly close proximity, talking and laughing as they fold newspapers for mailing. There's enough criminally insane behavior going on in this country already, much of it emanating from.... You

get the point.

Therefore we did what we had to do—for the time being. Here you see the inevitable result of our deliberation: the oldest, freest newspaper in the nation, confined in this sterile digital realm: theoretically infinite yet somehow dimensionless. We will try to make the best of it.

Regarding Subscriptions

The question naturally arises: "What about my subscription, you bum?"

We calmly answer: the fulfillment of subscriptions is being suspended, not cancelled.

On that blessed day when we resume publication on tangible, foldable, scribble-uponable newsprint, fulfillment will resume. All subscriptions will be honored in full. Whatever the number of papers we owe, readers will receive.

We will also then return to our

practice of distributing thousands of papers for free, out there in the tantalizing analog world of weather, chance meetings on the sidewalks of this city, and familiar faces at our favorite places to eat.

Until that time, you may find us every fortnight, on alternating Fridays, here at newly renovated www.nhgazette.com.

[*"Lordy, this will take some getting used to, writing from this non-corporate space...."*]

[*"Shut up, you fool! Can't you see that they can read this!"*]

—==—

Hard Times All Around

This state of affairs is not to our liking, but we can't complain. Our business model, such as it is, is based on a svelte eight-page tabloid format.

The Alleged News®

from page one

A single copy, including an address sheet for mailing, weighs just under an ounce—suitable for First Class mailing. That small size keeps costs low, reducing the need for advertising revenue to cover printing costs. Much of our distribution is done by volunteers. As noted above, we fully expect to weather this storm—unless, of course, the situation continues to deteriorate into a full-scale zombie apocalypse.

As the Nieman Journalism Lab's Josh Benton wrote on March 19th, though, the prospects don't look so good for many other free papers around the country: "This has, without a doubt, been the single worst week in the history of America's alternative press." Benton listed dozens of papers suspending their print editions, suspending or furloughing staff, asking for donations. Some are simply shutting down.

Those alt-weeklies that do survive are likely going to be dependent on online advertising. That's too bad, because it makes them vulnerable to another threat, one that pre-dates Covid-19, but is equally virulent: private equity capitalism.

Readers are hoovering up news about Covid-19 like there's no tomorrow—which shows good sense because maybe there won't be. The online advertising racket, though, is very skittish about "brand safety." Buyers of online advertising don't want their sacred products to be associated, even by mere propinquity on a screen, with the nasty, deadly virus.

So, working with outfits like Integral Ad Science and DoubleVerify, they set their algorithms to block placement near any stories that include the term "Covid-19." That's costing media giants like the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* millions, but it may kill off alt-weeklies already on life support.

Stuck Inside? Read a Book!

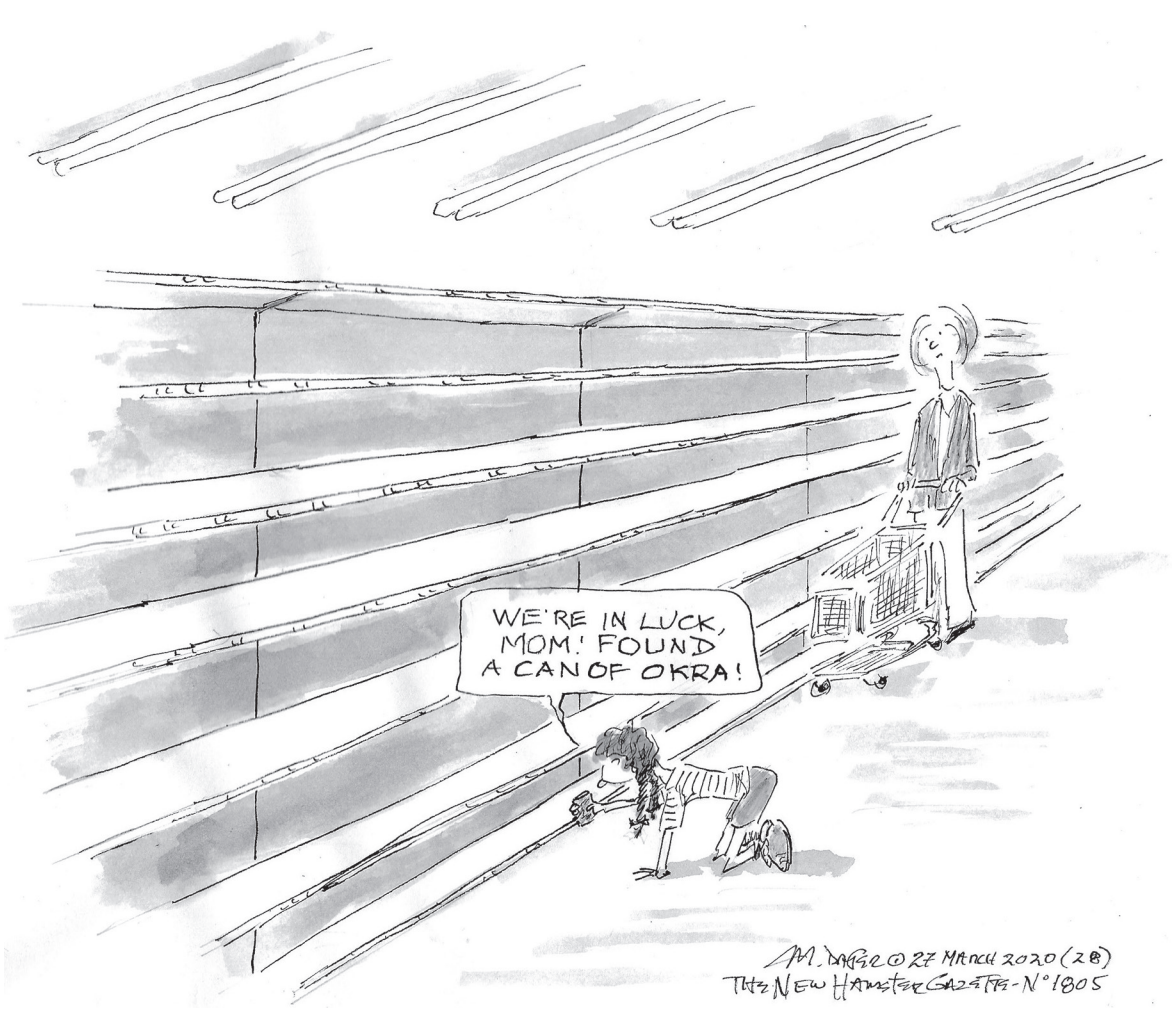
While we're still on the topic of ink on paper, we want to pass along a message from our friend Tom Holbrook:

It's time to close the doors....

Despite feeling like we are operating very carefully, I had decided to close the store to the public at the end of the day on Sunday. I felt I couldn't ignore the strident pleas from health care workers urging everyone to keep contact to a minimum.



Under a brilliant blue sky, a man and his beagle enjoy some late afternoon sun in Market Square on Friday, March 20th. The town's reputation for a chronic shortage notwithstanding, empty parking places abound.



However, the Governor has just announced that all businesses must close by the end of the day tomorrow (Friday). So that's that!

So, what happens next?

We will deliver books to your home!

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I'll be answering the phone 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., so if you have any book questions don't hesitate to call or email. (603) 431-2100.

What else can we do to help? It's no

secret that many, many of our best customers are senior citizens. If you need help, of any kind, and don't have anyone that can help you, give me a call. I'm happy to run any errand for you, because you should absolutely stay away from other people as much as possible.

What can you do to help RiverRun? Well, it's nice of you to ask.

The obvious answer is to buy books. Don't need any books? Maybe now would be a good time to buy books and have them sent to loved ones around the country (you must know at least five people who need a copy of *These Truths* by Jill Lapore).

We can make great title recommendations and take care of the delivery. Also, you can buy gift certificates to use later. They never expire. Don't need any books? Buy some gift cards and donate them to school librarians and teachers. School will be in session again some day.

Wow, this is all so weird, isn't it? So

open-ended. When will RiverRun be open to the public again? When will downtown feel like downtown again? No one can really say. All I know is I've been doing this for 18 years, but it has only worked because of you. To the best of my ability, I'll keep showing up to help you find great reads, for as long as I can.

Thanks,
Tom

We sincerely hope—we were about to write, "that our readers will cut out this message and keep it next to their phones," but...[sob]—that our readers will do whatever they can to sustain RiverRun Bookstore. Its loss be a severe blow to the cultural life of the community, and to this newspaper. For many years, Tom has kindly allowed us to use his shop, in each of its four successive locations, as a staging area for our downtown distribution volunteers.

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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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— Joe Keefe

Covid-19 is Not the Flu: Some Sobering Numbers

by Roy Morrison

Donald Trump, with his peerless economic and political advisers whispering in his ears, opines that 50,000 dead annually from the flu, or from car crashes, is an acceptable cost of doing business amidst a Covid-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately—moral considerations aside, and accepting that neither Donald Trump nor Moscow believes in tears—Covid-19 is not the flu. The threat is grave, both to health and the economy.

The Numbers Don't Lie

Each flu case is likely to infect one other person. With Covid-19, it is between two and three new people infected on average for each case. Let's say it is just two people infected for each new case in our one-time happy city of two million, Houston, Texas for example.

If we abandon social distancing in the interest of economic growth and let Covid-19 rip, here's what happens. In Houston, one person arriving by plane from New York, to buy oil or natural gas in Houston, infects two oil executives. These two people infect four; four people infect eight; eight people infect 16.... This is an exponential rate of increase, in

marked contrast to the one-by-one spread of the flu.

By the time we reach twenty rounds of infection, we have 1,048,576 people infected in Houston before winter. Half the city's population.

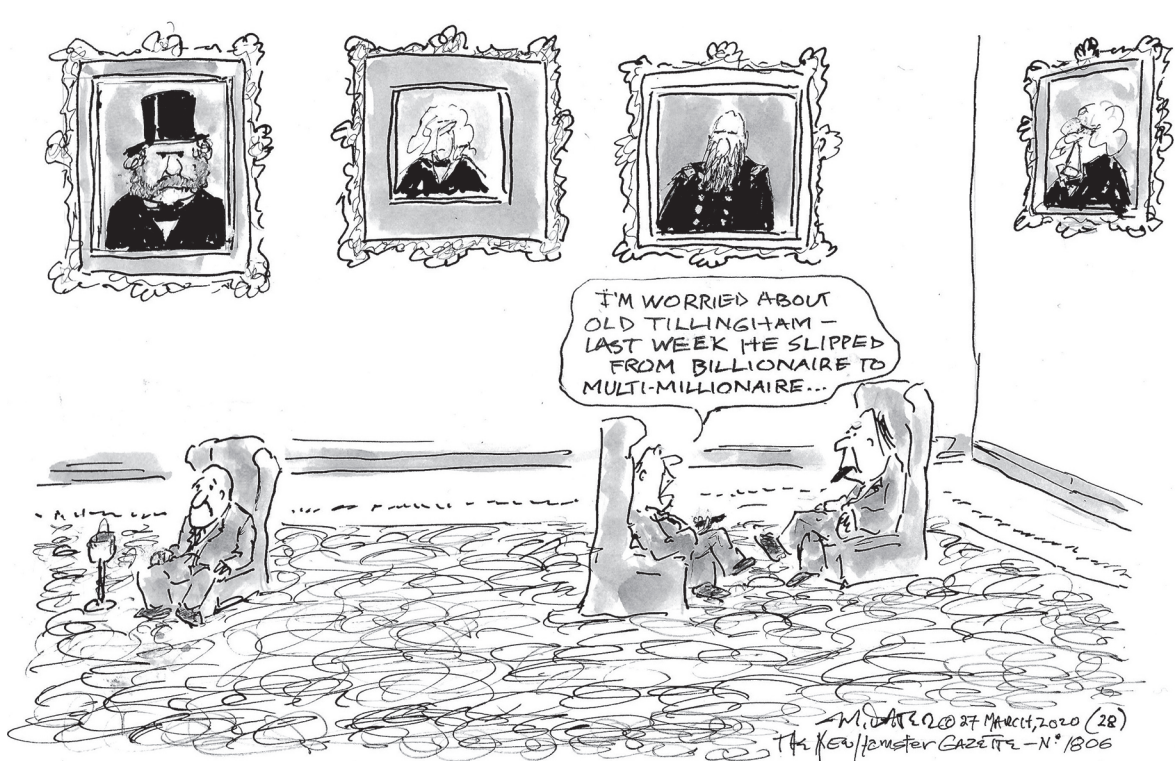
Seven Months of Epidemic

There is about a ten-day latency period from infection to symptoms. This means twenty generations of spread would take 200 days or seven months. If we start on April 15, after Easter, as Donald Trump wishes, by November 15—just past election day—20 percent of those infected are expected to require hospitalization: 209,715 will suffer severe sickness over the next seven months, with 14,680 expected to die—even if fatality rate is less than 1 percent (0.7 percent).

There are 19,300 hospital beds in 85 hospitals in the Houston area, according to the City's website. In week 17 of the epidemic—mid-August—the city will have 131,000 Covid-19 cases, and those hospitals will be completely overwhelmed with 26,000 requiring hospitalization.

Bring Out Your Dead

The flu kills about 0.1 percent of victims. That's one person per thousand. Covid-19 kills 0.7 percent,



based on conservative estimates (fortunately far less than the three to four percent estimate based on early data). That's seven people per thousand.

Given that the flu kills 50,000 people a year in the U.S., and that Covid-19 spreads twice as fast as the flu, while Covid also kills seven times more patients than the flu, we can project that, left to its own devices, over time the 2020 Covid-19 epidemic will kill 14 times more Americans than the flu, or 700,000 Americans.

This number is close to the projection made in 2019 by the "Crimson Contagion" study of the Department of Health and Human Services, which studied the potential consequences of a pandemic in the U.S. without proper health response: 110 million Americans were expected to become ill, leading to 7.7 million hospitalized and 586,000 dead.

During the Black Plague in Europe, carts rolled through the streets, accompanied by the call, "Bring out your dead." Covid-19 is not the Black Plague, but Covid-19 is also not at all the flu. Unless we are smart and move aggressively to test,

sequester, provide proper equipment to hospitals and medical personnel, we will suffer an unparalleled economic and health disaster.

A combination of smart use of social distancing, coordinated production and dispatch of medical equipment and ventilators, and development of therapeutics now undergoing mass clinical trials, can dramatically, and sooner rather than later, control the pandemic. But, if we do not, health and economic misery will almost surely follow.

Roy Morrison builds solar farms; www.RenewableSunPartners.com.

One Last Little Thing

"Until recently, researchers believed East Antarctica was more stable than West Antarctica," according to a NASA report published Wednesday, "because it wasn't losing as much ice compared to the glacial melt observed in the western part of the continent. 'East Antarctica has long been thought to be less threatened, but as glaciers such as Denman have come under closer scrutiny by the cryosphere science community, we are now beginning to see evidence of potential marine ice sheet insta-

bility in this region," said Eric Rignot, project senior scientist at JPL and professor of Earth system science at UCI.

"The ice in West Antarctica has been melting faster in recent years, but the sheer size of Denman Glacier means that its potential impact on long-term sea level rise is just as significant," Rignot added. If all of Denman melted, it would result in about 4.9 feet (1.5 meters) of sea level rise worldwide."

Yale *Environment 360* notes, "The 9,266-square-mile glacier currently fills Antarctica's deepest canyon. As it melts, water is traveling from the canyon into the ocean. Scientists warn the shape of the ground under the ice makes it very susceptible to rapid climate-driven collapse. Not only would this raise sea levels globally, the unblocked canyon could also serve as a pathway for ocean water to penetrate inland and further melt ice sheets."

Memo from the 100 Proof Dept.

Circumstances precluded our proof-reading the first three pages of this newspaper. Enjoy looking for errors. Don't tell us when you find them.



Here in "The City of the Open Door," one of the most inviting doors of all is closed until...who knows? The sign at Ceres Bakery reads, "We Will Re-Open at the soonest possible date!! Stay Healthy! We love you all!!"

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"It's going to disappear, one day, it's like a miracle; it will disappear."

— President Donald Trump, regarding Coronavirus, 2/27/20

"The biggest big business in America is not steel, automobiles, or television. It is the manufacture, refinement and distribution of anxiety."

— Eric Sevareid

john@wordpraxis.com

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Second Inaugural Address, January 20, 1937

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Concord Public Library, 45 Green St.
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Hanover Public Library, 13 South St.

Keene:

Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St.

Lebanon:

Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

Why America Slept and Continues to Sleep Walk
A Comparison of U.S. & S.K. Responses

To the Editor:

There has been a great deal of finger pointing and blame for our current COVID 19 disaster being directed at China. China does deserve a great deal of blame and should be severely sanctioned for their trying to cover-up the emergence of a novel corona virus and the severity of their epidemic. However, I am not convinced that the American Government would have acted any quicker or with more urgency if they had received an early warning from China. When we finally did get the reports of the problem in China, we did not act with urgency, instead we delayed, denied, made light of, ignored and took no action to protect the nation. Why would we think we would have acted any differently with an earlier warning, when we ignored the warning when we finally did get it?

On the other hand, South Korea, who learned of the problem in China the same time America did and had their first confirmed case on the exact same day as America, January 20th, 2020, took a much different approach. As a result, South Korea has limited their human, economic and social damage, and has controlled the epidemic in their country. What was the difference between the South Korean response and America's?

Soon after learning of the problem in China, on January 27, South Korea's CDC approved one company's test for the new Corona virus, and shortly thereafter a second company. With the new test quickly available, So. Korea began a very aggressive testing program to quickly identify as many cases as possible, place them in isolation, as well as quarantining their close contacts. To date, So. Korea has performed over 290,000 tests, identifying 8,000 cases (Reuters). They continue to test at a rate of 15,000 per day. So. Korea has tested at a rate of 5,200 tests per million people. In contrast, America because of a number of economic, bureaucratic, political and

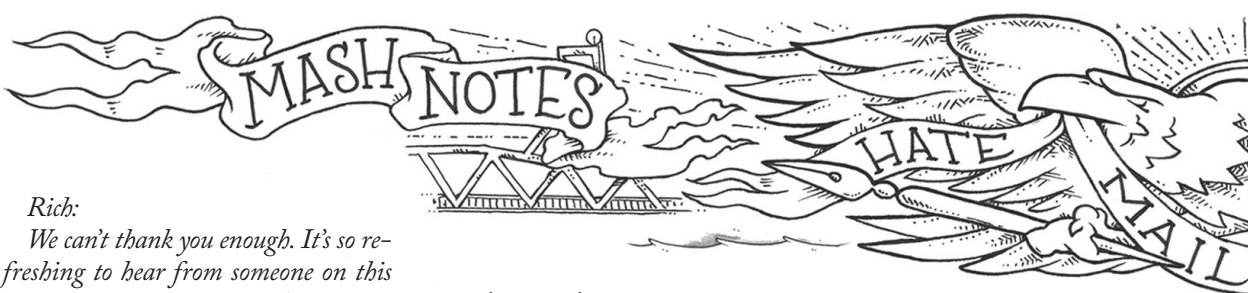
logistical reasons has been unable to provide anything close to the level of testing needed to control the spread of the disease. To date, America has conducted about 60,000 tests and has yet been able to supply hospitals, physicians and other health care providers with sufficient testing capabilities. We are testing at a rate of 74 per million people (Science). As a result, we are not identifying cases quickly, placing cases in isolation and identifying and quarantining their close contacts, thus allowing the disease to spread uncontrollably in our communities.

South Korea took very rapid and aggressive social distancing actions to control the spread of the disease, while America was very slow to appreciate the severity of the pandemic, only declaring a national emergency as recently as March 13.

The consequences of our delays and total mishandling of this pandemic as compared the response by So. Korea can be very dramatically seen by comparing the epidemic curve in each country. So. Korea's curve shows that the number of new cases is declining on a daily basis, and they soon may reach zero new cases. On the other hand, the epidemic curve for America shows a steep increase in new cases every day, and the increase shows no sign of leveling off or coming down any time soon. A picture is worth a thousands words the saying goes, in this case, the picture is worth tens of thousands of lives lost, billions of dollars wasted, and an incalculable amount of pain and suffering, all of which could have been prevented.

In the end, what this tells us about the pathetic, irresponsible and totally incompetent response to this pandemic by our Federal Government and our leaders is that, strong competent leadership matters, effective government matters, science matters, facts matter, truth matters, empathy matters, trust matters, and people matter.

Rich DiPentima, BA, BSN, MPH
Portsmouth, N.H.



Rich:
We can't thank you enough. It's so refreshing to hear from someone on this matter who knows whereof he speaks. With El Trumpo holding daily press conferences, our cumulative understanding of the situation is likely diminishing.
The Editor

An Open Letter to the Governor
March 23, 2020

Dear Governor Sununu;
We the undersigned physicians, epidemiologists, clinicians, nurses, scientists, other healthcare professionals, and elected officials implore you to order a "Shelter-In-Place" order immediately to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus in N.H..

Although the state has only identified 101 positive cases as of March 23, 2020 and one death, the new case rate is following the same early exponential growth trajectory that has occurred in China, Italy, South Korea, and other countries as well as the U.S. N.H. is entering a phase where the new case rate will double every 2 to 4 days.

According to published reports, N.H. currently only has just over 3,000 hospital beds. Based on our projections and those prepared by Harvard, our hospital system will be overwhelmed within 3 weeks.

In addition to our request for a Shelter-In-Place order we are suggesting the following important actions:

1. Follow NY state's shelter in place guidelines closing nonessential businesses and strict social distancing immediately.
2. Develop consistent messaging and modeling to help the public understand the gravity of this threat. Messages include: This is not the flu. Stay home to stay out of the ER. Protect our health care workers at all costs. Do your part to protect N.H.'s vulnerable.
3. Aggressively implement additional testing to test every single case,

even those with minor symptoms, as recommended by the WHO. Implementing drive-through testing like in South Korea and parts of New York will provide the most rapid testing while limiting transmission. About 2,341 (or 0.2%) tests have been done of the 1.3M residents in N.H.. This is a critical piece of understanding mitigation strategies that can be implemented at the community level to allow N.H. to get back to work.

4. Acquire critical medical supplies (PPE and ventilators) from federal stockpiles and suppliers, such as N95 respirators and personal protective gear, to treat patients and protect healthcare workers.

5. Prepare staffing plans for hospitals and healthcare professionals for the eventuality that our healthcare system will be overwhelmed in less than 3 weeks.

6. Construct temporary healthcare facilities to treat high rates of infected individuals in less than 3 weeks.

7. Request help from the federal government to identify locations and setup emergency healthcare treatment centers to handle the critically ill, as well as, obtain stockpiled equipment.

8. Setup SWAT-like team of N.H. Hospital Association, N.H. Homeland Security, N.H. Hospital Association to plan and to communicate plans to the public.

9. Segregate COVID care facilities from routine care to limit transmission, preserve our health care facilities and staff.

10. Place the N.H. Air and Army National Guard on alert for an immediate activation to support medical and other vital needs.

11. Limit liquor store sales to drive up pick up.

12. Close all DMV offices and extend current vehicle registration and

inspections until July.
13. Work with the BIA to identify industries who can manufacture medical PPE.

The situation in South Korea indicates that quick, consistent, and clear early containment, aggressive testing, and social distancing campaigns will likely flatten the curve and lower incident cases to prevent deaths. However, the healthcare system will be overwhelmed in less than 3 weeks and steps need to be taken right now in N.H. to prepare for the eventuality.

Thank you for your work protecting N.H. during this challenging time.

Sincerely;
Mindi Messmer, CG, PG; Dr. Nora Traviss, Environmental Health; Richard Dipentima, Former NH State Epidemiologist, Former NH House Representative; Dr. Michael Dowe; Jeffrey Salloway, PhD, NH House Representative; Dr. Gary Woods; Shanika Amakaroon, Environmental Engineer; Dr. Joseph Norman, Applied Complexity and Data Scientist; Dr. Thomas Webler, Environmental Studies and Risk Analysis; Dr. Margaret Henning, Public Health; Dr. Rebecca Dunn, Public Health; Dr. Loren Launen, Biology; Dr. Susan Whittemore, Biology; Dr. Jason Pellettieri, Biology; Dr. Denise Burchsted, Environmental Studies; Dr. Christopher Brehme, Geography and GIS Science; Dr. Matora Fiorey, Chemistry; Dr. Marie Duggan, Economics; Sarah Smith, MS, Environment Health Science & Policy; Dr. Victor Lazaron, MD, PhD, Head of Surgery Memorial Hospital North Conway, NH; Laurie McCray, RN, MS; Dr. James Zuckerman, Health Officer New Castle; Ida E. McDonnell, Retired Environmental Engineer; C. David London MD Former

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Stratham Health Officer; Dr. Leonard Korn, Past President, New Hampshire Medical Society, 2017-2018.

Higher Taxes a Must

To the Editor:

Two and a half years ago President Trump said if we just gave the multinationals who sent our jobs overseas massive tax breaks, they would bring their profits back to the U.S., build new factories, and create new jobs. They did bring their profits back, but poured them into the stock market instead of factories and jobs. Now the trillion dollars in tax giveaways have gone up in smoke with the market crash.

Trump also promised that his tax cuts would cut the deficits, create lots of new jobs, and give us four percent growth. Instead we got trillion-dollar deficits in a time of full employment, lower growth, and fewer jobs than under President Obama. Trump promised a trillion-dollar infrastructure program. That did not happen when the deficits rocketed.

Why do I bring this up now? When times are good, governments are supposed to save for rainy days to get us through recessions and sudden shocks to the economy. Now we have an enormous shock to the economy and giant deficits. The travel, hotel, entertainment and sports industries are shutting down, colleges are sending kids home. Foreigners are told not to come. The federal government will be spending hundreds of billions providing sick pay for workers whose companies don't, paying unemployment for those laid off as well as dealing directly with the Corona virus. Hundreds of billions on top of trillion-dollar deficits cannot be sustained.

When this crisis is over, we need to

raise taxes up to where they were before Trump came to office. We need to use the new revenue to create the jobs private businesses did not. Use the money repairing bridges, roads our sewer and water system. Use it on providing health care and start mandating sick and family leave that too many giant companies refuse to offer.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.
Walter:

How about raising taxes to where they were before Kennedy was President?

We need to eliminate the cap on Social Security taxes, eliminate the capital gains tax break, get that top tax rate back up where it belongs, impose a wealth tax, and re-fund the IRS—for starters. This is assuming, of course, that things hold together well enough to sustain taxation at all.

The Editor

Support, Don't Upend, Landmine Treaty

To the Editor:

I read with dismay, but not surprise, about President Trump's advocacy for renewed production and use of landmines, as described by an *L.A. Times* article which appeared last month. Like every other position taken during Trump's presidency, this policy reversal is misguided and unconscionable.

In December 1997, a multinational treaty signing conference held in Ottawa, Canada brought about the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL).

Government leaders of many countries signed and ratified the treaty on the spot. The agreement prohibited the use, development and production of anti-personnel mines and called for the destruction of stockpiled mines.

Princess Diana energetically promoted the ban. Jody Williams was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in

conjunction with the ICBL organization for setting the ban in motion. By March 1988 there were 164 signatories to the Ottawa Treaty and more than 100 had ratified it. Among countries not signing on are China, Russia and the United States, though the Obama Administration took significant steps toward joining the ban.

Fortunately, landmines, booby traps, cluster bombs, artillery rounds and other unexploded ordnance (UXO) are not life-altering threats inside the U.S., so such menaces dwell in the back reaches of our consciousness.

This is not the case in many countries which often have predominately agrarian economies and where large population segments live scattered throughout the countryside. Also scattered throughout the countryside are latent indiscriminate explosives from current or past wars.

These merciless devices are usually hidden beneath the soil or in thick vegetation. They have no conscience, uncaring whether to explode in the hand of a playful child, under the foot of a caring parent or grandparent, or in the hands of peasants collecting left-over scrap metal as a source of income. In fact, most casualties are suffered by innocent civilians. Impoverished families are left to survive with legless, armless or blind financial mainstays. Life-sustaining livestock sometimes haplessly trigger UXO blasts and die riddled with shrapnel.

A considerable percentage of explosives disseminated by all sides during wartime are duds, while others detonate at the slightest nudge. They lay hidden as sleeping monsters ready to awaken with a vengeance to kill or maim. Intact mines, bombs and artillery shells are occasionally discovered left over from both theaters of World War II, and rarely even World War I. They've been found in several European, Asian and African countries. UXO from more recent wars litter the ground

in Central and South America, Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

It's realistically too much to expect that major military powers will agree to cease production, store and use heavy weaponry. Signing on to the anti-personnel mines ban, rather than upending it, is a reasonable step toward a more humane world.

Shrapnel and limb loss hurt far more than Trump's bone spurs and last for a lifetime.

Paul Nichols
Loudon, N.H.

[Paul Nichols was seriously wounded by a landmine during the Vietnam War while serving in the USMC.]

Paul:
We share your dismay. Every interaction this man has with members, current or former, of the U.S. armed forces is an insult to them, the nation, and humanity.

The Editor

The Best and the Worst

To the Editor:

Catastrophes usually bring out the best and the worst in human behavior. This certainly is also true for our current global coronavirus pandemic.

A simple but nice example of the best happened to us a few days ago, when a young couple with a small kid, who just recently moved into our neighborhood, rang our door bell to ask, knowing that my wife and I are in our late sixties, whether they could help out with our grocery shopping or to fetch medicine so that we would not need to do so.

Not unexpectedly, Trump stands once again for the worst. In the midst of the worldwide rush to develop a vaccine against the virus, a national German newspaper, *Welt am Sonntag*, revealed on March 15, 2020 that the Trump administration has been trying to negotiate a deal with a German biotech company, Cure-Vac, to buy the companies license for the vaccine, or alternatively to buy the company, and have been offering high financial incentives for their scientists to defect and to come to the States to do their research there.

This does not sound that bad except

for the fact that Trump was attempting to buy an "exclusive" license intended only for use in the U.S.A. At a time when the world should be getting together to defeat a common enemy that knows no borders, he is playing the old game of "America first" and extending it to "America only."

How sick and egoistic can such a person and an U.S. administration be? Does anyone still remember all of those emotional and patriotic Hollywood films, *i.e. Independence Day*, when it is always the great U.S.A. that comes to the rescue of the world when doomsday is near?

Fortunately, the heads of the company Cure-Vac exhibited social responsibility and refused the offer claiming that, if successful, their vaccine is intended for use worldwide. Moreover, their research is funded not only by the German government but also by the EU and by an international vaccine-alliance (CEPI), in other words in a joint international team spirit that is totally incomprehensible to this current US administration.

Perhaps fortunately for us, our new neighbors do not know that I am an American citizen although I assume that these nice people would help us out anyway.

Dr. Imre Somssich
Cologne, Germany

Imre:
Hobbes said life was "nasty, brutish, and short." The people running our government seem to think that was a good thing.

The Editor

"Sinecure Qua Non"

To the Editor:

I do not understand the antagonism to the appointment of Eddie Edwards to the position of Executive Director of the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification. Mr. Edwards is a man of subtle and critical judgement who, for his time at the Liquor Commission, seemed well able to parse the distinction between a legal \$9,999.00 "straw sale" and a \$10,000.00 violation

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

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What do we choose to remember with memorial markers, buildings and community projects?

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"Puddle Dock," now Strawberry Banke, remembers the Irish and other immigrant families who lived there.

To learn more about memorials and what else we choose to remember go to PortsmouthGenome.org Join the conversation.
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Shades of 1920

by William Marvel

“The more things change, the more they stay the same,” claimed some French novelist, and the longer I study history the more I appreciate that adage. What it suggests, to me, is that no amount of social, economic, or political evolution (or revolution) can alter the basic influence of human nature. That seemed abundantly evident as I flipped digitally through some century-old newspapers before dawn one morning recently.

For example, the first newspaper I examined, dated Juneau, Alaska, March 10, 1920, described a mass shooting. A 42-year-old gold miner who had apparently gone bust had boarded a steamship bound for home when he opened up on occupants of the smoking room with the 1920 equivalent of a high-capacity magazine. Of his eight shots, seven took effect, inflicting relatively minor wounds, and then he bolted to the tail of the ship and disappeared over the rail. The only thing that

made a splash was his body, and after a brief search the ship continued on its way. No future coverage reminded us “what we know so far.”

There was also a respiratory plague to worry about, although it had been around so long that it wrought no panic. Tuberculosis was killing nearly 200 people out of every 100,000 in 1900, but sanitarium confinement and treatment had slowed the spread and dropped that mortality to about 120 by 1920. The availability of sanitarium beds seemed to be the greatest concern, not only for treatment of the sick, but as places where they could be segregated from the general population. The *Barre Times* showed great excitement on March 20 over the danger that Vermont might suddenly be cut off from sending tuberculosis patients to sanitariums in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. With all those mountains, you would think Vermont would have had a few sanitariums of its own.

New Hampshire residents congratulated themselves on having

just seen a particularly cold winter, which everyone hoped would kill off the gypsy moth eggs. Like other infestations, gypsy moths originated in Massachusetts, and had been creeping north for about 50 years by then. Half the apple trees in eastern Vermont had been killed by them in 1917 and 1918, and their proliferation was accelerated by relatively warm winters.

Of course, 1920 was a presidential election year, and New Hampshire’s name was all over the nation’s newspapers because of its primary. The first presidential primary in the state, held on March 14, 1916—a week after Indiana’s—had been a bust. Teddy Roosevelt’s backers had tried to squeeze a delegate out of it, but no one won anything, and all the state’s delegates had been left free to choose their own favorites at the convention. By 1920 many states had direct, popular primaries, which robbed party bosses of the chance to choose candidates. Starting that year New Hampshire’s was first. Not every candidate ran in every state,

however, and favorite sons popped up in many states to try winning what might be called “starter” delegates.

As a consequence, the field was ridiculously crowded. General Leonard Wood, commanding officer of the Rough Riders in 1898, took the mantle of his late executive officer, Teddy Roosevelt, to run in the New Hampshire primary, where he had an edge as a native of Winchester. He won the Republican primary on March 9 with just over half the vote, but Hiram Johnson of California walloped him in North Dakota a week later. Wood, Johnson, and Frank Lowden of Illinois split South Dakota three ways, almost evenly, but Herbert Hoover started picking up double-digit percentages thereafter. “Black Jack” John Pershing, of Western Front fame, ran only in his native Nebraska. Edward Wood, of Pennsylvania, won his state hands-down. An Ohio senator and newspaper publisher named Warren G. Harding took a favorite-son chance in his state, but took home only a

plurality.

The field was so crowded that the convention finally chose Harding as a dark horse. The Democrats had likewise seen a host of candidates (including Hoover, who picked up quite a few Democratic votes in Michigan), but they settled on Governor James M. Cox, who was also an Ohio newspaper publisher.

As an example of how closely the present can mirror the past, Cox was billed as a progressive, and the reform candidate. He had been divorced and remarried, which caused a stir for that day, but he was generally perceived as honest and of good intentions. Harding had no program, attracted unsavory cabinet members, and kept a mistress on the side.

Cox won only the solidly Democratic states of the old Confederacy. Harding beat him better than three to one in electoral votes, going on to become a do-nothing president. His only two solid achievements consisted of choosing a competent vice president and dying in office.

from page five

of N.H. law. Were I subject to any Professional Licensure or reprimand I would want a man with Mr. Edwards’ knowledge of the rights and duties of sinecure sitting at the Governor’s elbow.

Furthermore, the man is a straight-up, honest bargain. Think about it. A \$112,000 salary, paid up front, is \$65,000 less than the \$187,000 a Benson appointee took—after appointment. As Charles Dillon Stengel once said, “...you can look it up.”

Larry Brown
Milton, N.H.
Larry:
Speaking of subtle, you’re no slouch.
The Editor



=====
Don’t Risk Infecting Fellow Patients
To the Editor:

If you watched the videos from China of people treating the victims of the Covid-19 virus, you saw them dressed in white suits enclosing their whole body. Your doctor’s office cannot put their entire staff in these suits in case someone walks in with the virus. They cannot treat their regular patients in these suits. This was made known to me when I got an email from my doctor’s office. It said do not come in if you think you have this virus without calling first, letting them know you might be in-

fected and getting an appointment. They have to isolate you from the other patients and have staff dressed so you do not pass on the virus to them.

This same advice should be given by our hospitals, state officials and spread by the media. If you see tents outside the hospital it will be to keep those with the virus away from all the other sick patients as well as the hospital staff.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.
Walter:
“Mr. President, for your own pro-

tection, we’re putting you into this [sound-proofed] protective suit.”
The Editor

=====
“Support the Troops”
“Of course there was an issue—the issue was do you support our policy. But you don’t want people to think about the issue. That’s the whole point of good propaganda: you want to create a slogan that nobody is gonna be against and...everybody will be for, because nobody knows what it means, because it doesn’t mean anything—but its crucial value is, it diverts your attention from a question that does mean something—do you support our policy?—

and that’s the one you’re not allowed to talk about.”
— Noam Chomsky

=====
“As an Ancient Mariner of a sort, I want to hold the doubters with my skinny hand, fix them with a glittering eye, and say, I have been to a place where none of you have ever been, where none of you can ever go. It is the past. I spent decades there and I can say, you don’t have the slightest idea.”
— Paul Theroux, *On the Plain of Snakes*, quoted by Lance Mannion

=====
“...when the angel of death sounds his trumpet, the pretenses of civilization are blown from men’s heads into the mud like hats in a gust of wind.”
— George Bernard Shaw

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Bernie Sanders: Extreme Radical Socialist

by W.D. Ehrhart

I have long since grown weary of hearing Bernie Sanders characterized as “extreme,” a “radical,” and “socialist.” No one will ever accuse The Donald of being a socialist. But telling over 16,000 lies in his first three years in office seems pretty extreme to me. And if denying the undeniable scientific evidence of human-induced climate change and dismantling the entire regulatory system put in place over the 20th century to protect American citizens from rapacious industrialists and financiers isn’t radical, I need a new dictionary.

Meanwhile, President “I-knew-it-was-a-pandemic-all-along” did away with the National Security Council’s pandemic unit in 2018, and now our private for-profit healthcare system is being overwhelmed by the coronavirus pandemic, unable to provide sufficient hospital capacity or healthcare workers, and our capitalist economy cannot produce enough test kits, face masks, hand sanitizer, or even toilet paper to meet demand.

What’s so extreme about providing adequate medical care for everyone? I’ve heard we can’t afford it. But we can afford to pour \$2,000,000,000,000 (count all those zeroes, folks: that’s two trillion dollars) into the black hole of Afghanistan? We can afford ten new aircraft carriers at a cost of \$13,000,000,000 each (still a lot of zeroes: that’s thirteen billion bucks per ship) even

though our current carrier fleet is at least five times larger than the next largest carrier fleet in the world? We can afford 500 F-35 fighter planes at between \$79,000,000 and \$109,000,000 (depending on the model: A, B, or C) for each airplane? But the richest nation in human history can’t afford decent healthcare for its citizens?

Elsewhere in the world, French president Emmanuel Macron, not exactly a flaming Lefty, has suspended rent payments, utility bills, and taxes during the COVID-19 pandemic while the Spanish government has nationalized all private hospitals. Germany is providing direct payments to millions of self-employed workers and microbusinesses. Radical? More like taking action for the common good. And these are countries that already have broad social safety nets the envy of anything provided in the United States of America.

As for the accusation that Sanders is a socialist, how do folks think their roads get paved, their sewage gets treated, and they get drinkable water when they turn on their taps? Collecting money from the body politic and using that money for the common good: that’s socialism. Indeed, one of the largest socialist undertakings in the entire world is the U.S. military, those uniformed heroes we ostentatiously honor at every sporting event and public gathering in America. Our service members and their families are provided with government housing, government

healthcare, government education, and in most cases food, clothing, and entertainment. All of this, good people, is socialism at work.

Indeed, I submit to you that Jesus of Nazareth was himself a socialist. He threw the moneychangers—the capitalists—out of the temple. He told the 1% they were going to have a hard time getting into heaven. Something about the eye of a needle. He provided healthcare to the poor, and never asked for a shekel in return. He hung around with prostitutes and sinners. His disciples were ordinary working men. He fed the hungry multitude fish and bread at no cost to those he fed.

And you’re telling me that I shouldn’t support Bernie Sanders because he’s a radical? An extremist? A socialist? Maybe if we had a little more socialism in this country, our neighborhood electrical systems wouldn’t short-circuit every time there’s a storm. Maybe if we had a little more socialism, we wouldn’t have 47,000 structurally deficient highway bridges in danger of collapse. Maybe if we had a little more socialism, the richest ten percent of our population would not own 77 percent of the wealth (including 38 percent held by the top one percent) while the bottom 40 percent of our population would own a bit more than nothing at all, which is the total amount of wealth owned by 120,000,000 Americans.

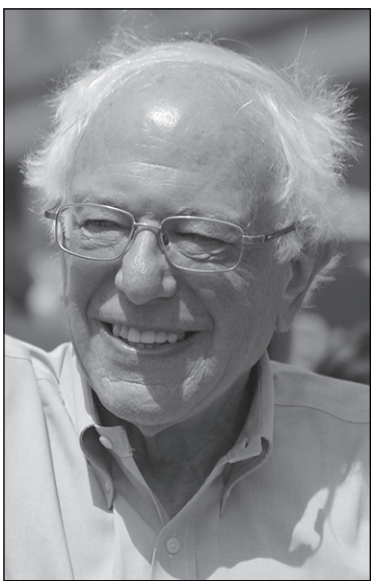
We can argue about specific figures and actual numbers, and what constitutes “no wealth,” but any-

body more observant than a blue point oyster can see that something is seriously amiss when Michael Bloomberg can shell out \$500,000,000 (all those zeroes again) on a vanity run for president while major corporations like Walmart and McDonald’s are paying fulltime employees poverty-level wages.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Party is about to give us Joe Biden, who has little to offer us beyond the fact that he’s not Donald Trump. He is part and parcel of the same Democratic Party that turned its back on the majority of Democratic voters during the Clinton years, and did nothing to reverse the creation of Republican Lite during the Obama years, thus paving the way for Number 45 and the disaster that has befallen us all.

The Democratic powerful want to get rid of Donald Trump and get back to the system they were happy with. Bernie Sanders wants to get rid of that system. No wonder the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, MSNBC, and CNN are all screaming at the top of their lungs: Radical! Extremist! Socialist! No wonder Cory Booker, Kamala Harris, Diane Feinstein, John Kerry, and an avalanche of other party stalwarts have endorsed Biden. They’ve all been working the system all their lives, and it’s paid big dividends for them.

Looking at all of this in the cold light of reality, I don’t imagine Bernie Sanders has a snowball’s chance in Hell of getting the Democratic



Senator Bernie Sanders: Threat? Or Menace?

nomination. The system really is rigged, as we learned in 2016 when the party stalwarts denied him the nomination the first time around. But I voted for Bernie in the Pennsylvania primary four years ago, and if the coronavirus doesn’t get me first, he’ll get my vote in my state primary again this April.

Bill Ehrhart has voted in every election—general, primary, and special—since he first became eligible to vote in 1972 (he was not allowed to vote during his time in the U.S. Marine Corps because the voting age was then 21: old enough to kill, not old enough to vote—yet people think it was the anti-war crowd who disrespected returning veterans).

What does “Small Government” buy us?

by Jim Hightower

Amazingly, America has become a nation of socialists, asking in dismay: “Where’s the government?”

These are not born-again Bernie Sanders activists, but everyday people of all political stripes (including previously apolitical multitudes) who’re now clamoring for big government intervention in their lives. Nothing like a spreading coronavirus pandemic to bring home the

need that all of us have—both as individuals and as a society—for an adequately-funded, fully-functioning, competent government capable of serving all. Instead, in our moment of critical national need, Trump’s government was a rickety medicine show run by a small-minded flimflammer peddling laissez-fairlyland snake oil.

“We have it totally under control,” Trump pompously declared after the first US case was confirmed in

January. For weeks, as the pandemic spread out of control, he did nothing—an increasingly anxious public found that they couldn’t even get reliable test kits from Trump’s hollowed-out government health agencies. Still, he shrugged off all concern and responsibility: “By April, you know, in theory,” he said, “when it gets a little warmer, it miraculously goes away.” Not exactly a can-do Rooseveltian response to a national crisis!

By March the inconvenient fact of a rising death toll exposed this imposter of a president as incompetent, uncaring...and silly. That complete absence of White House leadership is why a deadly pathogen is now raging practically everywhere across our land, unknown millions of us are being infected, a “closed indefinitely” sign has literally been hung on the American economy, and even our people’s social and civic interactions—the essence of community

life—have been halted.

Right-wing politico Grover Norquist once said he wanted a government so small “I can drag it into the bathroom and drown it in the bathtub.” Trump has shown us what such a small-minded government looks like. And what it costs us.

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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, MARCH 29	MONDAY, MARCH 30	TUESDAY, MARCH 31	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1	THURSDAY, APRIL 2	FRIDAY, APRIL 3	SATURDAY, APRIL 4
2003—<i>Newsweek</i> publishes a poll saying 74 percent of Americans think the Bush administration has “a well thought-out military plan.” 1995—Rep. Dan Burton [R-Ind.] says the U.S. “should place an aircraft carrier off the coast of [land-locked] Bolivia and crop dust the coca fields.” 1973—Army Master Sergeant Max Beilke becomes the last U.S. combat soldier to leave Vietnam. He will die at the Pentagon, a civilian, on 9/11/01. 1972—The EPA lays off enforcement for a lead smelter in Idaho in exchange for a \$100,000 “contribution” to the Nixon re-election campaign. 1971—A court martial for 22 murders makes Lt. W. Calley the scapegoat for My Lai; he gets “life in prison,” does three years home confinement. 1960—For reasons which are unfathomable, France launches a nuclear sub. 1956—Mississippi creates a State Sovereignty Commission. Its \$250K/yr. budget buys PR, then surreptitious surveillance of civil rights groups. 1929—Abdulaziz ibn Abdul Rahman Al Saud’s army defeats Ikhwān rebels at Sabilla, demonstrating the obsolescence of camel-mounted cavalry and the efficacy of machine guns. 1849—In Richmond, Va., friends nail Henry Brown, an enslaved Black man, into a box. Shipped as freight to Philadelphia, 27 hours later he’s free. 1843—As the Cabinet meets, War Sec. Spencer lunges at Navy Sec. Upshur, but Pres. Tyler stops the fight.	2008—As he throws out the first pitch at Washington’s new National Park, George W.[MD] Bush is met with a resounding chorus of boos. 2003—Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announces “we know where” Iraq’s WMDs are: “the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south, and north somewhat.” 2003—During a live Fox News broadcast from Iraq, Geraldo Rivera reveals the 101st Airborne’s current location, where they’re going to attack next, and when. 2000—Fred Trump III, whose son is chronically ill and needs special care, learns his family’s health care is being terminated by his uncle Donald. 1981—John Hinckley Jr. empties a six-shooter at Pres. Ronald Reagan. A ricochet off the armored limo hits Ronnie. Al Haig announces he’s “in control here.” In Denver, John’s older brother cancels dinner with V.P. George H.[H]W. Bush’s son Neil. 1972—Hanoi’s Easter Offensive sends 200,000 PAVN soldiers across the DMZ; the mightiest attack since China crossed the Yalu. 1965—A Viet Cong car bomb explodes outside the U.S. Embassy in Saigon killing 22 and injuring 183. 1964—Senators (18 Democrats and one Republican) begin a 74-day filibuster of the Civil Rights Act. 1870—The 15th Amendment passes, giving the right to vote to all, regardless of race. All males, that is.	2016—Darcie Rae Hall, 36, of Troy, N.H., is arrested in Keene for selling “Donald Trump” brand heroin. 2004—Four American contractors are ambushed and killed in Fallujah, their bodies displayed from a bridge. 1980—The American banking industry is deregulated with bipartisan support. What could possibly go wrong? 1969—By his orders, the body of Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower is carried by baggage car, like any other G.I., to its final resting place in Abilene, Kan. 1968—LBJ says he won’t run for re-election. Millions rejoice, having no inkling of who will replace him. 1966—In New York City, 200,000 gather to protest the Vietnam War. 1960—A B-47 explodes over Little Rock, Ark. Three on board die, and two on the ground; two homes and an apartment building burn. 1959—John Birch Society head Robert Welch, author of a book calling Pres. Eisenhower “a dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy,” denies he ever called Ike a “Card-Carrying Communist.” 1950—The U.S. Gov’t. burns copies of the <i>Scientific American</i> because they carry a article about the A-bomb. 1929—PR pioneer Edward Bernays, working for the American Tobacco Co., pays women to publicly smoke Luckies in New York’s Easter Parade. 1854—Commodore Perry’s cannons persuade Japan’s Tokugawa shogunate to open two ports to foreign trade.	2013—In Portsmouth Harbor, the tanker <i>Harbour Feature</i> allides with the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge. 2004—Britain declassifies “Blue Peacock,” a 1957 plan to bury nukes in Germany with live chickens keeping the electronics warm. It’s not a joke. 2003—Bush administration propagandists claim Special Forces have “rescued” PFC Jessica Lynch. It’s a lie. 1997—A blizzard dumps 18 inches of snow on Portsmouth. 1994—Steve Bannon, accompanied by federal marshals, arrives via limo to manage Biosphere 2, an ecological experiment in the Arizona desert. A break-in, lawsuits, and failure ensue. 1974—Sitka residents are alarmed by smoke rising from Mount Edgecumbe, a nearby volcano thought to be dormant. No eruption, just “Porky” Bickar having fun with burning tires. 1971—Texas legislators honor Albert de Salvo for “unconventional techniques involving population control.” 1968—U.S. Army begins Operation Pegasus to relieve Marines at Khe Sanh. Two months after the siege is lifted, the base is abandoned. 1966—RIP Brian O’Nolan, aka Flann O’Brien, aka Myles na gCopaleen. 1920—Five New York legislators are expelled for being socialists. 1865—Gov. John Milton [D-Fla.], shooting himself in the head: “Death would be preferable to reunion.” 1671—A blizzard leaves six-foot drifts of snow in Portsmouth.	2014—In <i>McCutcheon v. FEC</i>, the Supreme Court rules that rich folks deserve to have more influence in elections than the unwashed proletariat. 1982—U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Jeanne Kirkpatrick dines at the Argentine embassy hours after Argentina invades the Falklands. 1970—Massachusetts passes a law stating its citizens may not be forced to fight an undeclared war. 1969—President Dwight D. Eisenhower is buried in an \$80 G.I. coffin. 1969—Chicago riots are quelled by National Guard troops. 1963—M.L. King, Jr. leads a voter registration drive in Birmingham. Police Chief “Bull” Connor responds with dogs and fire hoses. 1958—San Francisco columnist Herb Caen introduces his readers and the world to the term “beatnik.” 1942—Three soldiers, two black and one white, are shot to death, and five are wounded, near Ft. Dix, N.J., in a fight over use of a payphone. 1937—Workers at Hershey start a sit-down strike. For six days, it goes well. 1917—In his office, Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge (R-Mass.), 67, punches constituent Alexander Bannwart. 1865—In Richmond, Confederate troops burn the city to the ground as President Jefferson Davis flees. 1863—In Richmond, women riot in the streets over bread until dispersed at bayonet point by troops directed by President Jefferson Davis.	2014—Sen. Jerry Moran [R-Kan.], whose top contributor is Koch Industries, reads into the <i>Congressional Record</i> a <i>Wall Street Journal</i> op-ed in which Charles Koch defends his right to spend millions buying elections. 2004—Asked to name his biggest mistake, George W.[MD] Bush is unable to supply an answer. 2003—U.S. Marines cross the Tigris River on their way to Baghdad. 1996—Ted “Unabomber” Kaczynski is arrested in his Montana cabin. 1974—Hit by 148 tornadoes, 13 states lose 315 people; 5,484 are injured. 1973—The first mobile phone call is made, on a 2.4 lb. device, by a Motorola employee to a rival at AT&T. 1968—“I may not get there with you,” says Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Memphis sanitation workers and eternity, “But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!” 1967—Ron Jones’ 10th graders in Palo Alto are introduced to new rules imposing strict classroom discipline. 1966—In South Vietnam, 3,000 troops protest against the Ky gov’t. 1964—In a Cleveland speech, Malcolm X says, “1964 threatens to be the most explosive year America has ever witnessed.” He’s right, of course. 1954—In Wisconsin, a strike begins at the Kohler bathroom fixture factory. Six years later the workers win. 1936—Bruno Hauptmann gets the chair in the Lindbergh baby case.	1989—In her Porsche, reaching for her cellphone while speeding to the bank she owns, Wal-Mart heiress Alice Walton hits and kills Oleta Hardin, a 50 year-old Arkansas cannery worker. Walton is not charged. 1984—Congress nixes Contra funding. President Reagan sells arms to the Ayatollah to make up the difference. 1975—Operation Babylift begins with a C-5A flight out of Tan Son Nhut. It crashes into a nearby rice paddy killing 154, including 78 kids. 1972—The Nixon campaign collects \$100K for EPA approval of a lead smelter that’s poisoning Idaho. 1970—On the National Mall, 50,000 followers of a radio televangelist hold a “March for Victory,” protesting the Vietnamization of the Vietnam War. 1968—Martin Luther King, Jr. is murdered in Memphis, perhaps by James Earl Ray; if so, with help from others who are still unknown. 1967—In Palo Alto, Robert Jones’ students adopt a cross-chest salute and form a movement, “The Third Wave.” 1967—Martin Luther King, Jr. denounces the Vietnam War and calls for common cause between civil rights and antiwar movements. He is then denounced by 168 major newspapers. 1953—Busy CIA head Allen Dulles OKs plans to (a) knock over Iran’s elected government, and (b) study controlling people’s minds with drugs. 1914—Mounted cops attack 1,000s of Wobblies in Union Square, N.Y.
2:56 3:25 9:13 9:23	3:36 4:11 9:58 10:09	4:23 5:04 10:49 11:01	5:18 6:04 11:47	6:20 7:09 12:00 12:49	7:25 8:12 1:04 1:51	8:29 9:10 2:08 2:51
SUNDAY, APRIL 5	MONDAY, APRIL 6	TUESDAY, APRIL 7	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8	THURSDAY, APRIL 9	FRIDAY, APRIL 10	SATURDAY, APRIL 11

2014—Jack Kimball, ex-Chairman of N.H.’s GOP, calls upon Arizona’s Sheriff Joe Arpaio to put President Obama “in an orange suit ... and drag his butt out of that White House.”

2010—W.Va.’s non-union Upper Big Branch coal mine explodes, killing 29 miners. After a year in prison, its owner, Don Blankenship, will run for the U.S. Senate as a Republican.

2006—Texans in Waco boo Bill Nye the science guy for saying the Bible’s wrong to say the Moon emits light.

1995—Sen. Bob Smith [R-N.H.] presciently asks, “How do you stop an elephant if it goes berserk on the grounds of the Capitol?” Alas, his motion to ban pachyderms is defeated.

1967—In Palo Alto, as Robert Jones’ students embrace the Third Wave movement, others clamor to join.

1962—LBJ crony Billy Sol Estes is indicted for selling fake mortgages on fake fertilizer tanks.

1956—A hired thug throws acid and blinds Victor Riesel, New York newspaper columnist and crusader against labor racketeers.

1955—The Farmers Home Administration announces it will issue mortgages on home bomb shelters.

1952—H. Hughes briefly shuts down MGM—all 11 movies in production are scripted by suspected commies.

1943—The U.S. destroyer *O’Bannon* defeats the Japanese sub *Ro-34* in close battle, partly by pelting its deck gunners with spuds.

2016—For each of the 29 miners killed in his death trap, coal mine owner Don Blankenship is sentenced to serve 12.5 days in jail.

2009—A year before it blows up, BP’s Deepwater Horizon gets relief from oppressive federal over-regulation.

1992—Donald E. Harding gasps, moans, and makes obscene hand gestures for five minutes before dying in Arizona’s gas chamber.

1977—“If the president does it,” Richard Nixon tells David Frost, “that means it’s not illegal.”

1968—Oakland police shoot it out with the Black Panthers. Bobby Hut-ton, 18 and unarmed, dies.

1967—Knocked overboard three miles off North Vietnam, U.S. sailor Doug Hegdahl is saved by fishermen. Two years later he’s set free, with memorized details of 256 POWs.

1967—In Palo Alto, Robert Jones announces a Third Wave Presidential candidate will speak the next day.

1954—“The time has come,” says JFK, “for the American people to be told the truth about Vietnam.”

1917—Former peace candidate W. Wilson declares war on Germany.

1909—Matthew Henson, black share-cropper’s son, is the first non-Inuit to set foot on the North Pole. Admiral Peary stays in the sled but later takes credit.

1712—Twenty-three enslaved Africans revolt in New York, killing nine whites and injuring six others; 21 are convicted and hanged.

2003—U.S. troops take Baghdad. It is a great victory.

1994—Employee Auburn Calloway attacks the flight crew of Fed-Ex Flight 705 with hammers and a spear-gun in a suicidal attempt to win death benefits for his family. After a fight, leaving the cabin awash with blood, the crew subdues him and lands safely.

1990—Future Bush #43 administration appointee John Poindexter is found guilty of multiple felonies in the Iran/Contra scandal. He later wriggles out on appeal.

1972—Nam vet Richard McCoy, Jr. hijacks a 727 with a toy grenade and an empty pistol, then parachutes out the back with \$500K. McCoy, a Guard chopper pilot, is arrested days later while searching for himself.

1970—California Governor Ronald Reagan announces his nuanced position regarding student demonstrations: “If it takes a bloodbath, let’s get it over with.”

1967—In Palo Alto, Robert Jones tells his students that they’ve been part of an experiment in fascism, then screens a documentary about Nazis.

1966—The U.S. discovers an H-bomb it had lost off the coast of Spain.

1954—In a news conference, likeable ol’ Ike erroneously characterizes Southeast Asia as a row of dominos.

1926—In Rome, Violet Gibson, 49, the tiny, frail, and deranged daughter of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, shoots Mussolini in the face.

2018—Fox “News” accidentally broadcasts a graphic showing results of a poll: Fox is the least-trusted network.

1984—R. Nixon gripes, “It’s the media’s responsibility to examine the President with a microscope ... but when they use a protoscope, it’s going too far.”

1974—After Hank Aaron breaks Ruth’s homer record, hate mail and death threats pour in from sports fans.

1971—A Wethersfield, Conn. home is struck by a 6 lb. meteorite.

1956—USMC recruits are marched into a Parris Island swamp for disciplinary purposes. Six of them drown.

1952—With the steel industry adamantly opposing wage increases, Truman orders its nationalization.

1947—After eighteen days of excavation, New York Police find compulsive hoarder Langley Collyer dead in his junk-crammed Harlem townhouse.

1945—Allied planes hit a German ammo train next to a train full of prisoners going to Bergen-Belsen; 100s of survivors are shot trying to escape.

1917—At the U.S. Embassy in Bern, future CIA head Allen Dulles gets a call from I.V. Lenin, begging for an immediate meeting. Dulles, who has a date with buxom Swedish twins, puts him off. Lenin boards a train to Petrograd and starts a Revolution.

1885—U.S. troops invade Panama, “to defend our national interests.”

217—Caracalla, Emperor of Rome, while pissing against a wall, is stabbed to death by a disgruntled soldier.

2018—Other networks report that the FBI raided the office of President Trump’s lawyer; Fox reports that pandas—a non-native species, let’s recall—are aggressive and sex-crazed.

2006—“Scooter” Libby says “W” OK’d leaks of secret CIA intel.

1967—“We appeal to North Vietnam,” says a veteran-bought ad in the *N.Y. Times*, “if they really want peace, to stop bombing the United States—or else get the hell out of Vietnam!”

1961—The two top planners of the Bay of Pigs invasion, now eight days away, tell their boss Dick Bissell that it is bound to fail. He says do it anyway.

1927—In Massachusetts, death sentences issued against Nicolas Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti are upheld. Judge Webster Thayer, during their trial, called them “anarchist bastards.”

1923—The Supreme Court says a minimum wage would violate women’s rights to negotiate their own terms with employers. Yes, you read that right, the Court just decided it wrong.

1892—In a Wyoming cabin under fire from 22 “Regulators” hired by cattle barons, Nate Champion writes to friends between killing four attackers. Cabin torched, he comes out shooting and dies with 28 slugs in him.

1865—Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders his Army to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse.

1553—Rabelais dies, leaving this will: “I have nothing. I owe much. I leave the rest to the poor.”

2017—The State Street Saloon burns.

2005—Huge mobs of Iraqis mark the 2nd anniversary of Saddam Hussein’s fall, shouting “No, No to Satan!” and demanding that U.S. troops leave.

1972—Crooked financier Robert Vesco slips \$200,000 to Nixon’s re-election campaign in exchange for which Attorney General John Mitchell cuts him some slack.

1970—Dick “Dick” Nixon’s lawyers backdate a deed giving his papers to the National Archives so he can claim an illegal tax deduction.

1963—The *U.S.S. Thresher* implodes 220 miles east of Boston killing 16 officers, 96 sailors, and 17 civilians.

1947—Actors Guild head Ronald Reagan rats out suspected commie members to the House Un-American Activities Committee.

1945—Doctors at Oak Ridge inject Ebb Cade, a black car wreck victim, with plutonium to see what happens.

1928—Illinois holds the “Pineapple Primary,” named for the 62 bombings which preceded the balloting.

1919—Deceived by a colonel being blackmailed by a general, Emiliano Zapata is ambushed. His killers are cheated of half of their bounty.

1917—The Eddystone munitions plant in Chester, Pa. blows up; 139 die. The death trap’s owner blames imaginary German saboteurs.

1865—Rioters in Portsmouth destroy the office of Joshua Foster’s Copperhead newspaper *The States and Union*.

2007—Aufweiderschen, Kurt V.

2006—At the Washington Nationals home opener, the ceremonial first pitch is thrown by Vice President Dick “Dick” Cheney, who is greeted with jeers and catcalls.

2002—Venezuelan generals replace Pres. Hugo Chavez with Pedro Carmona in a CIA-approved coup.

1985—Press Secretary Larry Speakes says his Boss will lay a wreath at Bit-burg, where Americans and Germans lie buried. Oops: Americans, no; Waffen SS, yes.

1968—The Civil Rights Act of 1968 is signed into law.

1966—Set out as bait at Xa Cam My by the CO of the Big Red One, Charlie Co., 2/16th Inf., 134 strong, is ambushed. Relief planes go awry, friendly fire happens; 36 KIA, 71 WIA.

1951—Pres. Truman fires General MacArthur for insubordination.

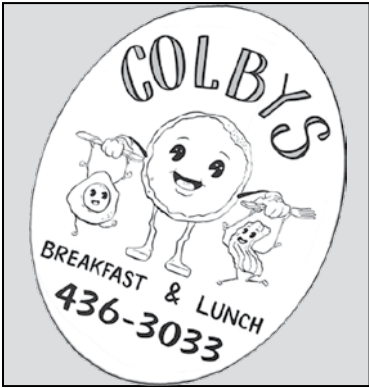
1950—A U.S. B-29 carrying a nuclear weapon crashes near Albuquerque. The nuke’s high explosives ignite; but the fissile core wasn’t installed.

1938—Richard Whitney, president of New York Stock Exchange, gets five to 10 for larceny.

1913—President Wilson orders federal agencies segregated by race.

1898—McKinley generously declares Cuba’s independence from Spain.

1863—An errant balloon takes Portsmouth’s own Gen. Fitz John Porter over Confederate lines, then back to safety during the Siege of Yorktown.



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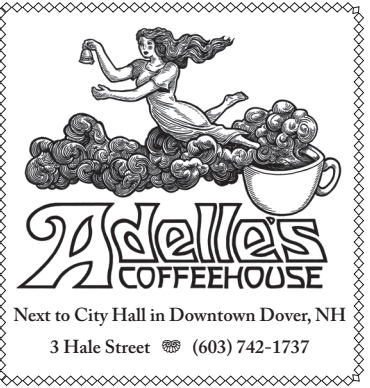
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