

The Fortnightly Rant

An Unexpected Inevitability

People used to expect that sooner or later, chickens would come home to roost. Recently studies have shown, however, that if you leave Republicans in charge too long, chickens mutate into vultures.

After a prolonged period of uncertainty—the likes of which have not been seen since the ignominious end of Reconstruction—the basic elements of our immediate future finally seem clear: the incumbent administration will only be in charge for another three days and a wakeup.

Ordinarily that's not so long. When you're staked out in the desert, though, as vultures circle overhead, ordinary does not apply.

This is not to say that we, as a nation, are necessarily doomed. In fact, in many ways, things are looking up. It's just that, as with so many other metrics—the distribution of wealth, income, health care, and education; the burden of hazardous employment and military service—extreme outcomes seem to be the rule lately.

Physicists say that to understand light it must be considered as both a wave and a particle. In our effort to get a grip the writhing chaos of January 6th, we will look at it, experimentally, as two events happening simultaneously: an *autogolpe** and a MAGA Insurrection.

Let us first consider, here, the *autogolpe*, applying this term, borrowed from the Spanish, to the phase of the operation which was being conducted inside the White House and the Capitol by the President and his supporters who hold elected office.

In the Alleged News® we will dig into the MAGA Insurrection, carried out by supporters of the President who do not, for the most part,

* *Autogolpe*: noun, *aut(u)golpe*. In Latin America: a military coup initiated or abetted by a country's elected leader, especially in order to establish absolute control of the state. — *Lexico Oxford English and Spanish Dictionary*.

hold elected office.

This Solomonic division is clearly arbitrary, and perhaps it is even capricious. It allows us to ask two interesting questions, though.

Was the MAGA Insurrection designed and fomented to provide cover for the *autogolpe*?

And, was the *autogolpe* defeated by the furry, horned, and bloody spectacularity of the MAGA Insurrection?

Eons ago, on December 21st, *Politico* published an article headlined, "House Republicans meet with Trump to discuss overturning election results; Trump loyalists are planning a last stand Jan. 6."

"President Donald Trump huddled with a group of congressional Republicans at the White House on Monday," Melanie Zanona wrote, "where they strategized over a last-ditch effort to overturn the election results next month, according to several members who attended the meeting."

"Rep. Mo Brooks (R-Ala.)—who is spearheading the long-shot push to overturn the election results in Congress—organized the trio of White House meetings, which lasted over three hours and included roughly a dozen lawmakers. The group also met with Vice President Mike Pence....lawmakers noshed on a mid-afternoon snack of meatballs and pigs in a blanket [as] Trump talked with members for over an hour about how Jan. 6 will play out."

According to one second-term Congresswoman, January 6th played out as it did, at least in part, because Members of Congress served as a link between the *autogolpe* and the MAGA Insurrection.

Because of the catastrophically-mishandled coronavirus pandemic, public tours of the Capitol building have been shut down since



March. On a live webcast Tuesday evening, though, Rep. Mikie Sherrill [D-N.J.] alleged that members of Congress had guided groups of people through the Capitol on January 5th, doing "reconnaissance for the next day." Sherrill knows reconnaissance; she flew Sea King helicopters for nine years in the U.S. Navy.

On Wednesday she and 33 other Members sent a letter to the Sergeants at Arms of the House and the Senate, and the Acting Chief of the Capitol Police, requesting an immediate investigation of the "unusually large groups of people throughout the Capitol who could only have gained access to the Capitol Complex from a Member of Congress or a member of their staff." Somehow looters found the unmarked, third-floor office of House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), and stole his iPad; Rep. Ayanna Presley [D-Mass.] discovered that the panic buttons had been removed from

her office. It's probably just a coincidence, but Clyburn and Pressley are both Black.

Politico has reported that Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio) "said he's aware of 'a couple' names of colleagues who are being eyed as potentially giving tours to the would-be insurrectionists. But he said he wouldn't name them yet."

On the morning of January 5th, at 7:52 a.m., Rep. Lauren Boebert [R-Colo.] tweeted, "Remember these next 48 hours. These are some of the most important days in American history." At 8:30 a.m. on the 6th she followed up with "Today is 1776."

So, yes, things do look kind of bad. But cheer up—they could always be worse. We've been thumbing through the latest version—December 3, 2020—of *Defense Primer: Command and Control of Nuclear Forces*, published by the Congressional Research Service. It says, "The

U.S. President has sole authority to authorize the use of U.S. nuclear weapons.... The President can seek counsel from his military advisors [but their] job is to give advice, while the authority to order a launch lies with the president.

"The President does not need the concurrence of either his military advisors or the U.S. Congress to order the launch of nuclear weapons. In addition, neither the military nor Congress can overrule these orders.... [Q]uestions about the legality of the order...are more likely to lead to consultations and changes in the President's order than to a refusal by the military to execute the order.... The President could delegate the authority to authorize the use of nuclear weapons to others in the chain-of-command...but they also could not overrule the President."

Look at it this way: if we make it past Tuesday, the odds of a nuclear war will probably drop dramatically!

The Alleged News®

How do you spell "Reichstag" in American?

The day before MAGA Insurrectionists bashed their way into the Capitol building—murdering a cop in the process—a curious posting appeared on the website of their Führer, *whitehouse.gov*:

"Antifa activists have brutally attacked our law-abiding friends, neighbors, and business owners, and destroyed historic landmarks that our communities have cherished for decades. This violence and lawlessness has no place in the United States and will be called out for the domestic terrorism that it is. Today, President Donald J. Trump signed a memorandum to ensure that Federal officials assess actions of Antifa activists in light of Federal laws that restrict the entry of aliens associated with terrorist organizations and aliens intent on criminal activity.

President Trump will not allow Antifa, or any terrorist organization, to destroy our great country."

The day after the riot, *MediaMatters* reports, "the *Washington Times* published an article, which was cited by some Republicans, claiming that 'a retired military officer' reported that a facial recognition technology company had identified 'antifa' members among the insurrectionists. The firm in question called the story 'outright false,' demanded a retraction, and the *Washington Times* unpublished and retracted the story on January 8th, before republishing it with a correction.

The *Washington Post's* Fact Checker determined in June that, as of that date, there had "not yet been a single confirmed case in which someone who self-identifies as antifa led vio-

lent acts at any of the protests across the country." But, of course, no one believes the *Post* except members of the fact-based community.

The *Washington Times* correction had little apparent effect on Sinclair Broadcast Group, a Right Wing cable news network propaganda spigot. *MediaMatters* found that "Sinclair aired these false claims days after the retraction and correction were made," airing it "on at least 66 Sinclair-owned or -operated stations in at least 39 states and Washington, D.C., several days later—between January 9th-11th—according to a transcript search of the Kinetiq video database."

In October, 2020, U.S. attorney Erica MacDonald charged Ivan Harrison Hunter, a 26-year-old Texas resident, with traveling across

state lines to participate in a riot., according to *The Guardian*.

"The charges are the latest example of far-right extremists attempting to use violence to escalate national protests against police brutality into an uprising against the government, and even full civil war." Hunter is a self-described Boogaloo Boi.

In June, NBC News reported that Staff Sgt. Steven Carrillo, 32, had been charged with murder and attempted murder in the killing of federal officer Dave Patrick Underwood, 53. Another officer was wounded. Both were members of Homeland Security's Federal Protective Service. They were shot with an AR-15, privately manufactured without a serial number.

"Investigators found inside Car-

rillo's vehicle a ballistic vest with a patch on it that featured an igloo and a Hawaiian-style print," the NBC report said, "symbols associated with the far-right extremist 'Boogaloo' movement, according to his federal complaint."

So, yeah—antifa: a big threat. In totally unrelated news, Rush Limbaugh had this to say on Monday afternoon:

"Georgia has been overrun by people leaving the northeast. There are stories all over the news about how Democrats were being targeted to move to Georgia, to establish residency there for the singular purpose of electing these two Communists to the Senate. And they did it."

Now For Some Real News

It's all very entertaining to read thrilling, accurate, fact-based, news stories about low-information larpers* failing—so far—to overthrow a duly-elected government in the name of patriotism and the Constitution. Entertaining, if more than a little confusing....

It's best, though, to ensure that our news diets are well balanced. So, dear reader, it's vegetable time—as in, at the rate things are going, pretty soon we'll be lucky to get 'em.

While everyone's been distracted by the other horrors of 2020, i.e., the pandemic, the wheezing economy, &c., &c., the biggest existential threat we face—other than a deranged President launching 4,312 nuclear warheads because no one brought him his MacDonald's hamburger—is the climate we're still wrecking.

For authoritative reporting on this issue we turn to Berkeley Earth,

* Larper: noun. A person who plays live action role-playing games. Larpers physically portray characters, and act out the plot of the game.

a California-based non-profit research organization which has been preparing independent analyses of global mean temperature changes since 2013.

Berkeley Earth has just released its report on global mean temperature during 2020. It's about as bad as you might expect.

2020

In keeping with its performance in all other known metric realms, 2020 was a rotten year, thermally speaking.

"We conclude," Berkeley Earth writes rather drily, "that 2020 was nominally the second warmest year on Earth since 1850. Our estimate of the global mean temperature in 2020 was slightly colder than 2016, but warmer than every other year that has been directly measured. However, the difference between 2020 and 2016 was only 0.022 °C. This is smaller than the 0.045 °C uncertainty on our ability to measure the global average temperature in 2020. This means that 2020 and 2016 could also be regarded as effectively tied."



Duet for Windbags: William Barr, then-Attorney General of the United States, yucks it up by playing the bagpipes before addressing United States Attorneys in Washington, D.C. on June 26, 2019. He was accompanied by the Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Band of the New York Police Department. Ten days earlier, Barr had ruled against his own Civil Rights Division, which had sought to bring charges against New York City Police Officer Daniel Pantaleo. Pantaleo had been videotaped on July 7, 2014 putting a chokehold on Eric Garner for selling loose cigarettes. Garner died; his death was ruled a homicide. His last words were, "I can't breathe."



The last six years have included all of the six warmest years directly observed: 2020 was the 2nd warmest; 2019 was the 3rd warmest; 2018 was the 6th warmest; 2017 was the 4th warmest; 2016 was the warmest; and 2015 was the 5th warmest.

We presume that Berkeley Earth focuses its efforts on temperature because rising temperatures have been shown to be the root cause of changes we're seeing in our climate. Those changes in the climate are causing storms to worsen, to a calamitous degree. The only way to fight this trend would seem to be restraining the release of greenhouse gasses.

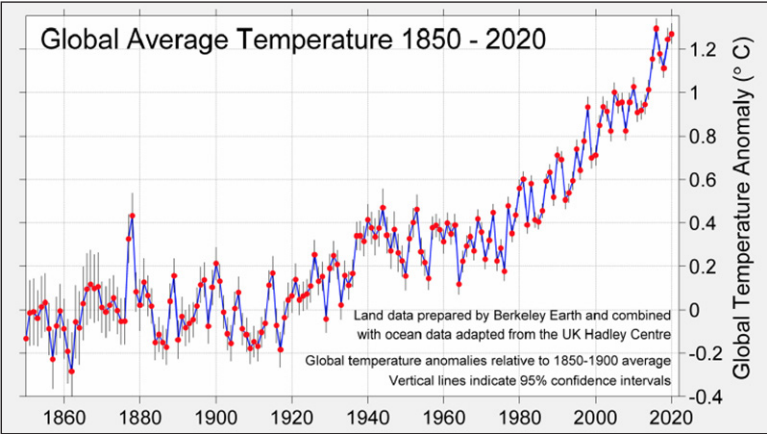
Unfortunately, the release of greenhouse gasses has proven, over the past century or so, to be vastly profitable, because the industry doing the releasing has been allowed to externalize the environmental cost of doing so.

That little oversight has created an entire sector of our economy, and, therefore has accrued political pow-

er commensurate with its wealth. The industrialists who profit from this arrangement seem reluctant to allow our political system to change its regulatory regime in such a way as to prevent a climatic catastrophe.

For some reason the scientists at Berkeley Earth do not mention any of this....

Oh, yeah—that's our job. For the full, de-Gazettified version of this report, see berkeleyearth.org.



This graph shows the global average temperature from 1850 to the present. In other words, it begins shortly before the execrable presidency of New Hampshire's own Franklin Pierce. The temperature remains stable until Warren G. Harding's inauguration. Even the untrained eye can see a moderate upward trend, until about the time Ronald Reagan opened his presidential campaign in Nashoba County, Mississippi in the general vicinity of the site where James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were murdered in 1964. After that, things really went to hell.

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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

Black Heritage Trail Expands

The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire (BHTNH) has announced the further expansion of the Trail into Andover, New Hampshire.

Potter Place, a village in Andover, is named for, and contains the homestead and gravesite of, Richard Potter (1783-1835), a well-known black magician and ventriloquist of the early 19th century, who traveled and performed successfully throughout America. He was the first American-born magician to achieve fame in this country and is widely considered to have been the first African-American celebrity.

The Andover Historical Society, located in Potter Place, has now raised the funds for a bronze plaque, expected to be installed this fall, commemorating Potter's life and work.

As Andover gains a plaque, Portsmouth will gain a sculpture.

In 2018, the Andover Historical society held a retrospective of the work of Andover resident Winslow Eaves. A renowned American sculptor, Eaves (1922-2003) and his wife Faye moved their family to Andover in 1952 when he took a position at Dartmouth. They became beloved members of the community; Eaves built a reputation as one of the finest and most independent-minded art-

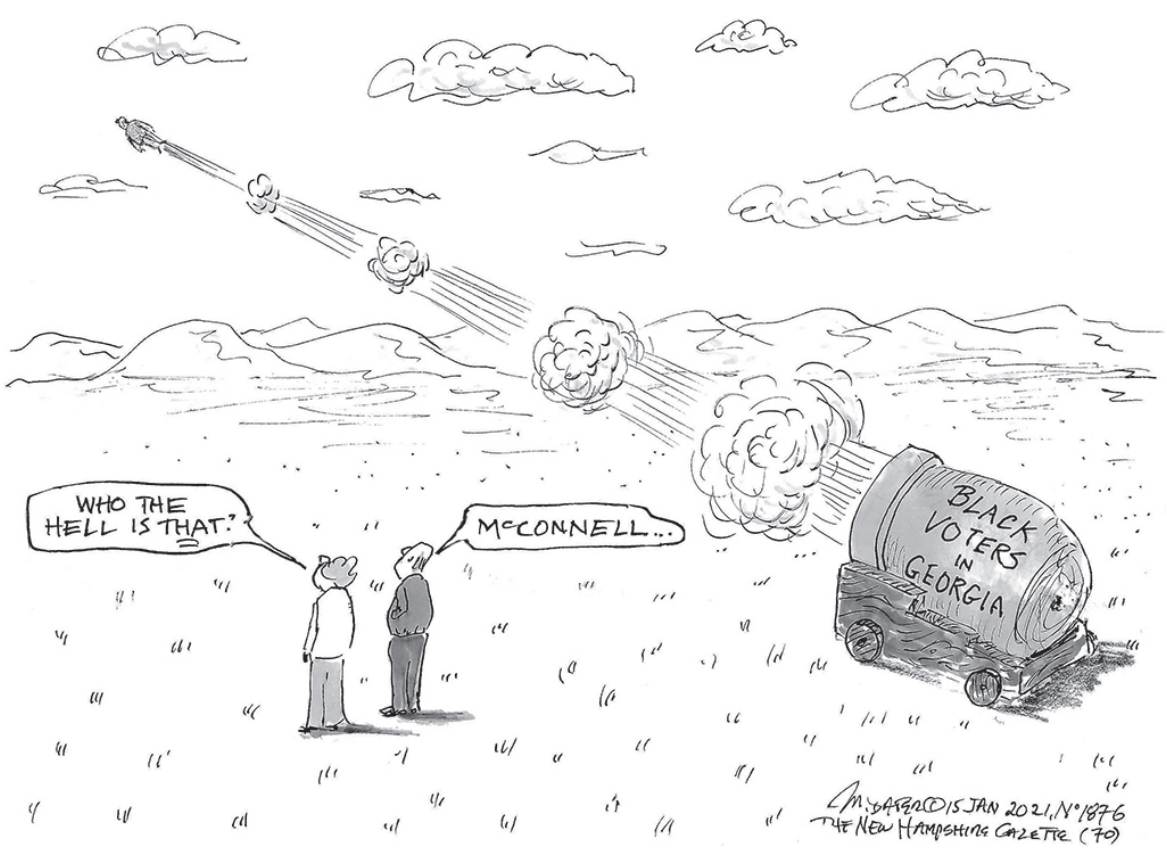
ists in New England.

A sculpture by Eaves will now become a part of the BHTNH permanent collection and will be on display at its statewide headquarters in Portsmouth when it reopens to the public in the summer.

The sculpture, a 2.5 foot ceramic figure of famed contralto Marion Anderson, "reminds me how deeply art can make us feel injustice and learn to act," according to its donor, Dana Dakin. "Clearly, art leads the way in expressing injustice."

JerriAnne Boggis, BHTNH executive director, explained the background of the gift, "Marian Anderson was such an important figure in the struggle for civil rights. She may be most well known for her 1939 concert at the Lincoln Memorial, arranged after the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) refused to allow her to sing at its Constitution Hall, DAR member Eleanor Roosevelt publicly resigned, NAACP leader Walter White suggested the idea of an outdoor concert, and Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes led Anderson to the stage on April 9, 1939." That concert was the muse for Eaves' sculpture of Anderson. Dakin purchased it from Eaves in 2000.

More information is available by calling (603) 570-8469, or visiting www.BlackHeritageTrailNH.org.



Law and Disorder

If the year 2021 does nothing else, it should hammer shut forever the coffin holding the remains of the Republican Party's claim to supporting law and order.

As Exhibit A in defense of this proposition, we offer a few words from *Wall Street on Parade*, a financial news site created, owned and maintained by former New Hampshire residents Russ and Pam Martens. Its mission is to help "level the playing field between Wall Street and the 99 percent. Wall Street is a jungle of devices to effect an institutionalized wealth transfer system. The goal of this web site is to provide the jungle guide to the 99 percent in the hope of bringing about citizen-inspired change."

The title of Thursday's post: "The Untold Story of How the Republican Attorneys General Association, Funded with Large Sums from Corporate Felons, Including OxyContin Drug Pusher Purdue, Participated in Recruiting the Mob that Attacked the Capitol."

We'll just hit some high points,

the whole thing is a must-read, at <https://bit.ly/3oI0mtz>.

"When one thinks of a group with the word 'Association' in their name," write the Martens, "it invokes the idea that this is a fraternal organization or a trade association. What doesn't come to mind is that it is a campaign financing group to elect Republican Attorneys General—the highest law enforcement officer in a state—by taking vast sums of money from the very companies committing crimes in those states. But that is what RAGA has been doing for many years now."

Needless to say, the Martens provide the sordid details: Purdue Pharma, big tobacco, Koch-aligned money-spigots, &c. A unit of RAGA then made robocalls on January 5th, calling on the gullible to join a so-called "March to Save America"—"[M]arch to the Capitol building and call on Congress to stop the steal."

Most of RAGA's funding comes from the Judicial Crisis Network, which in turn has been funded by the Wellspring Network, which....

The Newsprint Withdrawal Blues

One might think that after ten months without handling a single fresh bundle of newsprint, we'd be climbing the newsroom walls. But, as is so often the case, one would be wrong.

Oh, we would far prefer to be wheeling papers up Congress Street, slinging bundles and half-bundles about with wild abandon and insinuating whatever it is we do here into the material world. Confinement in this weightless, no-dimensional digital realm is a bit like having covid—it's as if we've lost our sense of taste.

Of course that could just be our cooking. Oh, for a Ceres Caesar salad.... We even miss lurking around the Volunteer Distributor's unofficial Union Hall, eavesdropping on the scheming as we grab a cup of 'Goats.

In the greater scheme of things, though, we understand: to paraphrase Rick Blaine, our problems don't amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world. So, we'll just keep plugging along until we can get that mighty web press rolling again.



The Flag Police, having diligently scrutinized 4 U.S. Code § 8 - Respect for Flag yet again, can report with confidence that it contains no provision under which an officer of the United States Capitol Police can lawfully be beaten, clubbed, or impaled with the Flag of the United States, or any pole or other fixture to which it may be attached.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"Let's have trial by combat."

— Rudy Giuliani, January 6, 2021, outside the White House, inciting a crowd to march to the U.S. Capitol Building

"No drug, not even alcohol, causes the fundamental ills of society. If we're looking for the source of our troubles, we shouldn't test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed and love of power."

— P.J. O'Rourke

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Lebanon:

Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

An Open Letter to Senator Susan Collins
Senator Susan Collins:

I join millions of New Englanders and hundreds of thousands of your Maine constituents in calling on you to demand the removal of President Donald Trump by the provisions of the Twenty-fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution. This man is guilty of sedition, pathological dishonesty, hate speech and insurrection against the United States government and his people.

Donald J. Trump has violated his oath of office in countless ways. It is time for you to uphold yours.

Reread the Preamble to the Constitution, madam Senator. Do what is your duty: to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, allowing a criminal to remain in the White House would constitute dereliction of your duty.

President Trump must go. If you enable his sedition and insurrection with silence or glib rationalizations, your legacy will be irreparably tarnished on a par with that of Senators Cruz, Hawley, Scott, Hyde-Smith, Marshall, Tuberville, Kennedy and Lummis, all of whom voted to overturn the will of the people, made clear in certified elections in several states. These senators are, by having actively supported Mr. Trump's denigration of the most secure and accurately tabulated presidential election in history, accomplices to the violent insurrection of January 6th. As such they are seditionists.

I demand that you do what is manifestly your duty this time, for the sake of this nation and its people and for your legacy as an elected leader duty bound to the Constitution. I demand that you denounce the sedition of these senators and call for the removal of Donald Trump from the presidency.

Senator Collins, there is no politically expedient way out to make nice with reactionaries who ignore the facts of Donald Trump's malfeasance, while also maintaining an appearance of dutifulness to moderates. Playing it down the middle with nice words won't cut

it this time.

You can choose to make a statement against the lies and hate speech of Donald Trump and the defiling of our Capitol that he and a cabal of your senate colleagues instigated. It is time for you and scores of your senate colleagues of good conscience to summon the courage and conviction to take actions that make that statement.

Do the right thing, Senator. Remember what your parents and the people who taught you in publicly funded schools taught you. Be worth of the legacy of Margaret Chase Smith, George Mitchell and Edmund Muskie.

Mark Trafton

Exeter, N.H.

Mark:

Though some nit-pickers might object to a Granite Stater presuming to instruct a Senator from Maine, we endorse your admonition. Judging from past experience, getting the Senator to do the right thing may require all hands on deck.

The Editor

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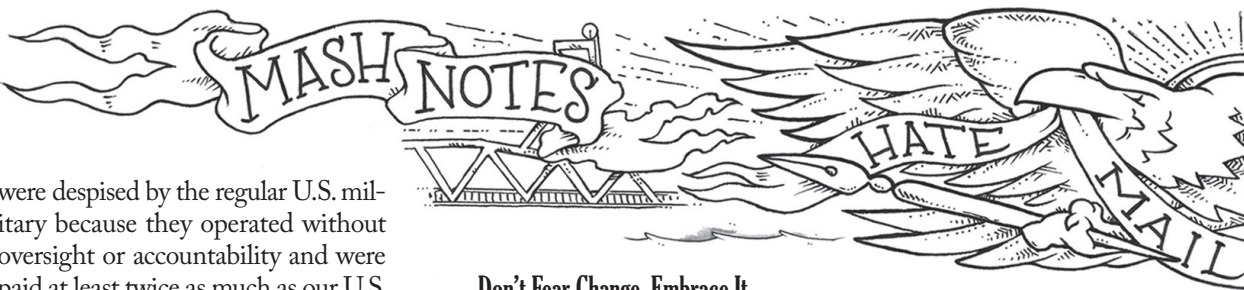
No Respect for War Crimes

To the Editor:

It is never right to celebrate war crimes. Regardless of the cause, it is wrong to justify the murder of civilians (men, women and children) in a war zone, just because the perpetrators are intimidated in a foreign environment that they voluntarily put themselves into. Pardoning someone who has committed such a crime, which under international law is a war crime, is an outrage and does great harm to the reputation of the United States worldwide including our military.

But that is exactly what President Trump has done. He did this by deciding to pardon four Blackwater contractors, including Rochester native Evan Liberty, who were properly tried and convicted by a jury of the equivalent of war crimes when his group killed dozens and wounded many Iraqi civilians during an incident in 2007 at Nisour Square in Baghdad.

These Blackwater contractors were not part of the U.S. military. In fact, my U.S. army veteran son, who served in Iraq, told me that these contractors



were despised by the regular U.S. military because they operated without oversight or accountability and were paid at least twice as much as our U.S. military members to boot. Also, after every serious incident caused by these contractors (like the 2007 incident), it was the regular U.S. army, like my son, who had to clean-up after them, and who had to deal with the wrath of the Iraqi people involved. The regular army, if involved in such incidents as that of the contractors, would have been court-martialed and imprisoned.

In addition, while the President does have the right to pardon, there is a pardon process that candidates go through to determine if there is good reason for granting a pardon. Good reasons would include: a miscarriage of justice, a perceived punishment that was too severe, or circumstances deemed unfair. All of these go hand and hand with a candidate's remorse for their actions. The President subverted that process by ignoring it entirely, and has made clear to the world that he does not abide laws of decency or international laws, if they do not serve his purposes.

We should not join him, by extending any respect to those who commit such war crimes.

Rep. Peter Somssich, District 27
Portsmouth, N.H.

Peter:

Some New Hampshire residents might be tempted to cut a local resident serving in a war zone a little slack; we know we are—tempted. Generations of Iraqis, though, are sure to remember the Nisour Square incident as an entirely unjustified massacre conducted by arrogant American criminals—and they're right. Trump's pardon overturned the results of a fair trial.

Justice will come when the George W.[MD] Bush administration and Eric Prince face the consequences of their privatization of military affairs.

The Editor

Don't Fear Change, Embrace It

To the Editor:

Those of us who watched the invasion of our nation's Capitol were horrified, but many commentators have reported it was shocking but not surprising. Many who watched Donald Trump campaign and "govern" didn't have to be warned that something like this might happen. I have followed the growth of fascism in other countries since my pre-teen years. Political change doesn't happen quickly. Authoritarians need to dehumanize their "enemies" first. I have seen this personally as many in my grandmother's Jewish family were killed as a result of the work of authoritarian rulers.

In New Hampshire, Dawn Johnson, a newly elected representative to the New Hampshire legislature from Laconia, posted an article on social media from *The Daily Stormer*, a neo-Nazi publication. (Recovered from <http://indepthnh.org/2020/12/14/sununu-condemns-rep-johnson-neo-nazi-defends>) "[Andrew] Anglin [the article's author from *The Daily Stormer*] has said his goal is to use the Internet to normalize his far-right ideology so that it is acceptable to most mainstream people." Johnson has removed the posting and issued a public apology. I shudder to think that she is also on the Laconia school board.

Others in New Hampshire made the news as participants or supporters of the domestic terrorists who travelled to Washington for the pro-Trump demonstration. According to numerous media reports, Thomas Gallagher of Bridgewater, N.H. was arrested for non-lawful entry at the Capitol Building. Also, the police chief of Troy, N.H., David Ellis, attended the right-wing Washington demonstration, according to New Hampshire Public Radio. And a former Republi-

can candidate for the Sullivan County Commission, Jeremy Harrell, said that he "is proud of people who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday."

While people might have legitimate reasons for supporting a more conservative ideology than I would, I think we should all agree that denigrating groups like Blacks, Jews, Mexicans, Muslims, immigrants, women, and the disabled has consequences that few of us would support. There is a demographic and political change happening in this country. Let's welcome and cheer it!

Judy Ullman

Portsmouth, N.H.

Judy:

We couldn't agree more: demographic change will eventually sort a lot of this out—provided that global warming, pandemics, and nuclear war don't kill us all off first. As you say, though, until that time comes, it's best to keep a sharp eye out for Nazis!

The Editor

—==—

The Other Phone Call

To the Editor:

Call it treason; call it Sedition; call it illegal (a breaking of laws); call it an Impeachable Offense...but don't call it "just Trump being Trump!"

The widely-publicized extortion call President Trump made to Georgia's Secretary of State and other Georgia election officials (his 19th attempt to reach and threaten them to "find 11,780 votes" to overturn the election) was/is a clear abuse of Presidential authority and power; end of story!

If you *do* believe it is a case of "Just T being T," then you *must not* believe any of President Trump's efforts, behaviors, or actions are to subvert and undermine our democracy and to sow damage and distrust in our democrac-

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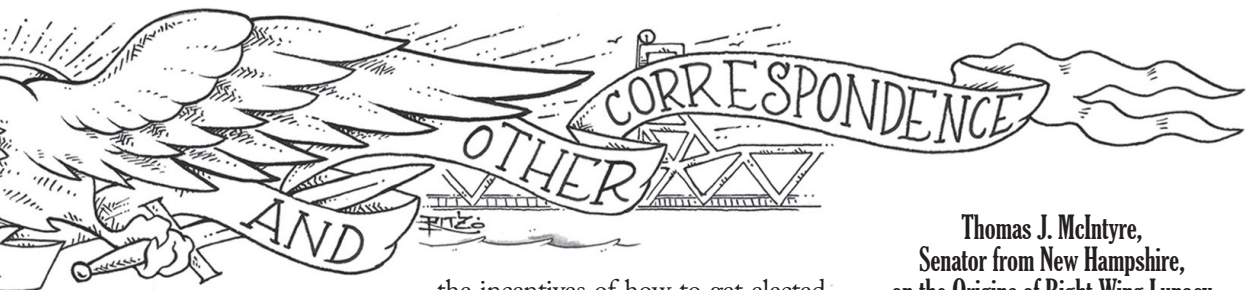
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ic institutions, the core of which make America truly unique in the world. It is tragic that it has come to this!

What continuing threats does Trump pose for us in the remaining days of his administration? The President could switch focus of his licentious gaze from domestic acts of subversion to international criminal acts, such as bombing Iran.

Wake up, 47 percent of Americans! German and Italian citizens woke up much too late in the 1930's and 40's to save their own democracies. They were saved only through Allied and American efforts, blood, and treasure!

Wake up!
Herb Moyer
Exeter, N.H.
Herb:

We presume your 47 percent refers to Americans still supporting Trump. A fair percentage of Americans seem to have been stirred from their slumbers by the events of January 6th. We understand he's down to about 33 percent now—those are the ones we worry about.

The Editor

=====

Healing Our Country

To the Editor:

The attack on the U.S. Capitol yesterday was a brazen attempt to prevent Congress from certifying the presidential election results and to overthrow the will of the American people. It was an assault on far more than the U.S. House and Senate: it threatened the very foundation of our republic.

We're all shaken by this violent reminder of our broken politics and how urgently we need to find a way forward.

Our problems have deep and complex roots that go far beyond electoral rules. But making our representative democracy work demands changing

the incentives of how to get elected and stay in office. Until we reform our elections, too many of our political leaders will be incentivized to reinforce these divides and deepen polarization.

We can fix it by simple acts in Congress and the states. Our vision is a future in which political leaders collectively win elections by appealing to everyone—a Congress for every American, in the words of the 2018 *New York Times* editorial endorsing the Fair Representation Act. The Fair Representation Act would establish the proportional form of ranked choice voting for congressional elections, combining the virtues of ranked choice voting with a fair alternative to the bitterness that today flows from binary, winner take all politics. It would dramatically shift political incentives to ensure our political leaders respond to all of us.

While we build support in Congress for this fundamental change, we can dramatically improve our elections with ranked choice voting in states and cities around the nation. To that end, we will come to you soon with an invitation to participate in the first-ever annual Ranked Choice Voting Day—fittingly, on January 23rd (1/23).

Thank you for your continued commitment to better elections for all Americans.

Rob Richie

fairvote.org

Rob:

Keep hammering. There'll be no end to this madness until we shake up this duopoly.

The Editor

=====

"The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line."

—W. E. B. Du Bois, at the Pan-African conference in London, 1900.

=====

Thomas J. McIntyre, Senator from New Hampshire, on the Origins of Right Wing Lunacy

[Thomas J. McIntyre, of Laconia, represented New Hampshire in the U.S. Senate from November 7, 1962 until January 3, 1979. In March of 1978, after addressing the Senate regarding the Panama Canal Treaties, McIntyre spoke of an ominous political trend. — The Ed.]

I want to express myself on the way the issue of the canal treaties has been politicized, and I will do so with no little anger and resentment. Perhaps what I am going to say is not precisely germane to the question before us, but I believe with all my heart that it must be said and said now. . . .

Mr. President, I believe the techniques used to exploit the issue of the Canal treaties are the most compelling evidence to date that an ominous change is taking place in the very character and direction of American politics. . . .

But whatever the cause, Mr. President, I see abundant evidence that these "dangerously passionate certainties" are being cynically fomented, manipulated, and targeted in ways that threaten amity, unity, and the purposeful course of government in order to advance a radical ideology that is alien to mainstream political thought. . . .

There have been times when some of us have felt the wrath of the purist left, Mr. President. And now—today—many of us are feeling the wrath of the New Right because we will not bow to their threats and vote against ratification of the canal treaties. . . .

On December 4, 1977, the Conservative Caucus of New Hampshire, passed a resolution of censure and served it on me like a subpoena. I was "censured" for a speech I made last September, a speech in which I took neither side on the treaty issue but merely spelled out the pro and con arguments I would have to consider when I finally made my decision on how

to vote. . . .

Not only did the resolution censure me, it required me to appear before the Caucus in Wolfeboro, N.H., on February 12th to justify why I should not vote against ratification and/or refute said censure.

My nonappearance, the resolution said, would constitute prima facie evidence of my intent to vote for ratification.

Well, I did not go before the caucus, so I have to assume I was tried in absentia and found guilty of a decision I had not yet made at that time. . . .

And if "conservative" in the title "Conservative Caucus" is an ironic misuse of the word, it is doubly ironic that destiny would link the national chairman of the Conservative Caucus—the Governor of New Hampshire [Meldrim Thomson, Jr.]—with William Loeb, the publisher of New Hampshire's largest newspaper and the master practitioner of the politics of threat and vengeance.

Within the year, the Governor, the head of the Conservative Caucus, made the following bizarre announcements: He said the Carter administration was pursuing "a pro-Communist course." He said Martin Luther King "did great harm to the American way of life through his association with Communist inspired organizations." . . .

William Loeb immediately rushed to the Governor's defense, declaring in a signed, front page editorial that the 14 clergymen "have been playing for suckers. . . . Their idealism and their innocence and almost complete ignorance about South Africa has been taken advantage of."

Mr. Loeb went on to give his own appraisal of John Vorster's South African regime. "The South Africans," Loeb said, "are doing the best they can to bring these Blacks out of the jungle."

Mr. President, I cite the above public utterances by the national chairman of the Conservative Caucus and Mr. Loeb only to ask the obvious. If they hold such benighted opinions on those matters, how much credence can we give their views on the Panama Canal treaties?

But credibility may be too much to ask of men whose stock in trade is flag waving, sabre rattling and the politics of threat and vengeance.

In all of this Nation, Mr. President,

there may not be two more radically belligerent public figures than Meldrim Thomson and William Loeb. Though neither has ever worn the uniform of his country into battle, they are the first to demand the kind of precipitous action that could plunge young Americans back into combat.

Only a few weeks after the oil embargo of 1973 got under way, Mr. Loeb charged into this most sensitive situation with an editorial titled: "Lets Go After Our Oil." Calling the Arab leaders "heathen swine," he said that if they did not quickly yield to an embargo and blockade we could ask them, and I quote:

"How would you like to have us bomb your holy cities of Mecca and Medina out of existence?" . . .

But the beliefs and the tactics of the radical right are nothing new to those of us who call New Hampshire home, Mr. President, so it was no surprise to see Governor Thomson, Mr. Loeb, and the Conservative Caucus team up to threaten vengeance on John Durkin and Tom McIntyre for supporting the canal treaties.

I am certainly not sanguine about such powerful and ruthless opposition, Mr. President, but after 16 years of weathering the sustained attacks of Mr. Loeb and his ilk neither am I anguishing over the outcome.

My political fate is not my concern here today. My concern is the desperate need for people of conscience and good will to stand up and face down the bully boys of the radical New Right before the politics of intimidation does to America what it has tried to do to New Hampshire.

So I say to my colleagues in closing:

If you want to see the reputations of decent people sullied, stand aside and be silent.

If you want to see people of dignity, integrity and self-respect refuse to seek public office for fear of what might be conjured or dredged up to attack them or their families, stand aside and be silent.

If you want to see confidential files rifled, informants solicited, universities harassed, "enemy hit lists" drawn up, stand aside and be silent.

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Insurrection: Are We Really Surprised?

by William Ehrhart

Let's review the facts. Our 45th President openly bragged about grabbing women by their genitals and declared that he could murder someone in broad daylight in Manhattan without consequences. He has paid hush money to prostitutes he was "screwing" (please substitute the F-bomb) even as his third wife was nursing their newborn child.

Our 45th President has declared that he and North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un "fell in love," and that Russian dictator Vladimir Putin "is really very much of a leader," while calling German chancellor Angela Merkel "stupid," French President Emmanuel Macron "nasty," and Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau "two-faced."

Our 45th President has gone through secretaries of defense, secretaries of state, and national security advisors like he's trying on new shoes, Imelda Marcos-style, looking for a pair that might fit. He has had a 91 percent turnover rate among senior-level advisors since he took office.

Our 45th President has, from even before he took the oath of office, declared that any news he doesn't like is "fake news," while he himself has subscribed to what his senior counselor called "alternative facts." Speaking of lies, our Liar-in-Chief has so far told over 20,000 of them, averaging 50 per day every single day of his presidency.

Our 45th President has openly mocked the disabled, urged police "not to be gentle" with Black Lives Matter protestors, incited his supporters to punch out his critics, praised "body-slamers," called the leadership of the National Rifle Association "great American patriots," repeatedly demanded that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton be thrown into prison, and described his own former secretary of defense and ex-Marine James Mattis as "the world's most overrated general."

Our 45th President has failed at just about everything he has put his hand to. Trump Taj Mahal,

Trump's Castle, Trump Plaza Casinos, Trump Plaza Hotel, Trump Hotels and Casinos Resorts, and Trump Entertainment Resorts have all gone bankrupt. Trump Steaks, GoTrump, Trump Airlines, Trump Vodka, Trump Mortgage, Trump: The Game, Trump Magazine, Trump University, Trump Ice, The New Jersey Generals, Tour de Trump, and Trump Network have all gone belly up.

Our 45th President promised to build a wall to keep Mexican immigrants out and insisted that the Mexicans themselves would pay for it. He promised to "drain the swamp," but instead placed family members and close friends into key positions of power within his administration, earned millions of dollars by violating the Emoluments Clause of the U.S. Constitution, directing U.S. taxpayers' dollars to Mar-a-Lago, Trump Turnberry Golf Resort in Scotland, and various Trump hotels, and arranged for his daughter Ivanka to receive fast-tracking approval for seventeen different trademarks from the Chinese government in return for lifting trade sanctions.

Our 45th President has pardoned liars, perjurers, corrupt politicians, war criminals, and murderers. He has been exposed for defrauding the U.S. government and the state of New York of millions and millions of dollars in taxes, and cheated his own niece and nephew out of their fair share of their grandfather's inheritance.

Our 45th President has called the white supremacist KKKers in Charlottesville, Virginia, "very fine people." He has claimed that removing statues of men who waged war on our nation—that's called treason, by the way—in an effort to keep millions of Americans enslaved is "an attempt to wipe out our history." He has directed rightwing armed militia groups to "stand by."

Our 45th President began laying the groundwork for his claim that his electoral defeat would be fraudulent many months before the election ever took place. He continued to claim the election had been sto-

len from the moment Pennsylvania's electoral votes were declared for Joe Biden a few days after the election, and he has continuously claimed a "stolen election" ever since.

We have been watching this dangerous buffoon for the past forty years. He has been performing his disgraceful carnival act on the world stage for the past four years. He has been regularly and consistently demeaning the dignity of the presidency, to the detriment of the nation, while enablers from Ted Cruz, Mitch McConnell, and Josh Hawley to Sean Hannity, Tucker Carlson, and Laura Ingraham have encouraged and egged him on.

And now we are shocked that Trump-inspired insurrectionists finally stormed the Capitol building in the capital city of the United States of America, smashing, looting, vandalizing, and desecrating the very heart of American government?

Now Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Special Envoy Mick Mulvaney, Deputy National Security Advisor Matthew Pottinger, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce John Costello, Acting Chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisors Tyler Goodspeed, and Melania Trump Chief of Staff Stephanie Grisham have all resigned, claiming in various ways to have "reached a breaking point"? After One thousand, four hundred, and forty-seven days of this crap? Only now have they're reached a breaking point? How courageous.

Now Lindsey Graham says, "Enough's enough. Count me out"? Now Mitch McConnell says he never wants to speak to our 45th President again? Now Ted Cruz calls what happened Wednesday a "despicable terrorist attack," but denies any responsibility for what happened on January 6th?

Oh, *please!* I mean, just, for cryin' in a bucket: PULEEZE!!!

How could what happened on Wednesday surprise *anyone*?! You'd have to be deaf, dumb, blind, and living under a rock in Outer Mon-



Introduced on January 6th by Rudy Giuliani, who called for "trial by combat," outgoing President Donald J. Trump incited insurrection: "...Mike Pence is going to have to come through for us. And if he doesn't, that will be a sad day for our country.... Now it is up to Congress...we're going to walk down, and I'll be there with you. We're going to walk down...to the Capitol and we're going to cheer on our brave Senators and Congressmen and women, and...demand that Congress do the right thing...I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard today. We will see whether Republicans stand strong...." Shortly thereafter Trump tweeted, "Mike Pence didn't have the courage to do what should have been done to... [give] States a chance to certify a corrected set of facts.... USA demands the truth!" The mob at the Capitol then began chanting, "Hang Pence!"

golia *not* to have seen this coming for days, weeks, months, and years.

But what do we do now? What do we do with the 74,000,000 of our fellow citizens who voted for this madman even after the past four years of lunacy and chaos? I know what I'd like to do, but it would be neither ethical nor practical nor legal. So we simply have to live with them and hope that somehow there are still enough sane Americans to neutralize the damage these damaged people can do.

I may be pipe dreaming, but I find myself thinking back to when I was 16 years old and watching the Alabama police attacking peaceful civil rights marchers in Selma with vicious dogs, billy clubs, and high-powered fire hoses. A lot of Americans watched that unfolding, and had to ask themselves, "How could this happen in the United States of America?" Nothing changed overnight, but the weight of public opinion and political will did in fact begin to shift in favor of

putting an end to the segregated South and Jim Crow America.

What happened last Wednesday in Washington was certainly a very different situation. Indeed, the perpetrators at the Capitol, in another time and place, would have been the ones using vicious dogs and billy clubs. But I can only hope that enough Americans watched what happened on January 6th, and have and will continue to ask themselves, "How could this happen in the United States of America?"

And then I hope they will make up their minds to be and act and do whatever they can to see that such a disgraceful scene is never enacted again. Nor such a disgraceful human being ever again elected to the presidency.

—==—

W. D. Ehrhart, Ph.D., is a former sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps with a Purple Heart and a Combat Action Ribbon. His latest book is Thank You for Your Service: Collected Poems, McFarland, 2019.

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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 17	MONDAY, JANUARY 18	TUESDAY, JANUARY 19	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20	THURSDAY, JANUARY 21	FRIDAY, JANUARY 22	SATURDAY, JANUARY 23
2014—NRA Board Member Ted Nugent, on TV, calls President Obama a “mongrel,” and says liberals should be prosecuted for treason. 2003—George W.[MD] Bush tells wounded troops at Walter Reed we “must provide the best care” for veterans the same day the VA cuts off health care for 164,000 veterans. 2003—Gertrude Janeway, the last known widow of a Union Civil War veteran, dies at 93. When they married, he was 81 and she was 18. 1986—Ronald Reagan, 74, has polyps removed and authorizes the secret (and illegal) sale of weapons to Iran. 1968—George W.[MD] Bush scores just 25 percent on Texas’ Air National Guard’s pilot aptitude test, but passes. 1966—An Air Force tanker and a B-52 collide over Spain, dropping H-bombs & scattering radiation. 1962—An executive order gives federal workers the right to strike and plutocrats a reason to want JFK dead. 1961—Ike warns against the “acquisition of unwarranted influence” by the “Military-Industrial Complex.” 1953—A “red letter” day—the first issue of <i>I.F. Stone’s Weekly</i> is published. 1920—Prohibition kicks in, except for Andrew Mellon. Harding’s Treasury Secretary issues Old Overholt—which he owns—a special permit to sell “for medicinal purposes.” 1:56 2:06 7:50 8:22	2018—Alleged President Donnie Trump tells the Pentagon he wants a parade just like Emmanuel Macron’s. 1990—Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry is busted in a drug sting. 1983—Taking time out from dissing gays in the <i>Dartmouth Review</i>, Laura Ingraham pleads <i>nolo</i> to shoplifting. 1969—Peace talks begin in Paris between U.S. and Vietnam. 1968—At the White House, Eartha Kitt has the gall to speak her mind about the Vietnam War. Her career begins to recover a decade later. 1943—The Red Army breaks the 890-day Nazi siege of Leningrad. 1911—In San Francisco Bay, Eugene B. Ely becomes the first man to land a plane on a ship. 1909—The National Guard can suspend <i>habeas corpus</i>, says the high court. 1884—Five die and many are injured when a steam boiler explodes at the Wallace Brothers Shoe factory in Rochester, N.H. Its safety valve had been weighted down with bricks. 1863—Apache chief Mangas Colorado, having entered Fort McLane, N.M. under a flag of truce, is manacled, tortured, then shot. His skull is sent to a phrenologist. 1676—Accused of high treason during the Great Swamp Fight, Rhode Islander Joshua Tefft, the Algonquin-speaking widower of a Wampanoag woman, becomes the only Englishman ever drawn and quartered in North America. 2:43 2:55 8:39 9:08	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. 3:30 3:46 9:31 9:54	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—“If I ever run for President,” says Donald Trump, “please shoot me.” 2009—The GOP’s top Members of Congress gather to plot against the newly-inaugurated President. 2009—Swearing in 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 enslaved people 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. 1944—Against advice from subordinates, Gen. Mark Clark orders two regiments of the 36th to cross the Gari River in Italy. They’re slaughtered. 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.” 4:20 4:42 10:27 10:44	2001—With George W.[MD] Bush duly sworn in, Paul Wolfowitz, Ahmad Chalaby, Doug Feith and other neons meet at Richard Perle’s home to discuss regime change in Iraq. 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.” 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 barbed by treaty with Denmark. 1887—A San Francisco cop foolishly arrests Emperor Norton I; naturally civic unrest ensues. The Police Chief apologizes to the Emperor, and officers begin to salute him on the street. 1793—King Louis XVI of France is guillotined for treason. 5:12 5:41 11:25 11:37	2008—The Center for Public Integrity documents 935 instances of “orchestrated deception” leading up to the Iraq War by President George W.[MD] Bush and seven top officials. 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—Illegally ordered 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, stiffed 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 began 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. 6:07 6:42 12:25 12:37	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—After getting an FOIA request from the son of the Agency’s former station chief in Mexico City, the CIA destroys audio tape of Lee Harvey Oswald talking on the phone to the Soviet Embassy there. 1986—In a mixup, half a ton of uranium is pumped into the sea at Wind-scale, England. 1973—R. Nixon claims his “peace with honor” deal with Ho doesn’t betray allies, abandon prisoners, or let the war go on. It does all three. 1968—North Korea seizes the <i>USS Pueblo</i> for spying within its waters. 1957—Klan members in Montgomery, Ala. force Willie Edwards Jr. to jump from a bridge. A judge quashes the indictment of 3 men 19 years later, saying “forcing a person to jump from a bridge does not naturally and probably lead to the death of such person.” 1870—On the Marias River in Montana, Maj. Eugene Baker’s soldiers massacre 173 Blackfoot women and children. Chief Heavy Runner dies holding a U.S. flag given to him to assure their safety. 7:01 7:41 12:32 12:23
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24	MONDAY, JANUARY 25	TUESDAY, JANUARY 26	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27	THURSDAY, JANUARY 28	FRIDAY, JANUARY 29	SATURDAY, JANUARY 30

2015—The winter’s first snow falls in Portsmouth. It will not 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 desert 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 Intelligence 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.

7:53 8:35

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.

8:41 9:23

2015—Another two feet of snow fall on Portsmouth.

2006—On Sunset Blvd., Joaquin Phoenix is rescued from his rolled, gas-reeking 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 *Guardian* 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 Lewinsky.

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.

9:26 10:06

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

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

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

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

1987—Gorby announces *glasnost*.

1973—Eleven hours before a cease fire 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—“How are we going to get to the moon if we can’t talk between two or three buildings,” asks Gus Grissom during an Apollo launch rehearsal, minutes before a fire kills him, Ed White, and Roger B. Chaffee.

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

1820—Russian ships sight Antarctica.

10:08 10:46

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, George W.[MD] Bush lies about tubes, viruses, alliances, and uranium to justify his next war.

1998—Born in 1889, the son of a man once enslaved, John Morton-Finney retires from his law practice at 107.

1986—Ronald Reagan’s State of the Union is rescheduled; his *Challenger* applause line turned into a tragedy.

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

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

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

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

1918—Texas Rangers murder all 15 Hispanic residents of Porvenir.

10:49 11:25

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

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

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

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

11:29 11:29

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 ... knew Tet was coming” the next day, an analyst says later.

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

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

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

1661—Oliver Cromwell, 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.

12:04 12:10

6:30



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