

The Fortnightly Rant

Let's Take Piercy's Low Road

Bye-bye, former guy.

We are now seven weeks and change into a new era. You can tell things are different now; it's actually quiet enough to think.

This is not to say, of course, that everyone will take advantage of that opportunity. It's just to say that one of reality's fundamental switches has been reset to the default position: no longer is the most powerful position on the planet being exploited solely to create and foster a certain brand of American Carnage™.

Now that all of us have been blessed with a greater degree of mental freedom than we've had for over four years, we can begin: begin to mourn how it's being wasted. Because, let's face it, all of us are still just sacks of semi-sentient protoplasm, stumbling around and wondering what the hell's going on.

The only reason most of us have any idea what to do each day is because we can more or less recall what we did yesterday. We do not pretend, by the way, to be saying this from some lofty, superior perch. Hell, we're a prime offender; we just do the same thing on a fortnightly basis.

Sometimes, of course, we make a mistake. After we do, though, at least we try to avoid stepping on the same damn rake.

Due to our relatively modest reach, our fastidiousness on that point has limited effect. It might help if some other larger players in this racket would make an attempt to do the same.

Early results suggest that probably won't happen. That's unfortunate; what now seems like a bright new dawn could end up being just a de-luded interregnum between reigns of terror.

To illustrate our point we'll turn to a recent dustup at the Blue Bird Saloon.

We have no idea what Jack Dorsey intended when he invented Twitter, but we're willing to bet it wasn't what he got: a wide-open space—part Wild West barroom, part urban hoop court—which every journalist on Earth seems to be passing through. As a result, Twitter plays host to a permanent debate on the state of journalism. This is no prissy, bow-tied, rules-based debate, though. It's more like Al Swearingen's Gem Saloon.

Maureen Dowd started the brawl on February 27th: "I've been waiting for this moment. The moment when some on the left would react indignantly to journalists doing their job."

After relating a long, tedious anecdote reminiscent of a high school cafeteria, Dowd asserted that "many on the left don't understand what a reporter is."

"They loathe Fox News but assume that the mainstream media are basically on their side, the same way Fox commentators are on Trump's, laying the groundwork for him to start his second coming at CPAC this weekend."

"For the left, over the past four years, a reporter has been an ally and a superhero comrade in the epic mission of destroying Donald Trump. Liberals lionized any cable hosts and runaway Republicans who blasted Trump, even if they had previously been on the G.O.P. payroll, selling the Iraq war and Sarah Palin."

Maggie Haberman, Dowd's colleague at the *Times*, backed her up with a supportive tweet that quoted Dowd's column.

The *Times* having a history of allowing itself be used as a propaganda laundromat resulting in a catastrophic pre-emptive war, not to mention falling for innumerable other GOP hoaxes from *Benghazi!!!* to "but...her emails," that one-two



punch set off just the sort of moment for which we hang around the Gem...er, Twitter.

Out of the ensuing melee came a voice of clarity: "So true," tweeted Jay Rosen, a professor of journalism at NYU, "liberals need to learn that journalists are not on the team. Just as journalists need to learn that *a symmetrical account of an asymmetrical reality is a distortion...*" [*Emphasis added.*]

Rosen succinctly nailed what we believe is the nation's most serious problem: virtually everything that anyone "knows" which relates to our governance and democracy must come to us through a lens provided by our mass media. The shape of that lens is controlled by its owners. They want things done in a certain way. They want reporting done symmetrically.

From the lofty *Times*, right on down to the humble level of the Award-Winning Hedge-Fund Owned Daily, journalists can nev-

er be "on the team" of the people, because the outfits for which they work do not belong to the people.

Republicans—not all of whom are quite as dumb as they sometimes appear to be on television—don't just know this, they understand it in their bones. They've been exploiting this weakness of the press since the days of Harry Truman.

They understand their demographics, too: their days are numbered, if future elections are held fairly. That's why they've got anti-democratic—make that anti-Democratic—campaigns underway in Republican-run state-houses from coast to coast.

Democrats have long operated under Sunday School rules: play fair long enough and your virtue will be rewarded. If they don't wise up pretty quickly, that reward will come as a punch in the face.

Right now, though, in Washington, they're pushing H.R. 1, the For the People Act. It will help counter

the Republican assault, if they can get it through the Senate. We'll see how the press covers that battle.

Meanwhile, just to buck ourselves up for the fights ahead, we'll roll out this favorite excerpt from "The Low Road," by Marge Piercy:

*Two people can keep each other sane, can give support, conviction, love, massage, hope, sex.
Three people are a delegation, a committee, a wedge. With four you can play bridge and start an organization. With six you can rent a whole house, eat pie for dinner with no seconds, and hold a fund raising party. A dozen make a demonstration. A hundred fill a hall. A thousand have solidarity and your own newsletter; ten thousand, power and your own paper; a hundred thousand, your own media; ten million, your own country.*

The Alleged News®

Neoliberalism's Latest Offering

A recent headline out of South Carolina compels us to drag the term neoliberalism out of the closet; our apologies to the reader.

Whenever we use this term we meet with some pushback from certain quarters—and rightly so. It's one of those abstract, obscure, multi-syllabic terms that is rarely if ever taught in school. It would be downright rude to just throw in on the page and expect everyone to understand what we mean.

In those rare cases when it comes up in conversation, an argument is probably underway—or about to begin. These negative characteristics tend to reduce the use—and therefore the usefulness—of the word. That's a real shame, because once you crack its code it says a lot.

Neoliberalism is the name of a philosophy, the chief concern of

which is how to control the world.

An important part of that question, clearly, is who should do the controlling? Unsurprisingly, the people who control the world now—if the current chaos can be called controlled—believe it should be them.

A thing that has a name which is universally understood is a hell of a lot easier to control than something that's anonymous. That is why it benefits those who are now in control, not to apply names to the tools that they use. This is also why, on the rare occasion when someone in power does utter the word, it is more often than not to deny that there is any such thing.

If we groundlings understood neoliberalism better, we'd have a better chance at shutting it down—and a better life after we did it.

"Neoliberalism sees competition as the defining characteristic of human relations," George Monbiot wrote in *The Guardian*, on April 15, 2016. "It redefines citizens as consumers, whose democratic choices are best exercised by buying and selling, a process that rewards merit and punishes inefficiency. It maintains that 'the market' delivers benefits that could never be achieved by planning."

"Attempts to limit competition are treated as inimical to liberty. Tax and regulation should be minimised, public services should be privatised. The organisation of labour and collective bargaining by trade unions are portrayed as market distortions that impede the formation of a natural hierarchy of winners and losers. Inequality is recast as virtuous: a reward for utility and a generator

of wealth, which trickles down to enrich everyone. Efforts to create a more equal society are both counterproductive and morally corrosive. The market ensures that everyone gets what they deserve."

Sound familiar now? It's the world we live in—or try to.

It does work for some. As Monbiot writes, "The rich persuade themselves that they acquired their wealth through merit, ignoring the advantages—such as education, inheritance and class—that may have helped to secure it. The poor begin to blame themselves for their failures, even when they can do little to change their circumstances."

"Never mind structural unemployment: if you don't have a job it's because you are unenterprising. Never mind the impossible costs of housing: if your credit card is maxed

out, you're feckless and improvident. Never mind that your children no longer have a school playing field: if they get fat, it's your fault. In a world governed by competition, those who fall behind become defined and self-defined as losers."

Now, the headline which sparked this tirade: "South Carolina could force death row inmates to choose between electric chair, firing squad."

Wardens used to ask the condemned man what he wanted for his last meal. The neoliberal warden comes in with a napkin draped over one arm, and a menu in the opposite hand, asking, "What would monsieur prefer for the *pièce de résistance*, *le peloton d'exécution*, or the *chaise électrique*?"

The Hyatt Regrets...

Even with the world's heavyweight champion dispenser of chaos out of the Oval Office and off Twitter, events can still move pretty quickly. So much so that we nearly forgot our intention to do a follow-up on the Conservative Political Action Conference [CPAC] held last month in Orlando—the one held on a stage made to look like the symbol on the collar of an SS soldier's uniform.

Naturally the organizers sputtered in rage at the suggestion that the symbol, well...symbolized anything. Ian Walters, a spokesperson for the American Conservative Union, told AFP, "I think it's a ridiculous proposition that somehow we tried to, you know, wink and nod at people that hold views antithetical to our own"—an argument which might have been more powerful if the tone of the event had less resembled a neo-Nuremberg Rally.

Matt Schlapp, CPAC's organizer, accused the event's critics of an-

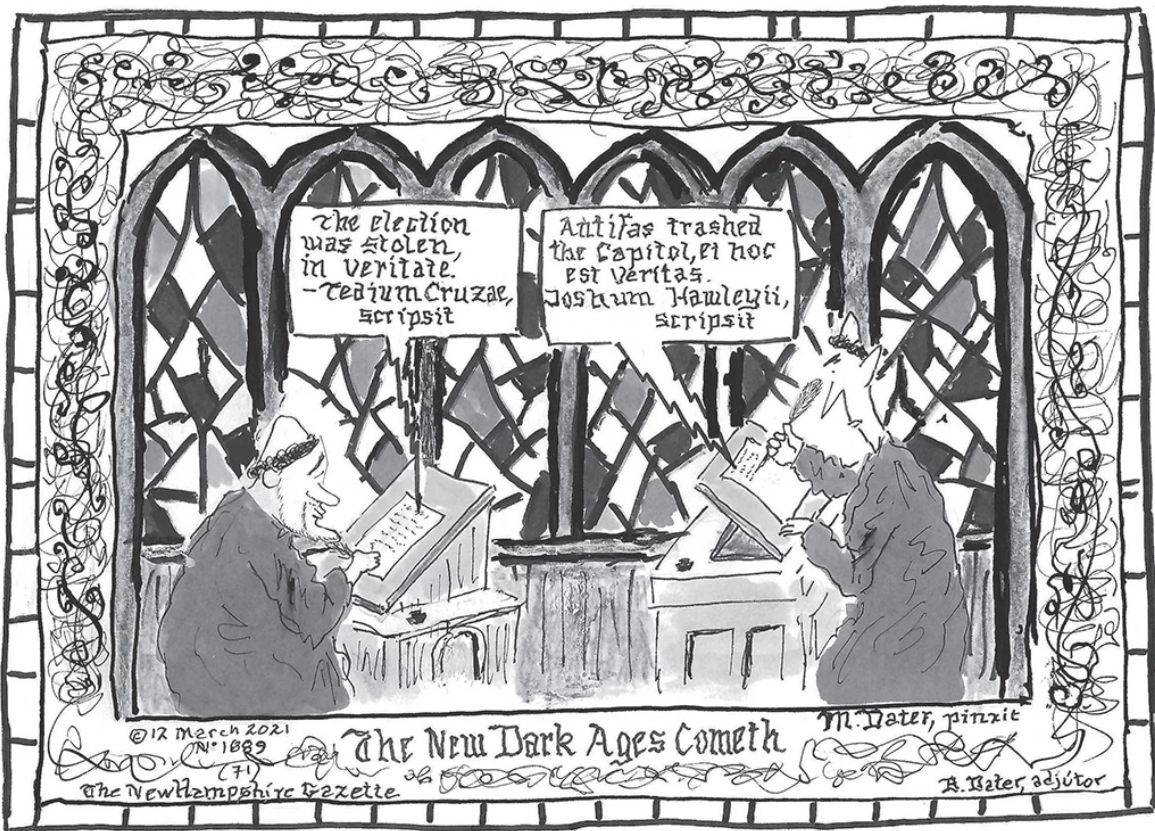
ti-semitism—of course.

Hyatt, the event's rueful host, issued a delicately-worded disclaimer and apology, and not just about Nazi symbolism.

"When we learned that CPAC 2021 stage design had been compared to a symbol of hate," the statement read, "we promptly raised this concern with meeting organizers who strongly denied any connection to such symbols. Had we initially recognized the potential connections to hate symbolism, we would have proactively addressed it prior to commencement of the event. Unfortunately, this became clear to us only after the event kicked off. With CPAC's denial of any intentional connection to hate symbols and our concerns over the safety of guests and colleagues in what could have been a disruptive situation, we allowed the event to continue. We understand and respect the opinions of those who might disagree with that decision."



Our Wandering Photographer, recently having gotten a jolt of Johnson & Johnson's Fetal Tissue Special, courtesy of our benevolent overlord Governor Chris Sununu and the Noise Bowl up in Loudon, has begun to think about unilaterally lifting his own self-imposed travel restrictions. Reverting to type, he ambled down to the Pan Am railyard. There he mused, not for the first time, about irony. Such a grimy, earthbound enterprise—and yet its owner, an umpteenth-generation scion of a notorious right wing clan, has finagled for it the fabled name of a defunct luxury airline. Some unusually talented artist has tagged this Union Pacific car with a spectacular giant insect. It appears eager to pounce on and devour this Pan Am worker; he, however, seems unconcerned.



It appears that the next time CPAC comes knocking, the scrutiny will be excruciating.

Hyatt wasn't too happy, either, with the behavior of some of their guests.

"...our colleagues worked tirelessly to support this event while enforcing Hyatt's safety policies. At times, these efforts included reminding attendees to wear masks and socially distance, even while colleagues occasionally faced hostility from attendees who did not support our policies. While individuals are entitled to their opinions, in a Hyatt hotel we expect guests to follow our policies. Further, we were extremely disappointed by the disrespect many individuals involved in the event showed to our colleagues..."

Aww...Isn't That Nice...?

We are pleased and relived to report that Liza Scott, of Birmingham, Ala., is said to be recovering "uneventfully" from brain surgery at Boston Children's Hospital.

Liza, 7, became America's latest sweetheart a few weeks ago. A series

of seizures had led to an alarming discovery: there were "cerebral malformations" in her little noggin "that needed repair."

Liza's parents, being responsible folks, had health insurance, of course. That's a double-edged sword, though. Insurance companies, being people, have rights, too—including the right to defend him or her self against expensive problems like Liza.

The free market, in its infinite wisdom and Solomonian fairness, decided that the insurance company should be spared some of the expenses associated with making sure Liza grows up to be a productive member of society. So, plucky, adorable Liza seized the means of production, and turned her cerebral malformations into—you guessed it—lemonade!

News outlets across the country picked up Liza's story, because—what irony—little Liza really had to use her brain...in order to get her brain fixed!

Isn't that just hilarious, and heartwarming as well?

Now Liza can grow up and enlist in the U.S. military and protect our corporations' access to markets and raw materials, if Tucker Carlson doesn't mind.

Right's Monarchist Roots Are Showing
Furor reigns at the moment over in Old Blighty. It seems that someone in the Royal Family may be as bigoted as many Americans; color us unsurprised.

The target of their disdain is Meghan Markle, the latest person of American extraction to enter the higher ranks of that class-ridden nation.

The most prominent example will likely always be Winston Churchill, son of the American beauty, Jenny Jerome. In her fabulously-rich father's New York City mansion, there were many rooms, including a six-hundred seat theatre.

This trans-Atlantic matrimonial phenomenon is sufficiently common to have produced a local example: Anne Catherine Tredick Wendell (1900-1977). Her family had homes in Kittery, Portsmouth,

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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

and New Castle, suggesting a certain level of, shall we say, material comfort. Sadly that ended with the death of her father, when she was ten.

Ms. Wendell's mother took her brood of four to England, where a cousin had married rather well. Catherine Wendell, as she was generally known, did the same—on paper. Sadly, her high-born husband, Henry George Alfred Marius Victor Francis Herbert, the 6th Earl of Carnarvon, turned out to be a womanizing bastard.

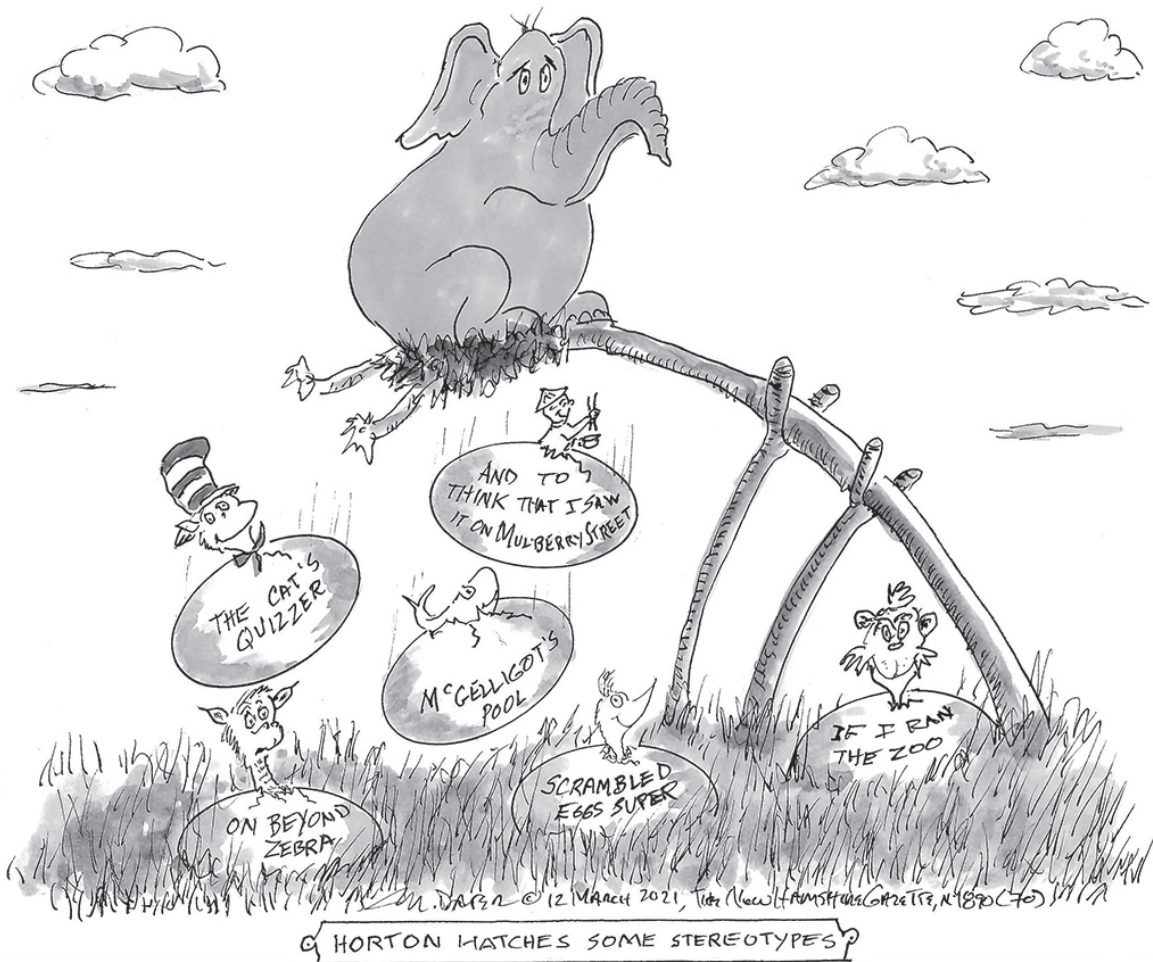
After thirteen years of misery in splendor—the family seat was Highclere Castle, familiar to fans of “Downton Abbey”—she ditched the bum. According to a website touting the book, *Catherine and Tilly: Porchey Carnarvon's Two Duped Wives*, by William Cross, Catherine “is buried in a neglected grave at the graveyard on the Highclere Estate.”

The U.S. has always been susceptible to some degree of Anglophilia; that's hardly surprising,

given our history. More perplexing is the widespread fascination with, and even support for, Britain's royal family. It's almost as if some people would have preferred that we lost the Revolution—an outcome which could well have resulted in the hanging of George Washington and a whole slew of our other heroes.

Case in point, Richard Grenell: general, all-around right wing Republican Party hack and, briefly, Director of National Intelligence—the irony, it burns—under the sack of protoplasm now known as “The Former Guy.” Grenell tweeted, “Meghan Markle is the classic American woke progressive. She doesn't want to do the work but is outraged she doesn't get the freebies.” Fact check: news reports say Markle wanted to do more, but The Firm—the commercial arm of the Royal Family™—would not let her.

Erick Erickson, a right wing blogger who demonstrated the lasting truth of the Peter Principle by becoming a Fox “News” blatherer,



The Flag Police were recently shocked—shocked, we tell you—to discover this undersized and underloved example of the nation's iconic banner. The condition alone was sufficient to merit their concern: a discerning eye will note that the fly end is uniformly frayed from top to bottom. Wounding them to the quick, however, was its location: atop the former home of a veterans service organization. It didn't help that the pole was topped with what appears to be a toilet tank float. Familiar with the offending establishment's otherwise sterling character, the vexillological gendarms considered turning a blind eye. Eternal vigilance, however, is the price of upholding the fetishization of material objects which symbolize the values of a purported republic in the absence of any perceptible functionality.

tweeted, “So essentially Harry and Meghan have joined Woke-o Haram and want to cancel the Royal Family for not being woke.”

Charlie Kirk, the insufferable twerp who set up his own version of Young Republicans under the brand Turning Point USA, erupted with this: “Anyone who sits by and lets his family and his country get attacked the way that Harry did last night is certainly not an alpha.”

That is particularly rich. Harry did a tour—albeit only for ten weeks—as a forward air controller in Afghanistan. He went back as an Apache gunship pilot, ticking off the Taliban, who vowed to kill or kidnap him. The bravest thing Kirk ever did was talk his followers into wearing diapers to “own the libs.”

Whenever there's a particularly virulent outbreak of American Monarchism, we are reminded of the following passage from Thom-

as Paine's immortal *Common Sense*, Chapter Two, Of Monarchy and Hereditary Succession:

“England, since the conquest, hath known some few good monarchs, but groaned beneath a much larger number of bad ones; yet no man in his senses can say that their claim under William the Conqueror is a very honourable one. *A French bastard landing with an armed banditti, and establishing himself king of England against the consent of the natives, is in plain terms a very paltry rascally original.* It certainly hath no divinity in it. However, it is needless to spend much time in exposing the folly of hereditary right; if there are any so weak as to believe it, let them promiscuously worship the ass and lion [*The unicorn and lion on the royal coat of arms.*], and welcome. I shall neither copy their humility, nor disturb their devotion. [*Emphasis added.*]

Pining For The Newsprint, 265/13
Has it really been a year? Yup.

We have not sullied fresh newsprint since publishing our Volume 264, No. 13, on Friday, March 13, 2020—the sort of coincidence that gives triskaidekaphobes the fantods. Under the circumstances we cannot complain. We are still here, albeit only online. We have lost some distribution points; Water Monkey, for example—a hard loss, that. Our masthead, however, is unscathed.

When, then, do we ask our printer to spin up that massive roll of Canada's finest? No promises, but here's a rough guess: at one year into this, we can imagine perhaps coming out of it in another six months—provided that our reckless Republican governors don't cause another catastrophic wave of infections. If that seems like a long time, well, we agree. We'd rather under-promise and over-perform than do it t'other way round.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"We have always known that heedless self interest was bad morals, we now know that it is bad economics."

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"Democracy is not the multiplication of ignorant opinions."

— Beatrice Webb

john@wordpraxis.com

"War against a foreign country only happens when the moneyed classes think they are going to profit from it."

— George Orwell, reviewing *The Men I Killed*, by Brigadier General Frank P. Crozier, August 28 1937

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St.

“Republicans’ Are Ready to Work”
[Note: As readers might expect, our email inbox sometimes contains surprises. Here is a noteworthy recent example—a plea for donations from the Majority Leader of the New Hampshire House. — The Ed.]

Rep. Jason Osborne writes:
“Last week we had our first House session of the month and it was...well interesting.
“To give some background, before the session even started Democrats sued us trying to force us to have a remote session. They did this even though our new venue was over twice the size of the one they used when they were in control and that we were closely following CDC guidelines. Democrats must only believe in following science when it suits their agenda. Much to their surprise, their handpicked Obama-appointed judge tossed out their frivolous lawsuit, setting the scene for another epic meltdown of their members.
“When we began to hold the session, things were going very smoothly. We even got through our legislation on Wednesday ahead of the deadline!
“And then we did something that was too much for the Democrats—we asked them to work a little more and fill out the rest of the day.
“The horror!
“So, what did the Democrats do? Well working is not something that they are inclined to do anyways, so they walked out instead of voting.
“That’s right, instead of just continuing the people’s work, the Democrats obstructed and then finally took their ball and went home, busting through police in the process, in their fervor to get home early.
“Friends, you sent Republicans to Concord to do the people’s work and we will continue to do that.
“But let’s change something, lets help elect even more Republicans next year so that when the Democrats do walk out again their membership will be so small that no one will notice.
“Cheers,
“Rep. Jason Osborne
“House Majority Leader”

[Note: Considering the source of this hilariously misguided plea for a handout,

we were, of course, deeply skeptical. Accordingly, we sent a copy to a Representative who writes to us occasionally, asking for a critique. Peter Sommsich took time from his busy schedule to send us the following. — The Ed.]

Rep. Peter Sommsich writes:
“Unfortunately, there is too much to challenge in the letter from Rep. Osborne.
“Democrats have insisted, since at least from the time that Speaker Hinch died of Covid, that there is no reason that we could not all meet via Zoom (as the N.H. Senate is doing) to ensure the health and safety of all members of the Legislature. The lawsuit that was filed focused on members who have disabilities and other health issues that would qualify them under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and therefore entitle them to be accommodated appropriately to protect their health. Unfortunately, the court did not want to intervene in an issue surrounding the legislative branch, and insinuated that that body was immune from the ADA.
“Many people have claimed that hosting a meeting of 400 individuals, some of them unmasked, is a violation of the Governor’s emergency orders. But Republicans do not obey such orders. In addition, the Republicans made a number of promises regarding the configuration of the site that was chosen for our last legislative session. Many of the promises were not kept. For example, the ventilation system as advertised did not properly create the airflow in a way to keep Democrats safe. Also, the wearing of masks was not a requirement, and many Republicans refused to wear them (~ 60 members). Democrats were promised, since accommodations were made, that Republicans would not need to transit the area where Democrats were sitting, since it was not clear which of them could have been in contact with unmasked members. They were provided their own Rest Rooms, so that it was not necessary to travel through the Democratic area. But they did it anyway.
“Finally, regarding the session itself. Due to the large size of the hall, and



perhaps the willful negligence of the Speaker, Mr. Packard, Democratic motions and calls for recognition were ignored. It was claimed that these were accidental oversights, however, they happened too often and only to Democrats. The first of the two days of session was in fact quite tumultuous. If you forget entirely, some of the ridiculous bills that we were asked to pass, even some of the procedures were often questionable, but not for the Speaker. Near the end of the first day, there was a very heated debate about the right to life of fetuses. After this bill passed, there was a motion to deal with a second bill with the same general topic that was scheduled for the second day. The justification was that since we just warmed up with the first bill, why not deal with the second one as well.

“While it is not unusual to request that the vote on a bill be postponed to a later date for a good reason, requesting that a future bill be expedited to the present is highly unusual. Democrats protested, and threatened to leave and thereby deny the Republicans a Quorum. At this point the Speaker told Democrats that he would have the doors locked and prevent them from leaving. Many of them, myself included, decided to leave and did so successfully. However, when some of them tried to return to the building, they were denied admittance.

“It was a huge fiasco. Democrats are more than hard workers, but Republicans in the House currently are obsessed with trivial, free state and libertarian ideas (except when we are talking about women), and are determined to demonstrate how badly government can function. They are certainly correct about that, when Republicans are in charge.”

[Note: Our thanks to Peter Sommsich for mustering the requisite forbearance to prepare a thoughtful response to such unmitigated BS. — The Ed.]

Gerrymandering: Enemy of Democracy

To the Editor:
Each state goes through the process of redistricting every ten years, based on the census data. This process is supposed to ensure that every citizen is properly represented, regardless of political party, but politicians play with boundary lines to try to win state and federal elections.

The New Hampshire Republican Party, which currently has a small majority in Concord, has been outright shameful about it this year. WMUR quoted GOP State Chair Steve Stepanek openly bragging, “...we control redistricting,” he said. “I can stand here today and guarantee you that we will send a conservative Republican to Washington, D.C. as a Congress person in 2022.”

The Republicans want to change the Congressional district lines to push Democrats into New Hampshire’s Second District, which Annie Kuster represents, and increase the number of Republicans in the First District, which is always tougher to win, even when playing by the rules. And they plan to play with the lines for state elections as well.

Gerrymandering is wrong, no matter who does it. So why did Governor Sununu veto a bipartisan bill that would have allowed an independent commission to draw the lines? Did he want Republican politicians, not the citizens in those boundaries, to decide who would represent them? Now is the time to contact Republican officials in our state and tell them that New Hampshire voters are watching to see if they believe in our American experiment—Democracy—or if they feel that government officials should choose their representatives for them.

Gene Porter
Rochester, N.H.

The Fight for Fair Elections in New Hampshire

By Betty Tamposi and Dan Weeks
In a democratic republic like the United States, voters are meant to choose their politicians, not the other way around.

Like many of our fellow Granite Staters, we take this bedrock principle of free and fair elections personally. One of us served for years as a Republican leader in the N.H. House of Representatives and later as an Assistant Secretary of State under President George H.W. Bush. The other was a Democratic nominee for Executive Council (raised in a long line of Republican elected officials) and led the nonpartisan group Open Democracy. Although we do not agree on every issue, we are united by our commitment to representative government; and we believe the vast majority of Granite Staters agree.

Against this backdrop, we were pained to hear former State Representative Steve Stepanek, the Chair of New Hampshire’s Republican Party and a staunch defender of Donald Trump following the Capitol insurrection, make a stunning claim at a meeting of state GOP leaders: “I can stand here today and guarantee you that we will send a conservative Republican to Washington, D.C. as a Congressperson in 2022.”

How, you might wonder, can the leader of a political party “guarantee” the defeat of an incumbent Congressman and the election of one of his own nearly two years before a single ballot has been cast? Stepanek’s answer was short and to the point: “Republicans are controlling redistricting.”

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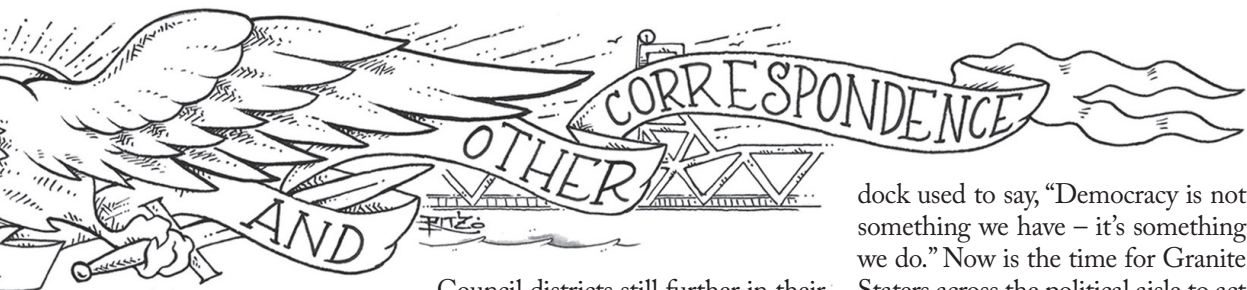
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commissions, New Hampshire tradition places that power in the hands of the legislature itself following each U.S. Census. In 2011, a small group of Republican politicians gathered in secret to draw the current electoral maps for maximum political gain. The completed maps were released just 24 hours before their only public hearing and one week before the Republican-controlled House voted them into law, against the strong objections of Democrats and nonpartisan observers.

Not surprisingly, the gerrymandered districts favored the majority. In every election since 2012, Republicans won more seats in Concord than their share of ballots cast. Although both of us have strong ties to the Republican party, we feel compelled to call a spade a spade: Republicans did not win fair and square. The same is true for Democrats in certain other states.

For a perfect case in point, take Executive Council District 2, which snakes across the state from Vermont to Maine in order to pack as many Democratic votes as possible into a single district while tilting the other four districts toward the Republicans. In 2020, Republicans won 51 percent of statewide Executive Council votes but ended up controlling 80 percent of seats on the governor’s council, according to the Associated Press. Meanwhile, Democratic control of the State Senate was lost in two gerrymandered districts by a combined 610 votes, giving the Republicans a 14-10 majority (58 percent) with a statewide senate vote of 50 percent.

Now, GOP leaders are poised to deepen their partisan advantage once the 2020 Census results are released later this year by redrawing district lines to “guarantee” a congressional seat and tilt legislative and Executive

Council districts still further in their favor. Gov. Chris Sununu has cleared the path by twice vetoing legislation to establish an independent, nonpartisan redistricting commission after it passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support.

Although we long for a legislative solution to the problem of partisan gerrymandering, the current majority in Concord leaves no choice but to focus on local and federal action in the interest of fair elections. At the local level, we strongly support the more than 100 New Hampshire towns that will consider non-binding resolutions this town meeting season that urge redistricting be conducted openly and fairly in public meetings. The warrant articles demand that neither political party be favored in the process and that any town of at least 3,300 residents be given its own state representative to avoid gerrymandered multi-member districts. We hope the state GOP will take these demands to heart.

At the federal level, Congress can and must end the practice of partisan gerrymandering in the future by sending HR 1, the For the People Act, to President Joe Biden’s desk. The legislation would enact a range of good-government reforms including requiring states to establish a bipartisan independent commission to redraw congressional district maps after future Censuses. HR 1 passed the House of Representatives for the second time last week and is now headed to the Senate, where citizen support could make all the difference. It is a successor to the Fair Elections Now Act, on which we worked with New Hampshire’s late Republican Senator Warren Rudman as directors of Americans for Campaign Reform (now Issue One).

As the legendary New Hampshire reformer Doris “Granny D” Had-

dock used to say, “Democracy is not something we have – it’s something we do.” Now is the time for Granite Staters across the political aisle to act in unison at the local and federal level to end the unseemly practice of partisan gerrymandering and guarantee fair elections for all.

Former State Representative Betty Tamposi, of New Castle, and Dan Weeks, of Nashua, serve on the Advisory Council of Open Democracy.

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Learning Opportunity for Texas

To the Editor:

Though the final death toll of the Texas winter storm will take months to determine, at least 80 people have died so far. People are still dealing with water shortages, broken pipes and water damage to their homes as well as job and wage losses. Recovery costs are expected to exceed \$50 billion, the most costly storm in Texas history.

Much has been written about the lack of preparedness of the energy infrastructure for an extreme weather situation, but it pretty much boils down to Texas, rather than becoming part of a national well regulated grid, wanting to do it “their way,” to lower costs and make more profit.

According to former Texas governor Rick Perry, Texas citizens are willing to endure this kind of disruption, suffering and danger “to keep the federal government out of their business.”

Too bad for Texas that New Hampshire had already taken “Live Free or Die” and they had to settle for “Friendship” as their state motto. But, maybe “Friendship” is a better motto for them. Texans are applying for billions of dollars of federal tax dollars to bail them out. Suddenly big, bad government is their best friend. This is not a healthy relationship.

Business knows what is best for their short-term bottom line. It’s the government’s job to work with them to take into account the long-term in-

terests of people and the environment. It doesn’t have to be us against them—it should be a cooperative effort. We are all in this together.

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.

=====

Kill the Filibuster

Dear Editor,

Can a minority party, intent on supporting partisan corruption by repeating the Big Lie as gospel, win future elections?

Yes, if they limit the Democratic Majority’s votes with 253 “election reform” laws, being proposed in 29 states. The proposals would limit voting by mail, reduce voting days, and enable legislatures to select Electoral College electors irrespective of the popular vote count.

To thwart this preparation to steal the next election, the For The People act protects our fair voting system. It will pass in the House, but to pass in the Senate, the Dems must end the filibuster to enable a simple majority vote to prevail.

Two Democratic Senators oppose ending the filibuster. Their opposition fritters away the limited, valuable time that Democratss have to control Congress and correct the evils that give the Trumpublican minority their power.

Please contact Senators Joe Manchin (W.V.) and Kristen Sinema (Ariz).

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.

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A Blizzard. A Power Outage. A Failure of the Heart.

by Rivera Sun

A continent-wide snow storm swept across the United States last month. From Seattle to Baton Rouge and from Dallas to Minneapolis, people grappled with road closures, shutdowns, power outages, and freezing temperatures.

From sea to shining sea, ordinary people stepped up to take care of one another. My brother volunteered to snowblow the Seattle offices of an autism support center. A colleague in Portland, Oregon, posted warnings not to walk under the snapping, ice-laden

branches of city trees. Friends in West Virginia popped back online to make sure everyone was fine after three days without Internet. When Texas megachurches refused to shelter people, a mattress store opened their doors to those without power. Up and down my dirt road in New Mexico, people checked-in with each other as they walked dogs, drove to work, and dug out their driveways.

This is the America I believe in. In a time of political outrage (and even more outrageous headlines), I believe the content of our national character is found in how we take care of one another. Especially in times of crisis. This spirit of neighborly caring is a widely-shared value, stretching from rural communities to urban neighborhoods, encompassing everything from faith-based relief efforts to mutual aid networks.

Why don’t we see more of this from politicians, pundits, and wealthy elites?

For days, 2.5 million residents in Texas were left without power, killing at least 17 people. Despite the fact that Texas runs largely on fossil fuels, the state’s politicians blamed the outages on solar and wind failures. (The Antarctic, Minnesota, and Norway all replied with proper instructions on how to keep wind turbines moving in below zero temperatures.) Profiteers gleefully chortled over \$8,000+ electric bill spikes. As a quarter of his powerless residents struggled to survive freezing temperatures, Texas mayor Tim Boyd posted on Facebook, “Only the strong will survive and the weak will parish [sic].”

This kind of cruelty makes me ashamed of my fellow Americans. We can’t say we “love our country” if we don’t put our love-in-action to help our entire populace. We praise our soldiers for being willing to sacrifice in times of need, but our words of honoring hollow if citizens and public leaders don’t mobilize to make sure children have food, elders are warm, and families are safe. When the blizzard strikes and the power falters, heroism

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

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Nine Decades of Progress

by James A. Haught

Ill be 90 on my next birthday. My long life is sinking, shrinking, slip-sliding away. My wife is worse: bedfast, under Hospice care. Soon, our world will end, not with a bang but a whimper.

Looking back over nine decades, I'm proud and pleased because secular humanism—the progressive struggle to make life better for everyone—won hundreds of victories during my time.

When I came of age in the 1950s, fundamentalist taboos ruled America. Gay sex was a felony, and homosexuals hid in the closet. It was a crime for stores to open on the Sabbath. It was illegal to look at something like a *Playboy* magazine or sexy R-rated movie—or even read about sex. Blacks were confined to ghettos, not allowed into white-only restaurants, hotels, clubs, pools, schools, careers or neighborhoods. Interracial marriage was illegal. Schools had government-mandated prayers, and biology classes didn't mention evolution. Buying a cocktail or lottery ticket was a crime. Birth control was illegal in some states. Desperate girls couldn't end pregnancies, except via

back-alley butchers. Unwed couples couldn't share a bedroom. Other Puritanism was locked into law.

Now, all those born-again strictures have been wiped out, one after another. Human rights and personal freedoms snowballed. Society changed so radically that it's hard to remember the old "thou shalt nots."

The secular humanist crusade, a never-ending effort to help humanity, began its modern upsurge three centuries ago in The Enlightenment. Rebel thinkers began challenging the divine right of kings, the supremacy of the church, privileges of aristocrats, and other despotism. They envisioned democracy, personal equality, human rights, free speech and a social safety net.

At the start of the 20th century, Theodore Roosevelt's Progressive Party sought many reforms. And women fought bravely for the right to vote. Then, during my lifetime, wave after wave of betterment occurred.

Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal passed Social Security pensions for retirees, gave unions a right to organize, provided unemployment compensation for the jobless and workers compensation for those

injured at work, banned child labor, set a 40-hour work week and a minimum wage, created food stamps and welfare for the poor, launched massive public works to make jobs, created the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to protect bank depositors, and much more.

The U.S. Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren transformed America: outlawing racially segregated schools, outlawing government-enforced school prayer, striking down state laws against birth control and mixed marriage, protecting poor defendants against police abuses, mandating “one person, one vote” equality in districts to stop sparse rural conservatives from dominating legislatures. The Warren Court gave couples privacy in the bedroom—which set the stage for a later ruling that let women and girls end pregnancies. Other subsequent decisions decriminalized gay sex, gave homosexuals a right to marry, and made gays safer from cruel discrimination.

Lyndon Johnson's Great Society leaped forward with Medicare, Medicaid, the Job Corps, Head Start, public radio and television, consumer protection, pollution

curbs, senior citizen meals, the National Trails System, and 200 other improvements. Four major laws guaranteed racial equality.

Meanwhile, the historic civil rights movement made America honor its pledge that "all men are created equal." Birth control pills freed women from endless pregnancy and triggered the sexual revolution against bluenose church taboos. Women's liberation weakened male domination. Gays gained legal equality through historic breakthroughs. The youth rebellion of the 1960s still has repercussions.

A 1987 high court ruling forbade public schools to teach “creationism.” Other progressive advances included marijuana legalization in many states, and the beginning of “right to die with dignity” laws.

Finally, the collapse of the idiotic Trump era and the disintegration of supernatural religion in western democracies are more victories for secular humanism.

Decade after decade, progressive reformers defeated bigoted religion and right-wing political resistance to wipe out hidebound strictures.

Barely noticed, humanist advances helped billions. War between

nations has virtually ceased in the past half-century. In the 1800s, life expectancy averaged 35 years because of high childhood deaths, but now it's near 80. Literacy and education have soared. Each day, 200,000 more people rise above rock-bottom \$2-per-day poverty. Each day, 300,000 more gain access to electricity and clean water for the first time. Famines have almost vanished. Progressive values keep climbing.

We existentialists see the chaotic carnival of life—all the absurdities and blatant charlatans (Trump, for example). Sometimes we want to embrace Macbeth's bitter lament that life is a pointless farce, a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

But I know that's only part of the truth. The marvelous rise of secular humanism in a single lifetime—greatly improving life for all—paints a much-brighter hope for humanity. Let's keep striving for more advances.

$$- \approx -$$

James Haught, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is editor emeritus of West Virginia's largest newspaper, The Charleston Gazette-Mail, and author of 12 books.

$$- \approx -$$

from page five

is shown by those who compassionately step forward to make sure everyone is okay. Our willingness to care amidst crisis is a form of patriotism, a way of showing loyalty to our country.

When grandstanding politicians lie about windmills as fossil fuel failures freeze people to death, they should be ashamed of themselves. When a dangerously under-regulated power grid company fails to take care of millions of people, they have lost the moral right to operate a critical piece of infrastructure. When a billionaire gloats about hitting the jackpot as electric bills wipe out families' life savings, some-

thing is rotten in his soul. When a
 vice has written numerous books in

thing is rotten in his soul. When a small-town mayor snarls in disdain at desperate families, he does not deserve to hold public office. When we fail to reach out a hand to our neighbors—whether they live in the house next door or have no house at all—then we have also failed to live up to common decency.

What makes us strong is not our smug satisfaction that our own little house is safe and sound. Sneering in judgment at the suffering of others does not make us good, righteous, or powerful. It is our love and respect that make us strong. It is our heroic

capacity to care for one another. It is the way we use everything from our snowplows to shovels to churches and mattress stores, back-up generators, city governments, public utilities, private companies, social media platforms, and more to make sure each and every single person in this country is safe, warm, healthy, and okay.

A blizzard. A power outage. A failure of the heart. In times of crisis, we either rise to our best...or we perish at our worst.

Rivera Sun, syndicated by PeaceV-

oice, has written numerous books, including The Dandelion Insurrection. She is the editor of Nonviolence News and a nationwide trainer in strategy for nonviolent campaigns.

$$- \approx -$$

Flotsam & Jetsam

"The problem with defending the purity of the English language is that English is about as pure as a cribhouse whore. We don't just borrow words; on occasion, English has pursued other languages down alleyways to beat them unconscious and rifle their pockets for new vocabulary."

–James D. Nicoll

"The Natives of New England are accustomed to build them houses, much like the wild Irish, they gather Poles in the woodes and put the great end of them in the ground, placing them in forme of a circle or circumference, and bending the topps of them in forme of an Arch, they bind them together with the Barke of Walnut trees, which is wondrous tuffe, so that they make the same round on the Topp."

– Thomas Morton (1564-1659),
New English Canaan

$$- \approx -$$

"I was twenty-one and without God. I had no one to love me and no one for me to love. Since there was no after-life, what then did it matter? I leaned forward, ready to lurch to my doom."

– Oscar Zeta Acosta

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Living in Ghost Land

by Jean Stimmell

I recently got back from two months in San Jose, supporting Russet, whose son Austin succumbed to a malevolent brain tumor in January. It has been an extremely taxing, long haul for her, caring for him as he went downhill over the last year.

After returning home, I've been dislocated in time and space, yanked around by a profusion of emotional climates as erratic as the weather, both here and there: From the frigid winter winds blowing across the stark whiteness of Jenness Pond to the feminine softness of mournful, foggy mornings in the Los Gatos mountains.

It didn't help when Coco discovered a dead barred owl behind the house, devoured except for her wings, feet, and head. If owls are prophets, what kind of omen is this?

Then, stranger yet, walking with Coco along Jenness Pond road, the past and present melded together in a surreal collage. It came to me that what journalist Ella McSweeney recently said about Ireland perfectly described what was happening to me: "we live in ghost-land, marked not by what is around to see and hear, but what is not."¹

Coco and I inspect the ice-fishing houses out on the pond, soon to be endangered species when the ice melts. When the ice froze last December, Austin was still alive, and

barred owl still patrolled my land. We walk further by the little graveyard where my grandparents rest. I am named after my grandfather, who wrote letters in triplicate with carbon paper to his sons when they were serving overseas during WW II.

In one of his letters, Grandfather Jean, who had a gift for words, wrote about Jenness Pond freezing over in December 1942, three years before I was born: "During the night, the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company arrived and laid a solid piece of plate over Jenness Pond, so slick one's eyeballs slide when looking at the pond in the sun...."

Walking along, the dog and I soon come to a beach near where an old colonial used to stand. According to legend, as told by my father, long-ago the farmer who lived there took his two oxen, still yoked together, down to the pond to cool off on a sweltering August day. The cows waded in up to their chests, where they got stuck in quick-sand and sank, in slow motion, to their deaths. According to the story, their bodies were never recovered.

We now pass majestic, dead ash trees, pock-marked by what look like bullet holes fired in a mob boss execution. However, the holes are the handiwork of invasive Emerald Ash Borers, which are pushing the species toward extinction. Sugar maples and hemlocks may soon follow. A new study predicts that in the

next 50 years, we will lose one-third of all our animal and plant species.

A little further down the road, we come to a place along the edge of the pond that used to be a gathering spot for local indigenous people in the summer. As kids, we found arrow-heads there. It was also rumored to be the site of an Indian mound, which we could never find. If it still exists, it is now covered up by a palatial new house.

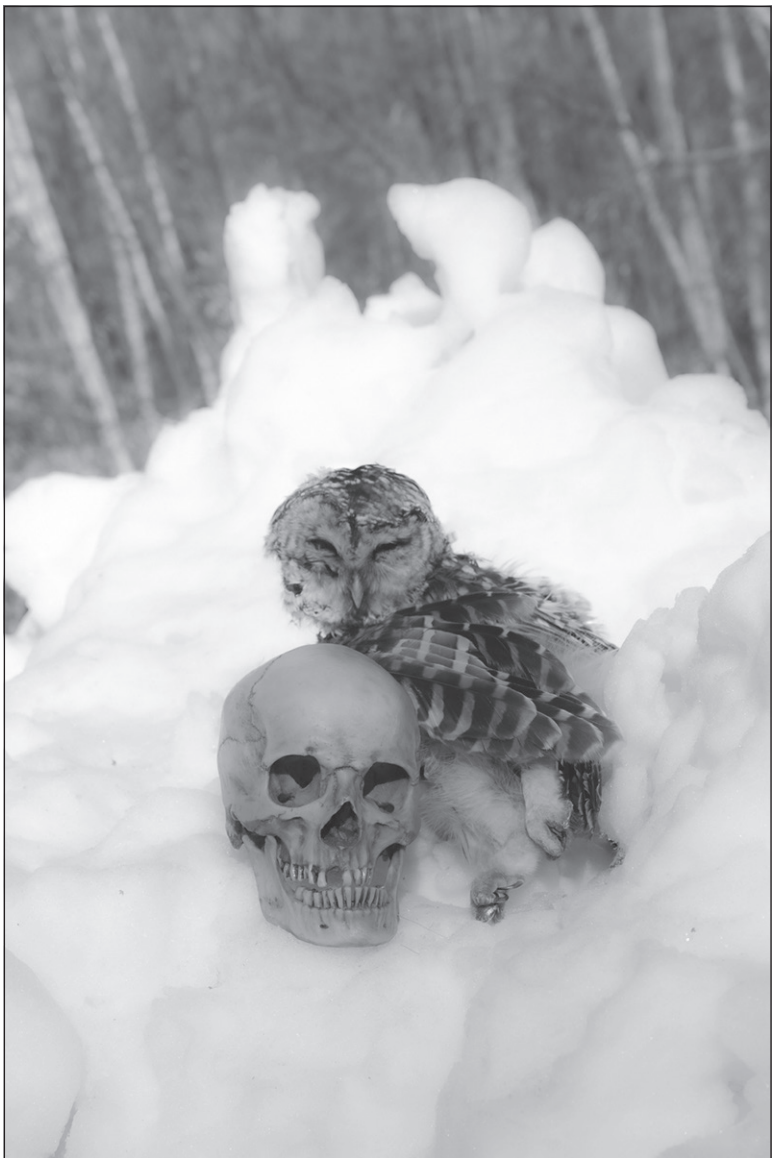
What would these Native Americans think about all the changes the white man has wrought. Could my barred owl be the messenger? According to their legends and myth, the owl is often a symbol of death. In fact, the circles around the eyes of an owl were believed to be made from the fingernails of ghosts.²

Owls were also believed to be messengers from beyond the grave who deliver warnings to people who had broken tribal taboos. I know I have broken taboos my whole life by not living sustainably and in harmony with Mother Earth. Most of us have. We have upset the balance of nature, and now, I'm afraid, we will have to pay the price.

Paraphrasing the refrain from Pete Seeger's acclaimed song about where all the flowers have gone: "When will we ever learn?"

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1 <https://orionmagazine.org/issue/spring-2021/>
2 <http://www.native-languages.org/legends-owl.htm>



Memorializing a dead barred owl with a resin replica of a human skull, February 2021. CC Jean Stimmell

The GOP's Shameful War on Voters

by Jim Hightower

After looking into one of their main issues, I have to agree with Republicans: Our elections are being rigged.

Anyone who takes an honest look can see that the electoral process is being stolen in broad daylight. By Republican lawmakers. In state after state, GOP governors and legislators are on a rampage to rig the system so you can't vote. By "you," I mean you African-Americans, Latinx voters, Asian-Americans,

Indigenous Peoples, and practically all other non-white citizens. Also, you seniors, union members, poor people, students, immigrant families, and others with a tendency to vote for Democrats. Fraudulently shouting "fraud!" GOP officials insist that they must steal your democratic right to vote in order to protect the "sanctity" of the vote!

They are actually confessing their own embarrassing weakness and political ineptitude by admitting: "We can't win!" Their line-up of squirrely, increasingly-kooky candidates—

and their anti-people, corporate serving agenda—have no ability to draw majority support. So, their only hope to be elected is to jerry-rig America's democratic process with barriers, locks, bans, etc. to shut millions of citizens out of their polling places.

Their 7-million-vote defeat in last year's presidential race has spooked the Republican minority into a stampede of voter suppression initiatives this year. The Brennan Center for Justice, which tracks such maneuvers, reports that at least

253 bills have been introduced in 43 states to further obstruct Americans from casting ballots. These new schemes are aggressively repressive, including preventing absentee voting, cutting early voting, eliminating mail-in voting, restricting the number and convenience of polling locations, and even allowing legislators to toss the voters' choice in presidential elections and declare another candidate the victor.

This is pathetic, disgraceful political thuggery—not only stealing people's birthright, but stealing de-

mocracy from America itself. To help reject their shameful corruption of elections, go to CommonCause.org.

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"We can safely abandon the doctrine of the eighties, namely that the rich were not working because they had too little money, the poor because they had much."

— John Kenneth Galbraith

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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, MARCH 14	MONDAY, MARCH 15	TUESDAY, MARCH 16	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17	THURSDAY, MARCH 18	FRIDAY, MARCH 19	SATURDAY, MARCH 20
2018—Hoping not to get shot like their late peers, a million American students walk out of school to demand gun control that works. 1977—RIP Fanny Lou Hamer, organizer of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, who said, “No-body’s free until everybody’s free.” 1965—“Except for Vietnam,” the AP reports Richard Nixon saying, “U.S. foreign policy is in a shambles.” 1964—We still don’t know who killed JFK, but on this day a jury decided Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald. 1961—A B-52, its cabin temps over 130° due to a heater snafu and its crew’s performance perhaps sub-par due to bennie use, runs out of fuel over Yuba City, Calif, and crashes with two nukes on board. All aboard survive. 1927—Edward Abbey, writer and anarchist, is born in...Pennsylvania? 1912—Strikers in Lawrence, Mass. win more bread—and a few roses, too. 1891—A mob of 20,000 in New Orleans lynches 11 Italian immigrants recently acquitted of murder. 1888—Kentucky’s State Treasurer, James “Honest Dick” Tate, vanishes with \$247,000 in state funds. 1883—Ex-journalist Karl Marx dies in London, impoverished, of course. 1757—For not “doing his utmost” in battle at Minorca, the Royal Navy has Admiral John Byng shot. 1471—Sir Thomas Malory, author of <i>Le Morte d’Arthur</i>, dies months after being sprung from Newgate Prison.	2018—Six people die and eight are injured in Miami by the collapse of a bridge designed by the same firm as the new Sarah Mildred Long Bridge. 1999—<i>Geophysical Research Letters</i> publishes the “Hockey Stick” graph; corporate liars get a career boost. 1989—To flatter veterans without incurring actual additional expenses, the Veterans Administration is elevated to Departmental status. 1982—Donald Trump gets a New Jersey casino licence—normally a months-long process—in hours. 1980—A <i>Boston Globe</i> editorial about a speech by Jimmy Carter is head-lined, “Mush from the Wimp.” 1969—The National Security Council OKs the Nixon/Kissinger plan to illegally bomb Cambodia. 1962—Flying Tiger Flight 739 from Travis AFB to Saigon disappears with 107 soldiers and crew on board. 1948—“Without superior air power America is...easy prey to any yellow dwarf with a pocket knife,” says LBJ on the floor of the House. 1940—<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> premiers. 1910—Oil driller Charlie “Dry Hole” Woods hits his only wet one in Kern County, Calif. The Lakeview Gusher spews 9 million barrels in 18 months; the largest single spill in history. 1874—A French “protectorate” takes over in Annam (Vietnam). 1760—Governor Benning Wentworth, 64, marries his housekeeper, Martha Hilton, 23.	2008—JPMorgan buys Bear Stearns, with the New York Fed’s \$30 billion. 2003—On “Meet the Press,” Dick “Dick” Cheney claims that Saddam Hussein “has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons,” and that “we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators.” 1993—“The Storm of the Century” kills 318 on the East Coast. 1990—GOP race whisperer Lee At-water “repents” on his deathbed; no lie detectors are present, however. 1988—Kurds in Iraq are gassed with ingredients Saddam Hussein bought from the U.S. and Europe. 1970—Sen. Roman Hruska (R-Neb.) defends G. Harrold [sic] Carswell as nominee to the Supreme Court: “there are a lot of mediocre judges and people and lawyers. They are entitled to a little representation, aren’t they?” 1968—U.S. GIs massacre hundreds of civilians at My Lai, in Vietnam. 1965—Alice Herz, 82, self-immolates in Detroit to protest the Vietnam War. She dies 10 days later. 1965—In Montgomery, Ala., police attack civil rights marchers. 1914—Henriette Caillaux, wife of the French Minister of Finance, pumps four slugs from a Browning .32 into Gaston Calmette, editor of <i>Le Figaro</i>. He dies, she skates. 1862—Four years of digging by hand pays off in Brighton, England; a 1,285-foot deep well hits water. 1846—Jurgis Bielinis’ birth inspires Lithuania’s “Book Smugglers Day.”	2017—Arguing <i>Apocalypse Now</i> in the Oval with ‘Nam vets, Dolt #45 confuses Agent Orange with napalm. 2008—His high-priced hooker habit exposed, N.Y. Gov. E. Spitzer resigns. 2007—<i>Navy Times</i>: before he was a U.S.M.C. Cpl. and Fox News reporter, Matt Sanchez was a gay porn star. 2004—To honor St. Patrick, narcs and off-duty cops duke it out in Pad-dy’s parking lot at the Tradeport. 2003—George W.[MD] Bush tells Saddam Hussein that Iraq isn’t big enough for the both of them. Hitler 2.0 has 48 hours to get out. 1992—Dick “Dick” Cheney and two other members of G.H.[H.]W. Bush’s cabinet admit they wrote rubber checks on the House bank. 1960—Genial ol’ Ike signs off on a clandestine plan to overthrow the government of Cuba. 1923—Waterbury cops halt a meeting to prevent editor Carlo Tresca from reading the Connecticut Constitution’s Declaration of Rights. 1922—Washington, D.C.’s suburbs are littered with racist propaganda dropped by the Klan from a biplane. 1921—Checka officers use machine guns to encourage Bolshevik troops to charge across the iced-over Neva River into machine gun fire from rebellious sailors at Kronstadt. 1892—Mercy Brown, dead at 19 and buried two months, is exhumed and de-vampirized in Exeter, R.I.; relatives eat her burned heart and liver.	2004—At Gilley’s, Portsmouth narcs and off-duty cops hold round two of a fight begun at Paddy’s on St. Pat’s Day. 2003—“Why should we hear about body bags and death and how many?” asks Barbara Bush. “It’s not relevant... why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?” 1997—Two L.A.P.D. undercover cops have a road rage shootout; one, Kevin Gaines, ends up dead in a big SUV that belongs to the estranged wife of Death Row Records’ “Suge” Knight. Exposure of massive corruption at the Rampart Division ensues. 1990—Fake cops bluff guards and steal Rembrandts and a Vermeer from Boston’s Gardner Museum. 1986—William F. Buckley’s column in the <i>New York Times</i> calls for all gay men to be tattooed on the buttocks. 1970—Offered a 4% raise while inflation is at 5.8%, postal workers stage a wildcat strike; in a week they win. 1969—The U.S. begins secretly and illegally bombing Cambodia. 1953—Cowed by Sen. Joe McCarthy [R-Wisc.], the State Dept. vows books by “suspect” authors will be purged from its overseas libraries. 1937—In oil-rich New London, Texas, a school saving money by heating with un-scented gas explodes; 300 die. 1925—A tornado kills 695 along a 235-mile path from Mo. to Ind. 1741—Fort George—center of New York’s government, then—is torched by conspiring blacks and whites.	2011—The U.S. and France attack Libya—for its own good, of course. 2004—<i>USA Today</i> admits that its Pulitzer-contender Jack Kelley ought to have competed in the fiction category. 2003—George W.[MD] Bush starts his pre-emptive war; 40 Tomahawk missiles hit residential Baghdad. 1987—Ed “Meese is a Pig” Meese endorses drug testing for schoolteachers. 1983—On “Diff’rent Strokes,” Nancy Reagan tells “a true story” about “Charlie.” “Burned out on marijuana” at 14, he “brutally beats” Sis when she won’t steal to buy him weed. 1954—The U.S. government burns books by Wilhelm Reich. 1948—Nobel Prize winner Mme. Irene Joliot-Curie is released from detention on Ellis Island; her work against fascism made her suspect. 1945—Off Japan, Kamikaze attacks kill 800 sailors on the <i>U.S.S. Franklin</i>. 1937—Clarence “Frogman” Henry is born in New Orleans. 1935—Over 100 are injured in a Harlem riot. A study suppressed by Mayor LaGuardia blames police brutality. 1916—Eight U.S. Army biplanes go after Pancho Villa. 1840—Sixty-five Comanche men, women, and children attend a San Antonio peace conference; 35 are killed by Anglos and 30 imprisoned. 1777—Moses Dunbar, found guilty of recruiting for the British, is hanged in Hartford, Conn. His father, a patriot, offers to supply the rope.	2017—FBI Boss Jim Comey tells Congress the Trump campaign and Russia may have colluded. 2012—One of the two loaded .45 pistols Rep. Kyle Tasker [R-Northwood] legally carries in shoulder holsters drops to the floor of a packed hearing room in the N.H. State Capital. 2003—U.S. troops invade Iraq to protect The Homeland from Saddam’s innumerable WMDs. 1992—UN weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus says Iraq has agreed to destroy its weapons of mass destruction. 1976—Press Baron William R. Hearst’s granddaughter Patricia is convicted of bank robbery. 1954—“If the [Vietnamese] Communists continue to suffer the losses they have been taking,” says French Chief of Staff Gen. Paul Ely, “I don’t know how they can stay in the battle.” 1933—“Get to hell out of here, you son of a bitch,” would-be FDR assassin Giuseppe Zangara tells the chaplain before he’s zapped for killing Chicago’s mayor. “All capitalists lousy bunch of crooks. Goodbye to all poor peoples everywhere! Push the button!” 1905—An old boiler explodes at the Grover Shoe Factory in Brockton, Mass. and shoots through the roof. The building collapses, trapping hundreds of workers; naptha barrels burn; 58 die and 150 are injured. 1899—Gender pioneer Martha Place becomes the first woman to die in New York’s electric chair.
12:56 6:40 7:03	11:17 1:35 7:19 7:38	11:52 2:13 7:57 8:13	2:27 2:51 8:36 8:49	3:04 3:31 9:17 9:28	3:43 4:16 10:01 10:11	4:28 5:07 10:50 10:59
SUNDAY, MARCH 21	MONDAY, MARCH 22	TUESDAY, MARCH 23	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24	THURSDAY, MARCH 25	FRIDAY, MARCH 26	SATURDAY, MARCH 27
2006—Twitter takes flight. 2003—Richard Clarke, top counter-intel cop since Bush#41, says Bush#43 ignored al-Qaeda until 9/11. 1995—Mississippi OKs the 13th amendment, outlawing slavery—except it goes unregistered, so, no dice. 1981—In Mobile, Ala., two Ku Kluxers conduct the last recorded lynching. RIP: Michael Donald, 19. 1973—“There is a cancer on the Presidency,” says White House Counsel John Dean to the cancer. 1963—“Gents, this is an educational project,” says condemned murderer Frederick Wood in New York. “You are about to witness the damaging effect electricity has on Wood.” 1960—South African police kill 89 unarmed black protesters in the Sharpeville Massacre. 1952—DJ Alan Freed throws the Moondog Coronation Ball in Cleveland—the first rock concert. 1947—“Red Scared” by the GOP, Truman orders “loyalty screening.” 1937—Cops in Ponce, P.R. follow orders from the Governor and machine gun protestors; 21 KIA, 235 WIA. 1925—Tennessee bans the teaching of evolution in public schools. 1915—At a White House screening, Woodrow Wilson is enraptured by the racist masterpiece <i>Birth of a Nation</i>. 1877—N.Y. State Grange members, in economic self-defense, form the Northern Farmers Alliance. Its successes are limited, mostly by its racism.	2006—<i>MV Queen of the North</i>, a Canadian ferry four miles off course, hits an island at 17 knots and sinks with a loss of two lives. Union reps deny crewmembers were having sex at the time. 2003—The chief officer of <i>RMS Milwaukee</i>, getting out of his chair while on watch, catches his trousers on a lever, falls and hits his head, losing consciousness. The ship runs aground at Land’s End in Cornwall, a total loss. 1987—The <i>Mobro 4000</i>, a barge toting 3,168 tons of garbage, leaves NYC. After a 162 day, 6,000 mile joyride, it will return to NYC where its contents will be burned. 1986—The U.S. executes its first Vietnam vet in Fla.’s electric chair: David Funchess, a black former Marine with a Purple Heart and PTSD. 1975—A worker looking for air leaks with a candle starts a fire causing \$100 million in damages at the Brown’s Ferry nuclear power plant in Alabama. 1933—Germany opens its first concentration camp at Dachau. 1820—Two U.S. Navy Commodores meet at the Bladensburg Dueling Grounds. James Barron, disgraced in the <i>Chesapeake-Leopard</i> Affair, mortally wounds Stephen “Our Country, Right or Wrong” Decatur. 1765—Great Britain attempts to impose a Stamp Act on the colonies. It does not go well. 1622—Powhatans slaughter 400 English settlers—about one-third of the population of Virginia.	2016—Tay, a Microsoft™ AI chatterbot, is released on Twitter. She’s pulled 16 hours later for being a Nazi. 2004—In a Senate office building, 19 Members of Congress watch a golden crown being placed on the head of convicted tax cheat and <i>Washington Times</i> owner Rev. Sun Myung Moon. 2003—A lost U.S. Army convoy is ambushed near Nasiriyah, Iraq; 11 KIAs, five WIAs, & six POWs, including Pvt. Jessica Ryan. An Air Force A-10 kills six to 10 U.S. Marines. A U.S. Patriot missile downs an RAF fighter jet over Iraq. 1983—Acting president R. Reagan touts space-based anti-missile missiles, as 1940’s <i>Murder in the Air</i>, in which he played Lt. “Brass” Bancroft. 1933—Support from the [Catholic] Centre Party trumps leftist opposition: the Reichstag passes the Enabling Act; Hitler becomes a dictator. 1914—For helping organize Colorado coal miners, “Mother Jones,” 76, is thrown in the Huerfano County Jail. 1901—U.S. troops capture Filipino rebel leader Emilio Aguinaldo, whom the U.S. had earlier backed in his fight against Spanish colonial powers. 1877—Mormon leader John D. Lee is executed by a firing squad for his role in the Mountain Meadows Massacre. He leaves 19 wives and 56 children. 1842—The House of Representatives censures Congressman Joshua R. Giddings [W-Ohio] for introducing a resolution opposing slavery.	2004—A-list broadcast journalists crack up at a black-tie dinner as President George W.[MD] Bush jokes about “his” failed search for WMDs. Less amused: families of the 691 GIs killed in his pre-emptive war. 1989—Exxon delivers an important message about its commitment to the environment via the <i>Exxon Valdez</i>. 1985—Shot by a Soviet sentry while peeping at an East German tank shed, U.S. Army Maj. Arthur D. Nicholson becomes what the Pentagon calls “the last casualty of the Cold War.” 1972—At Washington, D.C.’s Mayflower Hotel, E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy try to score an “LSD-type drug” from an ex-CIA doctor. They even fail at that. 1971—The <i>Washington Post</i> reports that stolen FBI documents show mailmen, a Swarthmore switchboard operator, and a local police chief have been spying on Philadelphia activists. 1971—Operation Lam Son 719, the ARVN invasion of Laos, ends. Casualties: huge; winners: none. 1944—At Stalag Luft III, 76 POWs exit via “Tunnel Harry”; three get away, 50 are shot. Not so great, really. 1944—Parachute <i>kaput</i>, RAF tail-gunner Nicholas Alkemade jumps from 18,000 feet over Germany. Pine trees and snow break his fall; he lives until 1987—now <i>that’s</i> a great escape. 1661—Massachusetts Puritans hang William Leddra for the odious crime of being a Quaker.	2003—George W.[MD] Bush signs an Executive Order giving Dick “Dick” Cheney unprecedented power to classify information. 2003—Four Air Force generals are sacked over a massive rape scandal. 1997—Florida’s “Old Sparky” sets Pedro Medina on fire as it kills him. 1976—Execs at the Ford plant in Argentina begin doing the new military junta’s bidding. Work incentives include torture, kidnapping, & murder. 1971—Three dairy co-ops get \$600 million in milk price supports for a \$427,000 “contribution” towards Dick “Original Dick” Nixon’s re-election. 1966—“Of all the forms of inequality,” says MLK Jr., “injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.” 1966—Fifteen WW II and Korean War veterans burn discharge papers in NYC to protest the Vietnam War. 1965—In Montgomery, Ala., 25,000 civil rights marchers arrive at the state capitol, thanks to the National Guard. 1955—U.S. Customs seizes Allen Ginsburg’s “Howl” as “obscene.” 1947—A Centralia, Ill. coal mine, long the subject of ignored complaints and warnings, explodes, killing 111. 1931—In Alabama, the Scottsboro Boys are arrested on bogus charges. 1931—RIP, Ida B. Wells: fierce foe of lynching, born of enslaved ancestors. 1911—The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire kills 146 sweatshop workers in New York City. The factory’s fire doors had been locked shut to enhance profits.	2006—Justice Antonin Scalia is photographed on the steps of a Boston church, making an obscene gesture. 1993—Cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev returns to Earth, where the USSR that sent him into orbit is no more. 1983—Bob “Bob Dole” Dole calls Ford, Carter, and Nixon “Hear no evil, see no evil, and evil.” 1982—Ground is broken for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. 1972—Gen. John D. Lavelle loses two stars and command of the 7th Air Force for following Nixon’s secret orders to bomb North Vietnam. 1968—A dozen “Wise Men” tell LBJ it’s time to get out of Vietnam. 1964—Malcolm X and MLK shake hands in Washington, D.C.—their first and only meeting. 1920—After the rope breaks, James Johnson tells his executioners in Popular Bluff, Mo., “Hurry up, boys, and get me out of my misery.” They do. 1892—Walt Whitman, the great American poet, utters his last words, “Hold me up, I want to s_t.” 1812—The gerrymander is born, in a <i>Boston Gazette</i> cartoon. 1669—In New Castle, Jane Walford, the Editor’s great x 8 grandmother, recovers damages for an unproven allegation of witchcraft. 1623—True to form at Wessagusset, Myles Standish stabs Pecksuot dead with his own knife. He and his squad kill six others as a preventive measure, but somehow relations don’t improve.	2014—The UN, bringing receipts, says the U.S. civil rights record stinks. 2003—Iraq “can really finance its own reconstruction and relatively soon,” U.S. Undersecretary for Defense Paul Wolfowitz tells Congress. “There’s a lot of money to pay for this that doesn’t have to be U.S. taxpayer money.” 1986—Congress slashes welfare while approving \$100 million for a drug gang called “The Contras.” 1980—A Norwegian oil platform collapses in the North Sea. Of the 212 on board, 123 perish. 1964—History’s 2nd largest earthquake hits Anchorage; 115 die. 1956—Billy Graham, alleged Christian, advises Ike: ignore civil rights. 1943—So their forged IDs might avoid Nazi detection, openly gay Dutch artist Willem Arondeus and others bomb the Amsterdam Public Records Office. It works. 1942—RADM John W. Wilcox, Jr., commanding a task force bound for Scapa Flow, is washed off his flagship and lost one day out of Casco Bay. 1814—A (severed) nose count shows General Andy Jackson’s troops, with a 3-1 advantage, massacred 85 percent of their Creek opponents at Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa. 1800—Federalist Senators find <i>Aurora</i> editor W. Duane in contempt for publishing the truth about them. 1513—Searching for the Fountain of Youth, Ponce de Leon sights Florida—now the land of geriatrics.
5:19 6:04 11:45 11:54	6:17 7:07 12:45	7:19 8:08 12:55 1:46	8:19 9:03 1:56 2:43	9:15 9:52 2:53 3:35	10:06 10:38 3:47 4:22	10:54 11:22 4:37 5:07

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