

The Fortnightly Rant

Déjà vu all over again, again...

President Biden vowed last week that he would pull all U.S. troops out of Afghanistan before September 11th. Pointedly, he chose to speak from the White House Treaty Room. It was there, he noted, in October, 2001, that President George W. Bush “informed our nation that the United States military had begun strikes on terrorist training camps in Afghanistan.” Twenty million Americans have been born since Bush made that announcement. They can truthfully say, “we have always been at war with Central Asia.”

When Bush spoke, operations had already been underway for 11 days. A Soviet-built helicopter with a CIA pilot had flown in-country with a seven-man team of “special operators,” selected from the Army, Navy, and Marines. This even representation among the branches of service was no doubt based on the particular sets of skills each individual brought to the task. One would hate to think that it stemmed instead from an agreement among the brass hats to evenly parcel-out all that prospective glory.

In addition to lethal skills and whatever weapons they carried, the team brought one more essential: a substantial quantity of finely-engraved portraits of an American Founding Father. One can only wonder what socially-conservative Afghan elders would have thought of Ambassador Franklin’s shenanigans in France.

The primary objective of this daring mission, of course, was to track down Osama bin Laden and bring him to justice—dead or alive. By November 21st, though, the administration’s attention had wandered.

Speaking to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Bush didn’t ask about bin Laden. He wanted to know, “What kind of a war plan do you have for Iraq? How do you feel about the war plan for Iraq? ... Let’s get started on this.”

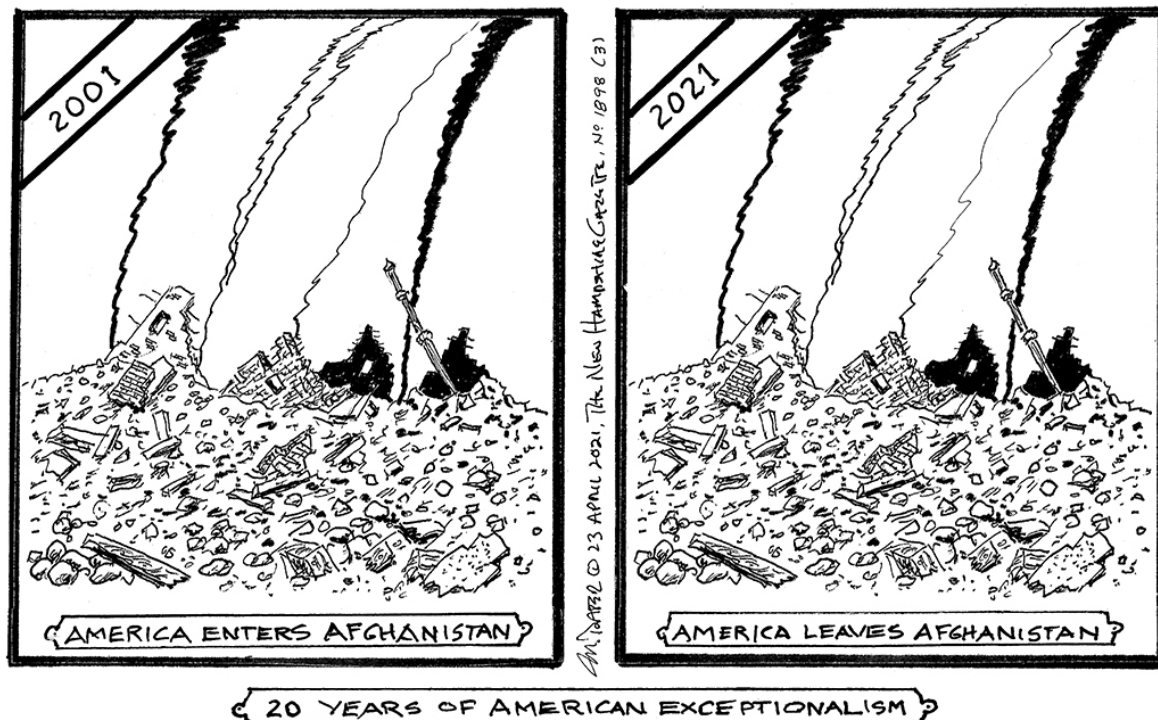
The CIA’s chief for Afghanistan went to the White House to warn Bush and Cheney that “the Afghan campaign’s primary goal of capturing bin Laden was in jeopardy because of the military’s reliance on Afghan militias at Tora Bora.” He specifically told Bush, “we’re going to lose our prey if we’re not careful,” and recommended that the Marines or other U.S. troops be rushed to Tora Bora.

In mid-December, though, as a Senate committee reported in 2009, bin Laden “walked unmolested out of Tora Bora and disappeared into Pakistan’s unregulated tribal area.”

“In the aftermath of bin Laden’s escape, there were accusations that militiamen working for the two warlords hired by the CIA to get him had helped the Al Qaeda leader cross into Pakistan. Michael Scheuer, who spent 15 years working on Afghanistan at the CIA and at one point headed the agency’s bin Laden task force, was sharply critical of the war plan from the start because of its reliance on Afghan allies of dubious loyalty. ‘Everyone who was cognizant of how Afghan operations worked would have told Mr. Tenet that he was nuts,’ Scheuer said later. ‘And as it turned out, he was ...

The people we bought, the people Mr. Tenet said we would own, let Osama bin Laden escape from Tora Bora in eastern Afghanistan into Pakistan.” [Emphasis added.]

By 2009, though, nobody cared.



CBS News’ item on the report ignored the incompetence and distraction and focused on a figleaf: “At the time, Rumsfeld expressed concern that a large U.S. troop presence might fuel a backlash...others said the evidence was not conclusive about bin Laden’s location.” No mention of Iraq at all.

Had those swaggering “operators” brought the head of Osama bin Laden back to Bush in the White House, he would have had ample political cover for a withdrawal: “Mission Accomplished,” and all that.

Not that anyone on the right would have seen the wisdom in that. In their view wars are for starting; ending them is work best left for some other chump. This is a long-standing Republican policy, perfected exactly half a century ago. Like bin Laden walking into Pakistan, it’s a scandalous, hardly credible tale—but once again it’s true.

As a lowly E-5, keeping the comics at bay with a Speed Graphic

press camera, the editor, along with many other disgruntled enlisteds, simply assumed that Richard Nixon’s then much-touted “secret plan to end the war” was designed around one objective: getting re-elected. Lacking any evidence, though, we couldn’t prove it.

Later the world learned that Nixon had taped his own confession. Ken Hughes, a highly respected historian at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center, spent 20 years studying those tapes. He has distilled what he learned into two explosive books which have been lauded by historians and ignored by the punditocracy.*

The first, *Chasing Shadows*, begins with Nixon ordering his Plumbers “on a thievery basis [to] Goddammit it...get those files. Blow the safe [at the Brookings Institution] and get it.”

What was the “it” behind this

felonious command? Non-existent evidence which Nixon feared would prove what he knew damn well he had done—derailed the Paris Peace Talks to win the ‘68 election.

Bad as that was, *Fatal Politics* may be worse; with Nixon it’s always hard to tell. He had known from the start that “Vietnamization” could never work. Thanks to Henry Kissinger, though, he was able to strike secret multilateral—and treasonous—agreements with Moscow and Peking. They would restrain Hanoi long enough to preserve South Vietnam for a “decent interval” following the 1972 election. After that, Hanoi would be welcome to do as it liked—no skin off the President’s oddly-shaped nose.

For half a century Republicans have blamed Democrats for the “loss” of a nation that never existed. Get ready, everybody, because here it comes again.

* *Chasing Shadows: The Nixon Tapes, the Chennault Affair, and the Origins of Watergate*, University of Virginia Press, 2014, and *Fatal Politics: The Nixon Tapes, the Vietnam War, and the Casualties of Reelection*. University of Virginia Press, 2015.

The Alleged News®

What’s New On the Republican Family Values Front?

When last we checked, Rep. Matt Gaetz [R-Fla.] was still slated to be the featured speaker at the Nashua Republican City Committee’s annual “Steak Out,” scheduled for August 27.

We’re worried, though, that Nashua Republicans might give in to the Governor’s pleas and disinvite him. If they do, we’ll lose our news hook. So, let’s check in on this Florida Man.

On March 24th, Fox’s Paul Steinhauser breathlessly reported:

“EXCLUSIVE—No. He’s not mulling a 2024 presidential run.

“But.

“Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida is headed to the first-in-the-nation presidential primary state of New Hampshire this summer, to help raise money for fellow Republicans.

“Multiple Republican sources in the Granite State told Fox News on Wednesday that the three-term representative and close ally of former

President Trump will headline the Nashua Republican City Committee’s annual ‘Steak Out’ fundraiser.”

Steinhauser went on to deftly encapsulate Gaetz’s great talent for drawing attention to himself: “He made national news in January when he headlined a rally in Wyoming as he targeted Rep. Liz Cheney in her own home state—after Cheney became the most high profile of the 10 House Republicans to vote to impeach the then-president.”

Just six days later, the *New York Times* reported that Nashua’s “coming attraction” had been drawing the attention of the U.S. Justice Department. The feds were said to be investigating “whether [Gaetz, who is 38] had a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old and paid for her to travel with him....” Possible charges could include sex trafficking.

In a particularly cruel twist, the investigation was begun during the administration of a man Gaetz

idolizes, Donald Trump. We’re not saying that there’s any connection, but last November, the *Miami Herald* has reported, Tiffany Trump tweeted a photo of herself to which Gaetz responded “with a string of emojis: fire, a red heart, a heart eye happy face and a thumbs up sign.” Surely only the most vindictive sort of monster would sic the Justice Department on someone just for creeping on his daughter...oh, wait....

Curiously, just a day after the news of the investigation broke, *Vice News* was able to report that QAnon had not only cleared Gaetz, it had turned the tables on those investigating him.

“For more than three years,” David Gilbert wrote, “QAnon followers have been waiting for the Storm, the moment when high-profile lawmakers and other elites would be made to answer for their crimes of child sex trafficking.

“On Tuesday it sure seemed like

the Storm had arrived....”

Through reading QAnon channels on Telegram, though, Gilbert discovered instead that the QAnon brain trust had developed theories such as “Gaetz is working WITH FBI to catch an extortion racket,” and, “The deep state media is using Matt Gaetz to distract us from the recent Ghislaine Maxwell drops and information.”

We will confess that, with so much sleazy misbehavior to process, coming from so many malefactors, we haven’t been able to keep close track of Gaetz’s remarkable record. A quick survey makes it clear, though, that he’s an overachiever. One would have to be, after all, to get the attention of Bill Barr’s Justice Department.

As we understand the current state of affairs, prosecutors suspect that early in 2018, a Seminole County tax assessor might have served as an intermediary between

the Congressman and a number of young—perhaps too young—women. Later that year, Gaetz visited the Bahamas on the tab of a marijuana entrepreneur, where he is suspected of having conducted the same sort of illicit behavior.

We note, without further comment, that Gaetz claims to have adopted—without benefit of paperwork—a Cuban immigrant about 20 years old named Nestor Galban.

Though it’s not technically misbehavior—it’s not illegal for Members of Congress to vote however they like—it does seem relevant that in 2017 he cast the lone “No” vote against the Combating Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act.

In his Oscar-winning screenplay, Herman Mankiewicz used a sled named “Rosebud” as a theatrical

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from page one

device to illuminate the character of Charles Foster Kane.

Will it help us, then, to better understand Matt Gaetz, when we learn that, as a teenager, Peter Weir used his home as the set for the movie, “The Truman Show”? Yeah, maybe not. We’re just left wishing we lived in a world created by Herman Mankiewicz—or Peter Weir.

Governor Sununu, ever fastidious, issued a statement saying, “The Nashua Republican City Committee should of course rescind their invitation. I’m surprised the committee hasn’t already done so. I certainly will not attend an event headlined by Representative Gaetz.”

WMUR’s John DiStaso has reported that, as of April 15th, Nashua’s Di Lothrop stands defiant.

Lothrop texted DiStaso, saying “I just finished my report on Rep. Gaetz. We have over 50 people here and the overwhelming response from our members was do NOT back down on our invitation.”

Now, that’s the New Hampshire Way.

—==—

Rapid Melting of Glaciers Has Shifted Earth’s Axis
Kenny Stancil, staff writer, *Common Dreams*

Since 1980, the planet’s north and south poles have moved roughly four meters in distance, and new research shows that shifts in the Earth’s rotational axis have accelerated since the 1990s as a result of the widespread melting of glaciers—a clear manifestation, scientists say, of the climate emergency.

“Faster ice melting under global warming was the most likely cause of the directional change of the polar drift in the 1990s,” Shanshan Deng—a researcher from the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research at the Chinese Academy of Sciences—told the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Thursday.

In a study published last month in the peer-reviewed journal *Geophysical Research Letter*, Deng and her co-authors found that changes in terrestrial water storage—particularly the accelerated loss of water stored on land due to melting glaciers—redistributed enough of the world’s mass to drive “the rapid polar drift toward the east after the 1990s.”



High atop the public-private partnership known as Foundry Place, lurking around the edges of that barren expanse while collecting open source intel for an as-yet unannounced project, our Wandering Photographer was startled by a motionless figure on a moving platform. It could only be Board Man—having rolled right off the pages of an underground comic by Spain Rodriguez. What might his mission be? None of our damn business.

As *The Guardian* explained Friday: “The planet’s geographic north and south poles are the point where its axis of rotation intersects the surface, but they are not fixed. Changes in how the Earth’s mass is distributed around the planet cause the axis, and therefore the poles, to move.

“In the past, only natural factors such as ocean currents and the convection of hot rock in the deep Earth contributed to the drifting position of the poles. But the new research shows that since the 1990s, the loss of hundreds of billions of tons of ice a year into the oceans resulting from the climate crisis has caused the poles to move in new directions.

“The scientists found the direction of polar drift shifted from southward to eastward in 1995 and that the average speed of drift from 1995 to 2020 was 17 times faster than from 1981 to 1995.”

The AGU noted that “researchers have been able to determine the causes of polar drifts starting from 2002 based on data from the Grav-

ity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE), a joint mission by NASA and the German Aerospace Center, launched with twin satellites that year and a follow-up mission in 2018.”

Data from the GRACE satellites has enabled scientists to “link glacial melting to movements of the pole in 2005 and 2012, both following increases in ice losses,” *The Guardian* reported. “But Deng’s research breaks new ground by extending the link to before the satellite’s launch, showing human activities have been shifting the poles since the 1990s, almost three decades ago.”

While Deng’s team showed that the accelerated decline in water stored on land stemming from glacial losses “is the main driver” of polar drift since the 1990s, the researchers wrote that groundwater depletion in non-glacial regions has also contributed to the movements.

“Groundwater is stored under land but, once pumped up for drinking or agriculture, most eventually

flows to sea, redistributing its weight around the world,” *The Guardian* noted. “In the past 50 years, humanity has removed 18 trillion tons of water from deep underground reservoirs without it being replaced.”

Vincent Humphrey, a climate scientist at the University of Zurich who was not involved in the study, told AGU that the new research “tells you how strong this mass change is—it’s so big that it can change the axis of the Earth.”

This axis shift is too small to affect daily life, only changing the length of day by milliseconds.

Nonetheless, other climate experts such as Jonathan Overpeck of the University of Arizona, have said before that the mere fact that the climate crisis is driving polar movements demonstrates “how real and profoundly large an impact humans are having on the planet.”

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"If You Want to Save the U.S.P.S., Fire DeJoy"

Julia Conley, staff writer, *Common Dreams*

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington on Thursday reiterated its call for the ouster of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, the Republican megadonor accused of attempting to sabotage the U.S. Postal Service last year as millions of Americans relied on the agency to participate in the presidential election.

As the House Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee held a confirmation hearing for President Joe Biden's three nominees to the U.S.P.S. Board of Governors, CREW tweeted numerous times that DeJoy must be dismissed and replaced promptly due to his actions last year and his so-called "Delivering for America" program, proposed last month.

"Save the U.S. Postal Service. Fire Louis DeJoy," the group later tweeted.

Under "Delivering for America"—denounced by Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) as a "pathetic 10-year plan to weaken U.S.P.S.," DeJoy would raise prices, cut administrative costs, and slow down deliveries.

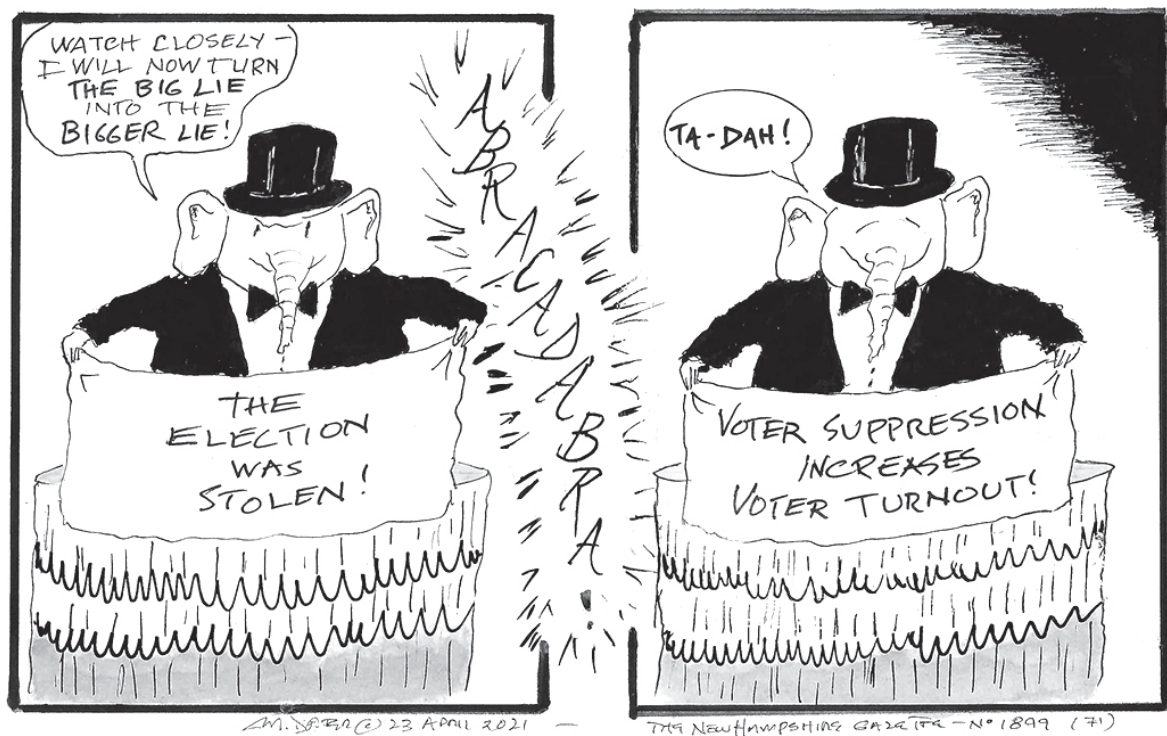
Biden's three nominees—Ron Stroman, Anton Hajjar, and Amber McReynolds—said in the hearing that they would prioritize reliable mail service and took "veiled shots" at "Delivering for America"—but declined to say that they would oust DeJoy, even though the appointment of all three would give Biden and the Democrats a 5-4 majority and control of the board of governors for the first time since 2016.

Board Chairman Ron A. Bloom, a former Obama administration official, and member Lee Moak are the only Democrats on the board of governors, but both have expressed reluctance to dismiss DeJoy.

"The board of governors believes the postmaster general, in very difficult circumstances, is doing a good job," Bloom told lawmakers in February.

As the *Washington Post* reported Thursday, members of Congress have been discussing with Biden administration officials the possibility of the president declining to nominate Bloom for a second term, to get rid of what critics have called "an enabler" of DeJoy.

"There's a growing number of people who say, maybe you don't need to fire all the board, but you need to be able to create a majority



to fire DeJoy," a House aide told the *Post*. "And there's another group saying, when we get enough Democrats on the board, that will be enough to maybe slow down some of the things DeJoy is doing."

Meanwhile, Moak's refusal to discuss his position on DeJoy has angered Democrats including Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.), whose office corresponded with Moak in January in what became an "acrimonious" exchange.

"The Congressman is deeply disconcerted by the destruction and degradation of U.S.P.S. over the course of the past year by Postmaster General DeJoy and the public silence of the Board of Governors in the face of it," wrote Pascrell's office. "To that end, an additional question we'd appreciate you clearing up for us tomorrow: will you move to fire Postmaster General DeJoy for his arson, and if not, why not?"

Moak declined to answer the question and wrote to the Congressman, "If you spent more time working to solve problems than create them perhaps we would be further along."

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U.S.P.S. Monitors Social Media Posts

Jake Johnson, staff writer, *Common Dreams*

An internal government bulletin obtained by *Yahoo News* this week revealed that the law enforcement arm of the U.S. Postal Service is monitoring social media posts as part of a surveillance operation known as iCOP, a secretive program that sparked alarm among rights groups and civil liberties advocates.

The sensitive bulletin concerns the U.S. Postal Inspection Service's (U.S.P.I.S.) recent surveillance of Facebook, Parler, and Telegram posts related to the March 20th World Wide Rally for Freedom and Democracy, anti-coronavirus lockdown and anti-vaccine demonstrations organized by far-right groups.

"The federal government's sprawling and clandestine surveillance apparatus manifests in a new way," tweeted progressive activist Jordan Uhl. "These breaches of civil liberties largely go unchecked because, again, it targets right-wingers on Parler, but ultimately threaten everyone in the long run."

Jana Winter of *Yahoo News* reported that the USPIS surveillance effort "involves having analysts trawl

through social media sites to look for what the document describes as 'inflammatory' postings and then sharing that information across government agencies."

Winter wrote on Twitter that USPIS would not answer questions about when the social media monitoring program began.

"Footnotes in the bulletin citing their authority say the Attorney General can give more powers to the Postmaster General," Winter noted, "but [Justice] wouldn't tell me when that was either." Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, a GOP megadonor, remains under fire for implementing operational changes that dramatically slowed mail delivery across the country.

USPIS describes its mission as enforcing "federal statutes related to crimes that involve the postal system, its employees, and its customers" and includes in its scope a range of illegal activities, from mail fraud to child exploitation. Advocacy organizations have grown increasingly worried in recent years about the expanding reach of the Postal Service's sprawling mail monitoring program.

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Wandering past the Middle School on Sunday, en-route to the City's collectively-financed Public Library, our eponymous Photographer happened upon the The Leftist Marching Band at practice. If they keep this up, someday they might find themselves at Carnegie Hall.

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"Now is the time to understand more so that we may fear less."

— Marie Curie (1867-1934), physicist, chemist

"Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism."

— George Washington

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— Xenophon

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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Sununu is Resigned, But Won't Resign
Dear Editor:

Governor Sununu has publicly said: "The state will continue to see COVID case numbers rise and fall for years to come due to the hundreds of thousands of Granite Staters who choose not to get vaccinated." He's hit that tone of resignation. He's a father of at-home children himself, so must see it as a parent does. Life cannot return to normal, much as we wish it and wish it. In Carter's outlet store at Tanger Mall they sell packets of masks for small faces. Our little children now will grow up wearing masks, because the pandemic will last for years and years. We haven't managed to have that pull-together culture that cooperates to get a hard job done. Contagion lasting and lasting is what a small group, not getting vaccinated, can choose for the masses.

Lynn Rudmin Chong
Sanbornton, N.H.

Lynn:

Buck up. Yes, it's true, we are all likely to be unnecessarily saddled into the indefinite future with an all-too-frequently fatal disease, in large part due to the ineptitude of a grotesque ignoramus and his astonishingly large number of gullible followers.

But look on the bright side! Our commitment to meaningless slogans has never been stronger! Think Freedom! Just don't ask from what. Think Liberty! Just don't try to define it on your own terms. Think the New Hampshire Advantage! Just don't ask to whom it accrues.

The Editor

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A Nation in Crisis

To the Editor:

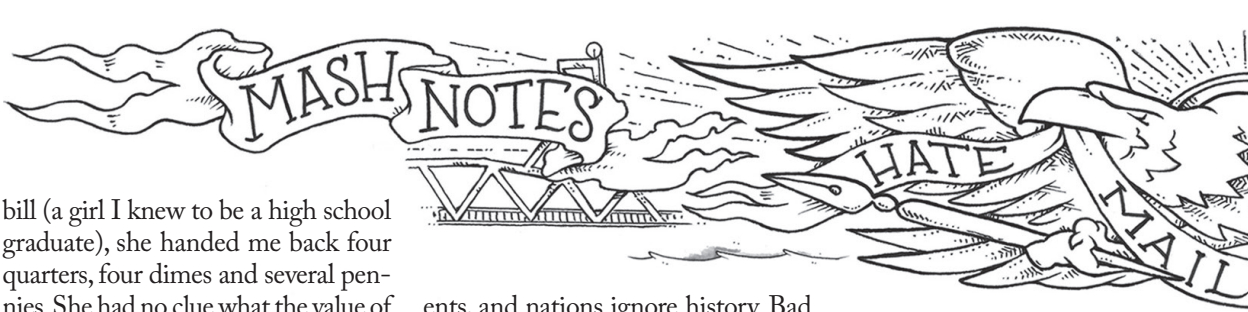
The *Washington Post* recently published an article pointing out that trust in institutions—government, media, the law—has plummeted, and is having a measurable effect on Americans, especially young Americans. For many close observers, the *Post* reported, "a direct line can be drawn from today's civics crises to a long-standing failure to adequately teach American government, history and civic responsibility." Maybe—but even though a diverse collection of academics, historians,

teachers and education leaders subscribe to that premise, I think the problem extends much farther and deeper.

In an interview in 1908, Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931, a U.S. inventor) stated that "the most necessary task of civilization is to teach people how to think." To paraphrase Edison, he believed the mind of a child is naturally active and develops through exercise. That then, he declared, should be the primary purpose of our public schools, to encourage original thought, reasoning and observation, and rely less on memory.

For a long, long time the National Congress of Parents and Teachers (through local PTA's) clearly endeavored to achieve that outcome. The specific aims of the NCPT were to: Promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church, and community; To raise the standards of home life; To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child and (lastly); To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education. That will seem hopelessly passé to some citizens, so 1940's.

Contemporary thinking insists that, as children skip kindergarten, because of the pandemic, the learning gap widens. Kindergarten didn't exist when and where I became of school age. We began 1st grade late in our 5th year, or early in our 6th, with basic skills common to the era. We knew the alphabet, could print and write in cursive, we knew the colors and knew how to play (never having heard of a play therapist). We also knew the numbers well enough to make change for a dollar. We had toy cash registers which required you to distinguish between coins in order to use it. Approximately 10 years ago I made a 74 cent purchase in a convenience store during a power outage. Imagine my surprise when, after handing the clerk a dollar



bill (a girl I knew to be a high school graduate), she handed me back four quarters, four dimes and several pennies. She had no clue what the value of our coins were after 12 years of school. I could make change for a dollar (all of us could) before starting school. Let that sink in.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since I entered 1st grade (1945), graduated high school (1957), retired from the Navy (1980), and finished college (1986). All sorts of political, psychological, social and medical theories have been postulated over the decades to justify what people simply choose to do. The reasons for these classy cop-outs are many: political agendas (oppression as an excuse encourages shifts in political power structures); good business (make something a disease and you can collect insurance for treating it or sell tapes and run workshops about how to recover from it); a need to disavow evil intent (we have no control over evil therefore fear it out of helplessness). Physicians and therapists often use the "disease" classification to charge for treatment—the burden for any personal responsibility therefore—is removed.

The do-gooder, politically correct mentality teaches you never to hold anyone accountable for their behavior, immoral conduct, or mistakes. It means never make anyone feel bad about anything they do no matter how harmful it might be to others. Advocates of this dogma assume all actions are a response to conditions, never a lack of character, courage, conscience, morality, values, lifestyle or (Heaven forbid) choices. They're wrong.

The truth is, people choose their actions and can alter them at will. Nothing negates one's responsibility for or requirement to act with integrity. It's as simple as that. Albert Einstein (1879-1955) observed that "children don't heed the life experiences of their par-

ents, and nations ignore history. Bad lessons have to be learned anew."

Throughout recorded history (some 4,000 years of it anyway) the greatest civilizations bequeathed to their posterity concrete faith supported by a tangible belief that the young would carry on the traditions and customs of their ancestors. In ancient Athens, upon reaching the age of 17, young men took an oath known as The Athenian Oath: "We will never bring disgrace on this our City by an act of dishonesty or cowardice. We will fight for the ideals and Sacred Things of the City both alone and with many. We will revere and obey the City's laws, and will do our best to incite a like reverence and respect in those above us who are prone to annul them or set them of naught. We will strive increasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty. Thus in all these ways we will transmit this City, not only and not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

Once upon a time, America was a prosperous, magnificent federation of states and, like young Athens, had an incomparable sense of character, courage, eloquence and honor. We were a healthy, well-constructed sovereign nation and we were united and strong in a very large part because a lot was expected of our children. I really don't need to finish that thought for you—do I?

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.
David:

When the alleged editor was much younger he was sometimes amused at what he perceived as the crotchety opinions of a few of his elders—though, to be fair, it must be said that some of those worthies may have been born during the administration of the magnificently-be-whiskered Chester A. Arthur.

Now that he has accrued the signifiers, at least, of maturity, if not its substance, he finds himself, as he reads your letter, nodding in sage recognition.

Thank you for writing.
The Editor

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SitRep on The Battle to Save Forest Lake
Dear Editor:

On Friday, April 9th, an historic moment took place with the passage of HB177 in the New Hampshire House. Despite HB177 coming out of the GOP-controlled Environment and Agriculture committee as ITL (Inexpedient To Legislate), along party lines 10-9, representatives from *both* parties worked behind the scenes, on the last day of the House session, to overturn the ITL and PASS HB177 with bi-partisan support, 197-159. In light of the fact that this battle to save Forest Lake State Park is now entering its third year, perhaps now is a good time to connect the dots and tally the score.

Since Casella Waste Systems first introduced itself to Dalton on April 3, 2019, when it attempted to sneakily cut out neighboring abutters, including New Hampshire State Parks, in order to circumvent the notification process required during the permitting process via a failed, "lot-line adjustment," much has occurred since, and its important to make note. For the record, there was no initial, multi-million dollar offer to the Town of Dalton. In fact, Casella chose this site simply because it found a large landowner willing to sell to them in a small, poor, rural town with no zoning. They thought they could get in cheap and with little opposition.

However, less than four months later, the citizens of Dalton changed that when they voted, via a petitioned

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special town meeting, to empower the Town of Dalton with Emergency Temporary Zoning. This was a grassroots effort to protect the town from this uninvited, and unwanted landfill development project. This despite the very heavy-handed misinformation campaign waged by Casella Waste Systems to defeat the zoning initiative. This also proved to be the first organized effort to formally oppose Casella's poorly sited industrial proposal. Fast-forward to January, 2020 for the first actual offer of money from Casella to the Town of Dalton, by way of a "no-strings attached gift" offer of \$50,000-100,000 from John Casella's "philanthropic" account. This was presented to the town by one of the leaders of the tiny pro-Casella, "Concerned Citizens of Dalton" group, town elder Don Mooney. However, this blatant attempt to influence the decision making of the town Board of Selectmen by improper gifting was quickly walked back by Mr. Casella, once the media reported on it.

Since then, we've seen the Town of Whitefield, ground zero for the routing of Casella garbage truck traffic to the proposed landfill site, vote nearly unanimously to formally oppose the landfill project, via town warrant, in March, 2020. Soon after, the Town of Sugar Hill Board of Selectmen followed suit, sending a letter of opposition to Governor Sununu in support of Whitefield's formal opposition. March 2020 also saw the passage of HB1319 (HB177's predecessor) in the New Hampshire House by a vote of 189-123, which sought to create a 2-mile setback for siting a landfill next to a New Hampshire State Park. Unfortunately, that effort died before it could reach the New Hampshire Senate and the Governor's desk, due to the

outbreak of Covid.

Following the submittal of Casella's wetlands permit application to NHDES Wetlands Bureau in August, 2020, the Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee and the Bethlehem Conservation Commission both weighed in against the application, due to the significant environmental impacts to the surrounding wetlands and neighboring bodies of water, particularly the Ammonoosuc River and Forest Lake. Subsequently, the Whitefield, Littleton, Lisbon, Sugar Hill, and Dalton Conservation Commissions also weighed in with similar concerns and opposition. Even New Hampshire State Parks Director Phil Bryce weighed in with concerns in a letter to NHDES, citing potential adverse impacts to Forest Lake State Park regarding present and future use, noting typical landfill nuisances and how that could impact park desirability to visitors. Town meeting day in March, 2021 saw warrant articles pass in both the Towns of Littleton and Carroll, by margins of 3-1, calling for opposition to the landfill development project by citizens in each town. In 2021, letters of support for the passage of HB177, to create a 2-mile setback for siting a landfill next to a New Hampshire State Park, came from environmental conservation groups like the New Hampshire Forest Society, the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust, Sierra Club of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Lakes, Conservation Law Foundation, and Community Action Works.

Just this month, the SAU36 School Board met and discussed concerns raised by school board chair Greg Odell relative to the proposed routing of garbage trucks thru the Town of Whitefield, past the elementary school on Route 3. His valid concerns

for child/parent safety, due to the influx of 50-100 trash-hauling tractor trailers and other vehicles, on an already admittedly-dangerous stretch of road, was met with derision by Casella VP Brian Oliver in a letter sent to the school board on April 5th, citing misinformation and fear mongering. This, despite the fact that the very information cited about said truck traffic routes came straight from NHDOT meeting minutes with Casella in January, 2020! It should also be noted that to date, Casella Waste Systems has refused to seek local approval from both the Towns of Dalton and Bethlehem for its landfill project. I include Bethlehem, as Casella is purposely trying to deceive NHDES by excluding the 70-acre, Lot 406-1, which encompasses Douglas Drive, the access road to the landfill, from the solid waste permit application, which is in Bethlehem. Can't have a landfill without being able to access it!

So, as opposition mounts throughout the North Country against Casella's proposed landfill development project next to Forest Lake State Park, response from Casella's spokesman Joe Fusco, relative to the news of Friday's passage of HB177 in the House, seemingly indicates that this out-of-state corporation will continue with its irresponsible plans, despite the wishes of not only the citizens and towns of the North Country, but seemingly more and more citizens, political leaders, and organizations throughout the state of New Hampshire. Casella's tone-deafness confirms that they are simply not a good community partner. Their continued defiant stance and dismissive tone towards mounting opposition will only serve to rally even more Granite Staters against their proposed "Granite State" landfill, sited only 190 feet from one of our beloved New Hampshire State Parks. So, for now, it's on to the Senate! I would encourage your readers to join us to get

HB177 passed in the New Hampshire Senate and signed into law by Governor Sununu in order to protect *all* of our New Hampshire State Parks from something like this ever happening again!

Thank You!
Jon Swan
Dalton, N.H.
Founder, Save Forest Lake
#StopNorthernTrash!
Jon:

Thank you! This is a remarkably comprehensive, yet still concise report on an issue which is important in its own right. Your letter could also serve as a model for anyone wanting to use these pages to spread the word.

The Editor

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Democracy Must Grow in Every Town
To the Editor:

We the People have our hands full! We're dealing with a pandemic, climate change and drought, unending wars, millions of people lacking health care, refugees at our borders, extreme income disparities, no affordable housing for the next generation, and a corporate-controlled media telling us what to think. Where do we go from here?

The answer is to get organized where we live, town by town, as that is where democracy starts and ends. By systemic design most people are uninvolved, uninformed, and politically dysfunctional, and if we don't change that soon then the status quo will allow the oligarchs to continue to control our government and get richer as they destroy our Nation and planet.

The N.H. Community Rights Network offers organizing support to community groups in towns so that they can become empowered to pass ordinances that protect our rights to clean water, air, and land and to preserve our ecosystems. So far a dozen towns have acted and their children are safer from corporate polluters! Contact info@nhcommunityrights.org for assistance.

The more towns that become organized the more local power and control for We the People, so that we can make elected officials accountable to

us instead of the rich ruling elite. Every person matters so it's up to *you* to take action!!

Peter A. White
Nottingham Water Alliance and NHCRN Board member
Nottingham N.H.
Peter:

We have long admired the N.H. Community Rights Network's proactive approach. All too often, when communities find themselves targeted by some industry or agency, they are forced to cobble together a makeshift defense on the basis of this or that sub-clause of a petty regulation. Essentially, the powerful show up and say, "We have the right to (fill in the blank); you're welcome to try and stop us."

By establishing from the get-go that communities have inherent rights, you make it possible for otherwise-atomized individuals to collectively exercise their power. Keep it up—and keep us posted.

The Editor

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Complete Streets Good for Home Values
To the Editor:

As the State Representative for Ward 3 in Portsmouth, which includes the Peverly Hill Road, I have heard from many residents over the years regarding their need for a sidewalk on that street. That is why I am very happy to learn that they are finally getting the sidewalks that will make their neighborhood safer. I live only ¼ of a mile off of Peverly Hill Road and have often walked that street to get to the Toyota dealership and Market Basket. It is indeed a very dangerous road to walk on, and I understand families who are concerned about their children waiting for a school bus. At the walk-about organized by Peter Rice of the Public Works Department, I heard some of the reservations regarding property impacts and questions about how to safely add bicycle lanes to that street.

But it is also important to remember that the money spent on the Peverly Hill Road project is being paid for by all Portsmouth residents and the State of New Hampshire. The residents of

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New Hampshire's Energy Future—A Path Forward

by Peter Somssich and Ken Wells

Today, energy costs New Hampshire residents a lot of money! The annual amount we pay for electricity and heating fuel for our homes is \$1.9 billion, more than \$2,000 per adult. [U.S. Department of Energy, 2018.] But that only accounts for part of our yearly energy bill. Our annual average energy bill goes up to \$4,500 when we include transportation fuel, both for our private vehicles and to get all the goods and services we rely upon transported to us from around the world. Commercial and industrial enterprises (retailers and manufacturers) pass on an additional \$1,700 per year in energy costs to each consumer who buys their products.

Where do those dollars go? They could have gone to local energy producers whose operations made investments and hired people in your own communities. But today, that's not where your money goes. Nearly all of your energy dollars leave New Hampshire, going to producers of fossil fuels in places like Texas, Pennsylvania or Canada. And then half of New Hampshire

electricity comes from nuclear power, requiring uranium from Canada, Kazakhstan, Australia, Russia and other foreign producers. All of this out-of-state energy costs New Hampshire residents and businesses \$5.8 billion, nearly seven percent of our state's GDP.

New Hampshire must develop an “Energy Strategy” for the future, which it currently does not have. Such a strategy must fit our state’s unique circumstances and also lay out a multistep plan for the future.

If one keeps pouring water into a leaky bucket, that bucket may never get filled. Just like individual homes, our state must first right-size our energy needs, before we decide which fuel and technology to use, for adding or removing energy from our homes and businesses. But, in addition, our future strategy must consider the environmental impact, *i.e.*, our energy should be renewable, green and sustainable.

The first step must be to dramatically plug the energy leaks. Our second step should be to fully maximize the in-state renewable energy resources that New Hampshire already possesses, *e.g.*, hydropower,

biomass, solar and onshore wind, as well as future offshore wind resources. Finally, our state's leaders must encourage new technologies and energy programs that also avoid unhealthy air and water contamination, lessen harm to our state's forests and wildlife, and reduce our contribution to climate-damaging Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Currently our state consumes approximately 94,000 GWh of “primary energy” (fuel) for electricity, transportation and heating. Electricity consumes approximately 36 percent, while transportation uses 33 percent, with heating accounting for the remaining 31 percent. Our strategy must start by setting challenging but achievable goals. Currently our goal-setting mechanism, the RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standard) calls for 25 percent of our electricity to be renewable by 2025. We are already at 18 percent and should easily meet that target. But RPS goals only apply to electricity; now we must set similar goals for heating energy and transportation.

New goals for heating can start with aggressive energy efficiency measures to drive down our demand

for energy. Insulation and efficient appliances have been proven to be the most effective and cost-efficient way to reduce energy demand. Our biomass industry should be encouraged to provide heating energy to replace conventional out-of-state fossil-fuels. Maximizing our state's renewable energy supply must also include significant increases in solar energy production, plus energy storage facilities to distribute that energy at times when it is at highest demand. With energy storage facilities, renewable energy resources such as hydro, solar and wind will be used more effectively. Increasing our state's net-metering cap from one megawatt to five would make it more financially attractive for businesses and municipalities to generate their own energy.

New technologies, such as self-sufficient microgrids and renewable gases from landfills or offshore wind turbines, are becoming viable and financially affordable techniques. Our state needs to be ready to adopt them at the appropriate time. Transportation technologies with hybrids and EVs are likewise maturing. Hydrogen,

or H₂, is already practical as a zero-emission fuel for fuel cell vehicles sold on the west coast. Most New England states are already exploring the possibility of creating a program similar to the electrical grid's RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative) called the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI). TCI would surcharge imports of fossil fuels into New England, using those new revenues to encourage more fuel-efficient vehicles, EVs, and public transportation projects in New Hampshire.

Imagine how beneficial it would be to retain the \$5.8 billion that leaves our state annually. Let us not turn back the clock, but plan for the future instead!

$$- \approx -$$

Rep. Peter Somssich is the Ranking Democratic Member of the House Science Technology & Energy Committee for District 2, Portsmouth.

Honorable Ken Wells is a former Member of the House Science Technology & Energy Committee for District 1, Andover.

$$- \approx -$$

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.
from page five

that road will benefit directly by reducing vehicle speeds, enhancing pedestrian safety as well as enhancing safety for bicyclists, whether they are individuals or families. This project will improve the quality of life for all city residents but will also increase the value of properties on Peverly Hill Road.

I find the original project proposed by the city a good one. However, as Mr. Rice mentioned, there is still time for improvement. On the other hand, our city is committed to a Complete Streets Policy, *i.e.*, safety for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists alike, not to mention mitigating the need to always use a car

to get to a destination. We should make this project as good as possible, but we should not delay it. Such an opportunity only comes around every 20 years or so. Also, please don't remove the trees from the original plan, they make our city healthier and more beautiful.

Portsmouth claims to be an Eco-Municipality and a city that supports green and environmental technologies. Bicycling and walking are certainly in line with that philosophy. Let the City Council know your opinion.

Rep. Peter Somssich
Ward 3, Portsmouth, N.H.

Peter:

It's decidedly off-topic, and it was well before your time, but the editor's great x 9 grandparents, Thomas and

Jane Walford, used to live over your way. That was after they got more or less thrown out of Boston—a fairly common happenstance among our crew. For the record, none of the witchcraft complaints against Jane were ever proven.

The Editor

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The Cultured Meat Campaign Continues

To the editor,

In order to help meet our obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement, the United States should invest public funds into cultured-meat research. For those who don't know, cultured meat is grown from cells, without slaughter. This revolutionary protein will have a dramatically smaller environmental impact than conventional meat.

“Industrial livestock agriculture—raising cows, pigs and chickens—generates as much greenhouse gas emissions as all cars, trucks and automobiles combined,” Greenpeace states. “Cattle ranchers have clear cut millions of acres of forests for grazing pastures, inhibiting the landscape’s ability to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.”

Furthermore, as the environmental group notes, factory farms create huge cesspools of manure that emit methane and nitrous oxide, in addition to carbon dioxide. Over the course of a century, a pound of methane actually has 25 times as much of a negative impact on the climate as a pound of carbon dioxide.

The United States Congress

should support development of cultured meat through funding for open-source research. This new protein will significantly benefit the environment, as well as animal welfare and human health. Bringing the product to market at a competitive price is too urgent to leave to the private sector.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, Conn.

Jon:

This is all very well and good, but at some point we would be grateful if you would a) write about something else—because you do write well—or, b) assure us that you do not have any significant holdings in any corporate entities which stand to make a profit from the cultured meat industry.

The Editor

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Rediscovering Who We Are: Elementary Forms of Religion

by Jean Stimmell

I've written about this before in this space: We think we act rationally with the cold logic of a computer, but beneath, we remain mere animals driven by instinct, habit, geography, time, and mystery. Toward that end, there's even a new book entitled *How to Be Animal*.

We are not solitary but social animals, though not always the cuddlesome creatures seen on "Animal Planet." We can get swept up in the moment and do terrible things, prompted by something sociologists call "social contagion." There's a new book about that also, entitled *The Delusions of Crowds: Why People Go Mad in Groups*.^{*} Examples include the mass delusion behind the Salem witch trials and the recent mass assault on Congress, back on January 6th.

But all is not lost. Under most circumstances, our social nature is our savior, driven by an altruistic instinct to promote the welfare of the species. We see this in action when a regular person spontaneously, without thinking, jumps

^{*} *The Delusions Of Crowds: Why People Go Mad in Groups*, by William J. Bernstein, published in February by Atlantic Monthly Press, is "inspired by Charles Mackay's 19th-century classic *Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds*."

in a raging river to save a child. The extent that altruism is fundamental to the human condition has recently been proven in experiments by the psychologist Alison Gopnik: her research shows that children are naturally empathetic from birth and tend to exhibit altruism from the age of one.¹

Our altruism, I think, is related to the ecstatic sense of wonder we feel by witnessing the emergence of new life or being soothed by the gentle murmurs of an endless sea caressing the land. But, more than just observing, we have a compulsion to share, prompting our forbearers to translate their sense of awe into breath-taking cave art, found all around the world, thousands of years before communication became written.

Written language is a recent development, originating independently in four places around the world around 5,000 years ago, fueling what the civilized world has called progress—and, indeed, it has bestowed on us many gifts. But, in a Faustian bargain, it filled our heads with dictionaries, separating us from our most precious birthright: the immediacy and purity that comes from being fully alive in the moment.

While Indigenous folks stand transfixed in the mere presence of

Mother Earth, modern westerners stand tongue-tied and impotent, reaching desperately for words that are only crude approximations, sully the moment like reading pornography as opposed to making love.

While social contagion has a nasty component like a pack of dogs gone wild, it isn't always so. Most often, it is positive and restorative, as when we stand silently together with friends experiencing a full moon: That can be a revelatory epiphany, a mysterious joining together with each other within the embrace of all that is.

Such social solidarity was ever-present in indigenous life, but not so much today. In my opinion, our inability to connect to each other and the earth intuitively with deep inner feelings are at the root of what ails us today.

Emile Durkheim was a well-known 19th-century sociologist who is a hero of mine. He believes humans hold in common a social consciousness that has evolved within us across our long evolution; while most of it lies beneath our awareness, it determines much of what we do. Most important, it is intimately connected to the divine. Durkheim makes a strong case that the awe and sense of mystery we are capable of feeling is the wellspring of religion



Hampton Beach

before it becomes regimented and institutionalized.

As he writes in *Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*, these collective representations are "the result of an immense cooperation which stretches out not only into space but into time as well; to make them, a multitude of minds have associated, united, and combined their ideas and sentiments; for them, long generations have accumulated their experience and their knowledge... infinitely richer and complexer than that of the individual."²

Rather than using words like cuddles to divide us from one another, we need to reconnect to these ele-

mentary forms, accruing since the dawn of humankind. "It is only by tapping into these collective social realities that individuals can "understand each other and intelligences grasp each other. They have within them a sort of force or moral ascendancy."³

Amen.

—==—

1 *The Philosophical Baby: What children's minds tell us about truth, love, and the meaning of life*, by Alison Gopnik, 2009.

2 *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life* by E. Durkheim, New York: The Free Press, 1965: page 29
3 *Ibid.*, page 485.

Monopoly Is What's For Dinner

by Jim Hightower

No longer just a parlor game, monopoly is what's for dinner. Practically every commodity and every step in producing our families' most essential consumer purchase is in the tight grip of four or fewer global conglomerates:

- Four chemical giants control more than two-thirds of the world market for commercial seeds.
- Tyson Foods and three other meatpackers control 60 percent of the U.S. poultry market, while just three global packers control 85 percent of the U.S. beef market and 71 percent of the pork market.

- Four multinational grain trading powers control 90 percent of all grain (corn, wheat, rice, &c.) marketed in the world.

- John Deere and an Italian conglomerate control nearly half of the U.S. market for tractors and other farm machinery.

- The biggest buyers of farmland are multibillion-dollar Wall Street speculators, jacking up per-acre prices beyond what family farmers (especially young people trying to get into farming) can pay; indeed, the largest owner of U.S. agricultural land is super-rich tech mogul Bill Gates, who holds land in a dozen states that would amount to nearly

a 400-square mile farm (bigger than four Seattles, the sprawling metropolis where he lives).

President Biden has been a life-long policy minimalist, but when running for president he at least recognized the need to "combat corporate power," promising to "make sure farmers and producers have access to fair markets." Rhetoric aside, though, there is at this point no sense that he and his inside team grasp the structural enormity of what's at stake, nor have they come up with proposals to do the heavy lifting necessary to free America from the monopoly yoke.

Nonetheless, farm, labor, consumer, environmental, and other

progressive advocates should move a broad, aggressive anti-monopoly initiative to the top tier of our change agenda, because it can produce big positive results for nearly every grassroots constituency.

—==—

Populist author, public speaker, radio commentator, and former Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Hightower writes *The Hightower Lowdown*, a monthly newsletter chronicling the ongoing fights by America's ordinary people against rule by plutocratic elites. Sign up at HightowerLowdown.org.

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Monopoly Guy Graffiti © Indrid Cold, Rue Dalhousie, Montréal, Canada, January 23, 2017.

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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, APRIL 25	MONDAY, APRIL 26	TUESDAY, APRIL 27	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28	THURSDAY, APRIL 29	FRIDAY, APRIL 30	SATURDAY, MAY 1
2005—Charles Duelfer, the CIA’s man in charge of finding WMDs in Iraq, says there are none. 2003—George W.[MD] Bush fires his Secretary of the Army for saying we don’t have enough troops in Iraq. 2002—George W.[MD] Bush and Saudi Prince Abdullah playkissy-face at the President’s Texas “ranch.” 1984—Asked if he’s ever been to a communist country, Reagan Chief of Staff James A. Baker III replies, “Well, I’ve been to Massachusetts.” 1962—The U.S. re-starts atmospheric nuclear testing with a bang—actually, 26 bangs over 77 days. 1959—Accused of raping a white woman, Mack Charles Parker is dragged from Mississippi’s Pearl River County Courthouse and lynched with help from a deputy sheriff. 1944—RIP George Herriman. 1915—Australian and New Zealand troops under British command attack Turks at Gallipoli. They die in droves. 1898—The U.S. obliges William R. Hearst by declaring war on Spain. 1847—Leftovers from the Donner Party straggle out of the wilderness. 1846—Mexicans attack a U.S. “scouting party” near the border. As U.S. Grant later writes, “We were sent to provoke a fight, but it was essential that Mexico should commence it.” 1523—Henry VIII of England re-stricts private ownership of guns to those with incomes greater than 100 pounds a year.	1986—Murphy visits Chernobyl: Ukrainian real estate values plummet, northern Earth is irradiated, and thousands are condemned to death. 1970—Someone dynamites the Louisiana Senate Chamber; a pencil remains stuck in the ornate ceiling. 1953—Radioactive rain falls in N.Y. 1952—The captain of the <i>U.S.S. Hobson</i>, disregarding an underling’s advice, takes his destroyer across the bow of the <i>U.S.S. Wasp</i>. Cut in half, the <i>Hobson</i> sinks with more than half its crew, captain included. 1946—Edna Rose Ritchings, 21, a Caucasian-Canadian, marries Father Divine, 65, an African-American religious figure. 1944—The U.S. takes over Montgomery-Ward after it defies the National Labor Relations Board. 1937—German and Italian planes destroy Guernica, Spain. 1931—Lou Gehrig hits a home run but is called out for passing another runner on the basepath. 1922—On the Detroit street where he’d parked it, Henry Ford discovers someone has stolen his Ford. 1901—“I’ll be in Hell before you start breakfast!” says train-robber Tom “Black Jack” Ketchum, whose head flies off after the hangman drops him. 1865—Hatter-turned-cavalryman Boston Corbett, who had earlier castrated himself with scissors to better resist prostitutes, shoots and kills John Wilkes Booth.	2017—“This is more work than my previous life,” whines Dolt #45. “I thought it would be easier.” 2016—Calling Sen. Ted Cruz “Lucifer in the flesh,” former Speaker John Boehner tells Stanford students he “never worked with a more miserable son-of-a-bitch in my life.” 2011—On the worst day of the largest tornado outbreak in history, 324 people are killed from Texas to Ontario. 1994—In South Africa, ex-prisoner Nelson Mandela is elected President. 1986—Protesting high rates for dish owners, John R. “Captain Midnight” MacDougall hijacks HBO’s satellite. 1978—A cooling tower being hastily built at Willow Island, W.Va. by N.J.-based Research-Cottrell collapses, killing 51 construction workers. The company is fined \$1,700 per death. 1951—An Air Force B-36—biggest bomber ever—is cut in half by an F-51 fighter during a training flight over Oklahoma; 13 die, four live. One, TSgt. Dick Thrasher, survived a B-36 “Broken Arrow” crash a year earlier. 1932—Hart Crane, 32, says “Good-bye, everybody,” and leaps from the <i>Orizaba</i> into the Gulf of Mexico. 1930—A boy and girl burn to death within sight of their mothers after a sightseeing plane crashes in Greenland, N.H. Burned in futile attempts to save them was pilot Clyde Robinson. 1865—The steamboat <i>Sultana</i> explodes on the Mississippi: 1,800 dead; 1,450 are just-freed Union POWs.	2011—During a speech in Las Vegas, Donald Trump drops about seven f-bombs, promising to tell the Chinese, “listen you mother____s, we’re going to tax you 25 percent.” 2006—Rush Limbaugh’s lawyers announce that their fine work will keep their dope-addled client out of prison. 2004—The SEC says banks can risk more money and keep less on hand. 2004—Frank Lautenberg [D-N.J.] says on the floor of the Senate, “We know who the chickenhawks are. They talk tough on national defense and military issues...but when it was their turn to serve, they were AWOL.” 1988—Aloha Airlines 737 develops a 20 foot hole in its fuselage; stewardess Clarabelle Lansing falls to her death. 1987—Contras in Nicaragua, “moral equivalent of our Founding fathers” according to President Reagan, murder American volunteer Ben Lindner. 1975—Daniel Schorr reports on CBS that the CIA plotted to assassinate the leaders of Chile, Congo, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Vietnam. 1973—Hot brakes start a fire in the Roseville, Calif. railyard, and a train-load of bombs explodes. No one dies but 5,500 buildings are damaged and the town of Antelope disappears. 1945—Benito Mussolini, his mistress, and three accomplices are summarily executed by partisans and hanged by their heels at a gas station. 1789—<i>HMS Bounty</i> undergoes an unscheduled change of command.	2014—Despite nine tries, Okla. prison officials miss Clayton Lockett’s veins; the poison goes into muscle. Without enough left to kill, they discuss options as he writhes. He ends their debate by dying of a heart attack. 2006—During the Correspondents Dinner, Stephen Colbert performs the first autopsy of a sitting President. 2004—The Commission “investigating” 9/11 allows George W.[MD] Bush and Dick “Dick” Cheney to “testify” without taking an oath. 1992—A mostly-white jury in Simi Valley finds L.A. police not guilty of assaulting Rodney King. Soldiers and Marines end the rioting six days later. 1975—As helicopters begin evacuating Saigon, Marines Charles McMahon and Darwin Judge become the last two Americans to die in Vietnam. 1974—The term “expletive deleted” enters the English language when the Nixon White House releases redacted transcripts of Oval Office recordings. 1961—The Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army says “we cannot win a conventional war in Southeast Asia.” 1938—FDR to Congress: “[T]he liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state itself. That, in its essence, is Fascism....” 1899—Hundreds of union miners hijack a train in Idaho, haul 1.5 tons of dynamite to the mill of the Bunker Hill Mine, and blow it to bits.	1993—The first website goes online. 1977—The Clamshell Alliance assembles at Seabrook to fight the nuke. 1975—Saigon falls. 1973—Rabid Nixon supporter Rev. Sun Myung Moon gets a green card. 1973—Announcing their resignations, Richard Nixon calls felons-to-be John D. Ehrlichman and H.R. Haldeman “two of the finest public servants I have ever known.” 1971—Medal of Honor recipient Dwight H. Johnson is shot to death while robbing a Detroit grocery store. 1966—Rep. Melvin Laird (R-Wisc.) says that the problem with Vietnam is “an administration that fails to inform the people fully and frankly about the objectives and progress of the war.” 1961—Leonid I. Rogozov, the sole doctor at a Soviet station in Antarctica, removes his own appendix. 1956—Ex-Veep Alben Barkley concludes his keynote speech to the Washington and Lee Mock Convention, then keels over dead. 1900—The Illinois Central’s <i>Cannonball Express</i> slams into a freight train at Vaughan, Miss. Engineer John Luther “Casey” Jones is the only fatality. 1871—Despite having surrendered, Apaches living at Camp Grant in the Arizona Territory are attacked by a mob of American vigilantes and Tohono O’odham; 144 die, all but eight are women and children. 1844—Hank Thoreau accidentally sets 300 acres of Concord forest afire.	2003—G.W.[MD] Bush says “major combat operations in Iraq have ended.” U.S. death toll so far: 140. 1999—<i>The New Hampshire Gazette</i> resumes regular (fortnightly) publication in Portsmouth. 1989—“Bill” Gardner, Secretary of State for Life, assigns rights to the trade name <i>New Hampshire Gazette</i> to a collateral descendant of the founder. 1977—Seabrook: 1,414 Clams busted. 1975—Tom Polgar sends CIA’s last cable from Saigon: “...we have lost.... Let us hope...that we have learned our lesson. Saigon signing off.” 1970—U.S. troops join ARVN soldiers in the Cambodian “Incursion.” 1960—Russian missiles bring down a U-2 piloted by the CIA’s Gary Powers. 1955—To supplant Harding’s failed “Americanization Day,” Ike proclaims an equally-doomed “Loyalty Day.” 1944—Jacob Coxey, 90, on the Capitol steps, completes the speech he began 50 years earlier. 1921—To supplant filthy leftists’ subversive May Day, Warren G. Harding proclaims “Americanization Day.” 1894—Jacob Coxey leads a 500-man “Army of the Unemployed” to the Capitol steps, where he calls for a federally-funded jobs program. Within minutes, police hustle him away. 1865—In Charleston, S.C., 10,000 people, most formerly enslaved, including veterans of the 54th Massachusetts and 104th U.S. Colored Troops, hold the first-ever Memorial Day.
10:25 10:49 4:09 4:32	11:16 11:35 5:01 5:19	12:06 5:50 6:06	12:22 12:56 6:40 6:54	1:10 1:48 7:31 7:43	2:00 2:41 8:24 8:35	2:53 3:38 9:18 9:30
SUNDAY, MAY 2	MONDAY, MAY 3	TUESDAY, MAY 4	WEDNESDAY, MAY 5	THURSDAY, MAY 6	FRIDAY, MAY 7	SATURDAY, MAY 8

2011—After outliving the Administration of G.W.[MD] Bush, Osama bin Laden is whacked by its successor.

2006—With stereotypical inefficiency, state workers in Lucasville, Ohio jab Joseph Clark 19 times over 86 minutes to kill him by lethal injection[s].

2003—Richard Perle, its architect, writes that the Iraq War “ended without the Arab world rising up against us, as the war’s critics feared, without the quagmire they predicted, without the heavy losses in house-to-house fighting they warned us to expect.”

1972—The good die young; J. Edgar Hoover does it at 77.

1971—The U.S. Government reneges on its permit, calls in the 82nd Airborne, arrests 12,600 protestors, and packs them into D.C.’s RFK stadium without food, water, or sanitation.

1967—The California State Assembly is visited by 26 armed Black Panthers.

1963—In Birmingham, Alabama, 959 schoolchildren are arrested for letting themselves be attacked by dogs, firehoses, and cops with billy clubs.

1957—Morphine-addicted Sen. Joe McCarthy [R-Wisc.] dies of liver failure at 48. Top U.S. dope cop Harry J. Anslinger, who’s been slipping him government morphine “for reasons of national security,” can quit now.

1940—Mississippi Governor Paul Johnson, 60, clubs *Jackson Daily News* editor Major Frederick Sullens from behind. Sullens, 62, floors the Governor and beats him without mercy.

2020—Dolt #45 desecrates the Lincoln Memorial with a campaign event.

2016—Lindsey Graham tweets, “If we nominate Trump, we will get destroyed...and we will deserve it.”

2016—After accusing Ted Cruz’s father of being tied to the JFK assassination, Donald Trump wins Indiana and clinches the GOP nomination.

2003—The Old Man of the Mountain is busted by the Law of Gravity.

1995—Alabama Governor “Fob” James brings back the chain gang.

1987—E. J. Dionne’s column quotes Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.): “Follow me around,” meanwhile, the *Miami Herald* reports that a woman (not his wife) spent the night in his D.C. townhouse.

1970—“[The NVA has] been in a war for years and years,” says Veep Spiro “Ted” Agnew. “I don’t think they are capable...of continuing this fight.”

1968—French students protest; administrators call cops. Big mistake.

1946—Wired by a drunken trustee, “Gruesome Gertie,” Louisiana’s electric chair, fails to kill Willie Francis; back to Death Row he goes. Gertie does get Willie a year later; he’s 18.

1945—The RAF bombs the German ship *Cap Arcona*, believing it’s carrying SS officers. Of 4,500 concentration camp inmates aboard, 350 survive.

1844—Nativist “American Republicans” hold a “Save the [Protestant] Bible” rally in Philadelphia’s Catholic Kensington district. The ensuing chaos allegedly includes flag desecration.

1990—Six-inch flames shoot from Jesse Joseph Tafero’s head as Florida’s “Old Sparky” takes three jolts and seven minutes to kill him.

1989—U.S.M.C. Lieut. Col. Oliver North is convicted of four felonies in the Iran-Contra scandal, but a Congressional screw-up lets him skate.

1970—In Haymarket Square, Chicago, a new cop statue replaces one destroyed by a bomb months earlier. This one gets blown up, too, months later.

1970—Ohio National Guard troops shoot 13 unarmed students, killing four, at Kent State.

1961—The Freedom Rides begin throughout the south.

1942—The Battle of the Coral Sea begins. In four days 14 ships are sunk or damaged, 159 planes destroyed, and 1,565 men killed; it was a great victory.

1940—Nora Joyce tells Jim, “I haven’t read any of your books but I’ll have to someday because they must be good considering how well they sell.”

1927—A motorman “sick of seeing that policeman with his arm raised” drives his streetcar into a nine-foot statue of a cop commemorating the Haymarket bombing.

1886—In Haymarket Square, Chicago, demonstrators against May 3rd police brutality at the McCormick Reaper plant are attacked by more police. A bomb kills seven cops; a dubious trial later convicts eight anarchists.

1814—Former Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte arrives at Elba, his new jail.

1985—In Bitburg, Germany, Republican President Ronald Reagan lays a wreath at a cemetery full of Nazis.

1981—Bobby Sands dies of hunger in Maze Prison, defiant to the last.

1970—Jerry Rubin speaks at UNH.

1961—New Hampshire’s own Alan Shepard prays, “Please, dear God, don’t let me f__k up.” Prayer answered, he’s 1st American in space.

1960—Gary Powers is a “civilian employed by Lockheed” piloting a “weather research plane,” says the U.S.

1955—U.S. TVs show a mock suburb complete with mannequins hit by a real nuke. The scorched, ragged figures are later displayed at J.C. Penney with a sign saying “This could be you.”

1945—The collier *Black Point* is torpedoed by *U-853* within sight of the Point Judith, R.I. lighthouse.

1945—Sunday school picnickers in Bly, Ore., find a strange object. The Japanese balloon bomb explodes as they’re dragging it out of the woods, killing five Sunday school children and a minister’s pregnant wife.

1925—As local boosters had hoped, John T. Scopes is busted for teaching evolution in Tennessee. Prosecutors include a man named Sue K. Hicks.

1904—Cy Young pitches the American League’s first perfect game for the Boston Americans (later the Red Sox).

1886—In Milwaukee, Gov. Jeremiah Rusk orders 250 National Guard soldiers to fire on a crowd of strikers. They comply; seven die.

2010—An imaginary bus bomb inspires panic in Portsmouth, N.H.

2010—A Londoner scamming from his parents’ basement gives The Invisible Hand of the Market™ jitters: the Dow drops nine pct. in five minutes.

1996—Missing for nine days, ex-CIA Director William Colby turns up in Chesapeake Bay, dead but remarkably fresh-looking, 20 feet from where searchers found his canoe eight days earlier. Verdict: a routine drowning.

1982—LAPD Chief Darryl Gates explains “some blacks [die in choke holds because] the veins or arteries do not open up as fast as they do in normal people.”

1978—In Chicago, First Lady Rosalynn Carter is photographed shaking hands with Polish Constitution Day Parade chairman (and prolific serial killer) John Wayne Gacy.

1967—Gen. Wallace Greene, Jr., U.S.M.C., says in Manchester, N.H. that America is winning the war in Vietnam, “and I say that without any doubt whatsoever.”

1937—A huge Nazi gasbag ignites over Lakehurst, New Jersey, 14 years before Rush Limbaugh is even born.

1868—Angry that Samuel Mills had dropped from sight when the gallows opened under him, hundreds of ob-servers riot in Woodsville, N.H.

1862—RIP Henry D. Thoreau.

1844—Nativist goons return to Philadelphia’s Catholic Kensington district, armed to better defend their flag. Somehow violence results.

1999—A U.S. B-2 drops five “smart” bombs on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade: three dead, 27 wounded.

1998—Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan successfully quash an effort to regulate credit default swaps.

1992—Reporters reveal Ross Perot’s “concern” over U.S. POWs was mostly about Richard Nixon’s presidency.

1985—New York throws a ticker tape parade for 25,000 Vietnam veterans. Better late than never.

1970—Marine Sgt. Robert Phlegner, 1st Force Recon, is killed in the night by a tiger in Quang Nam Province.

1955—Blackvoting activist Rev. George W. Lee is gunned down in Midnight, Miss. No charges are ever filed.

1954—The Viet Minh overrun the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu.

1931—In NYC, 300 cops entertain 15,000 bystanders by directing 700 rounds of rifle and machine gun fire at a fifth-floor apartment in a rooming house on West 91st St. After two hours Francis “Two-Gun” Crowley, his 16-year old girlfriend Helen Walsh, and his partner Rudolph “Fats” Durringer surrender.

1931—In Corbin, Ky. Harland Sanders—later Col. Sanders—puts two bullets in a gas station manager for painting over a sign for his restaurant.

1896—Gilmanton-born Herman W. Mudgett, aka “Dr. H.H. Holmes,” fiendish killer of over 100 women, is hanged for murdering one man.

1979—Salvadoran police maintain order in a cathedral; 23 KIA, 70 WIA.

1970—With flags at half mast for Kent State kids shot by National Guardsmen, students protesting in NYC at Wall and Broad streets are attacked by 200 “hardhats” organized by AFL-CIO leader Peter Brennan. Nixon will make him Sec. of Labor.

1970—At the University of New Mexico, 11 people protesting the Vietnam War are bayoneted by National Guardsmen.

1967—Muhammed Ali is indicted for refusing to be inducted.

1964—Against Ike’s orders, Curtis LeMay sends a B-47 into Russian territory on a recon mission. It returns with extra holes thanks to a MiG-17.

1963—In Hue, Ngo Dinh Diem’s goons kill nine Buddhists for flying their flag, then blame the ‘Cong.

1958—In Lima, Richard Nixon is stoned and spat on by Peruvians.

1844—Nativists in Philadelphia get serious, burning St. Michael’s, St. Augustines, and the Seminary of the Sisters of Charity, and killing a few more of those troublesome Irish.

1755—In Portsmouth, murderer Eliphaiz Dow becomes the first person executed in New Hampshire.

1725—John Lovewell, who had marched into Boston a month earlier wearing a wig made of Indian scalps, is killed by an Abenaki near Pequawket (now Fryeburg). A mountain in Washington, N.H. bears his name.



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