

The Fortnightly Rant

It's Kind To Be Cruel, In Theory

"Be kind," someone* once wrote, "Everyone you meet is carrying a heavy burden."

Could anyone possibly object to such a sentiment? Viewing it from a religious perspective—as is so fashionable these days—it would seem to pass muster right across the board, from Abrahamic to Zoroastrian.

It would be impractical and probably unwise to pass a law mandating kindness. Surely, though, that quality jibes with the spirit of our laws. Without kindness, how could we ever expect to succeed in our "pursuit of happiness"?

It seems reasonable to presume, then, that at the very least, our nation's most eminent jurists have some nodding acquaintance with the principle in question.

Nevertheless, the Supreme Court has ruled: cruelty is the best policy.

The Centers for Disease Control [CDC] takes a somewhat narrower view. It just wants to fulfill its mandate to protect the public's health.†

Last year many renters and homeowners, unable to work with the economy shut down, faced a difficult choice: eat or live indoors?

Working from the theory that living on the sidewalk during a pandemic is bad for the health of individuals and the nation, the CDC issued an eviction moratorium. To cover all that unpaid rent, Congress allocated \$46.5 billion.

That's a substantial amount of

money, to be sure. For some perspective, though, it only represents about one percent of the taxpayer-funded \$4.6 trillion total cost of the 2008 bank bailout, according to Neil Barofsky, Special United States Treasury Department Inspector General who oversaw the Troubled Assets Relief Program.‡

Late last month the Court and the [CDC] met on a great battle-field, testing whether the Court's bracing, Spartan approach would prevail over the CDC's mandate.

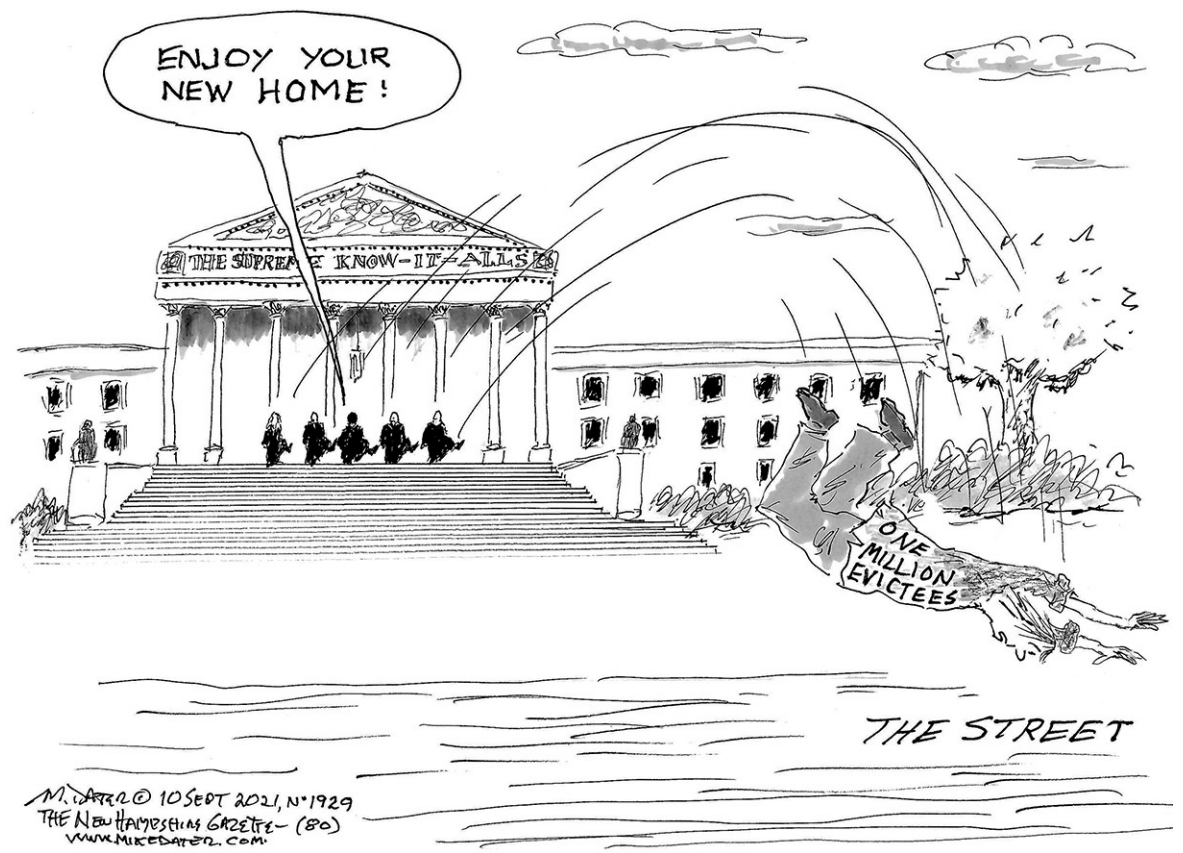
We got our answer as this past fortnight began. Gird your loins, you Spartans! Perhaps the Court decided to kill the poor with kindness. We cannot say what's in their hearts—or if they even have such organs. All we know for sure is that it's definitely killing the poor.

Throwing millions of people out of their homes is a big responsibility. Don't fret too much about the Court, though. It's got help.

Despite mid-terms being a mere fourteen months away, Congress took time out from campaign fund-raising lately to consider a vexing problem facing our earnest, hard-working job creators.

According to prevailing economic theory—which, judging from its ubiquity on all profit-making "news" outlets, is surely an accurate reflection of reality—federal unemployment benefits have turned American workers into shiftless bums. Presumably this is particularly true of the pampered non-homeless among them.

"How," the People's House asked itself, during a fit of anthropomorphism, "can our donors enjoy the fruits of their employees' labors, if those lazy bastards won't show up



and work on demand?"

Accustomed to making what they love to call "the tough decisions," the Members, having de-anthropomorphized, did what they do best, which is to say, nothing.

Well, they did go back to playing "Dialing for Dollars." Those campaign coffers won't fill themselves.

They did not, however, extend federal unemployment benefits. They expired on Monday.

So, happy Labor Day, all you lazy good-for-nothings!

You see, this austere regimen of exposure to the elements, combined with a marked reduction in caloric intake, will increase your employability—eventually.

Look for this effect to kick in just about the time all that money generated by forty years worth of tax cuts finally starts tricking down on your weather-beaten heads. In theory, anyway.

The People's Policy Project [3P] took the radical step of actually

looking at the data to see whether that theory about the pernicious effects of federal unemployment benefits held up under scrutiny.

By "monitoring the information trickling out about the effect of dramatically slashing unemployment benefits in 26 states," it found that "employment did not grow faster (indeed it grew slower) in the 12 states that cut UI [unemployment insurance] benefits in early June." It also found that "individuals who were on UI in April became a lot poorer in states where UI was cut but only very negligibly increased their employment."

To give Congress and the Court—and the White House, which made no effort to extend these benefits—the benefit of the doubt, perhaps they're too dim to understand any of this. On the other hand, perhaps they do but they just don't care.

Who will save the people, then?

It will have to be the people.

"The real war is a war on class. It's about how much green you have in your pocket. In this country, you can unfortunately literally get away with murder if you have enough political background behind you. You are innocent until proven poor."

— Michael K. Williams
(1966–2021).

"Hard times are coming, when we'll be wanting the voices of writers who can see alternatives to how we live now, can see through our fear-stricken society and its obsessive technologies to other ways of being, and even imagine real grounds for hope. We'll need writers who can remember freedom—poets, visionaries—realists of a larger reality."...

"We live in capitalism, its power seems inescapable—but then, so did the divine right of kings. Any human power can be resisted and changed by human beings. Resistance and change often begin in art. Very often in our art, the art of words."

— Ursula Le Guin (1929–2018).

* Quote Investigator is our authority of choice for tracking down the origins of such dicta. At quoteinvestigator.com/2010/06/29/be-kind/, this one is attributed to John Watson, a Scottish cleric who wrote under the name Ian Maclaren. Typically, the quote's final phrase is "...fighting a hard battle." Eschewing the militaristic metaphor, we prefer the more straightforward alternative.

† Would it act more aggressively if it were called "The Grand Exalted Centers for Disease Eradication and Expungement"?

‡ <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/2008-financial-bailout-809731/>

The Alleged News®

Democratic Dereliction of Duty

by Jake Johnson, Common Dreams

Worker justice advocates are growing increasingly furious over the national Democratic leadership's refusal to act after more than nine million people across the U.S. were thrown off unemployment insurance earlier this week, an unprecedented aid cut that took effect in the middle of a surging pandemic and persistent economic crisis.

The Biden administration and congressional Democrats had been aware of the massive benefit cliff for months, but there was hardly any push on Capitol Hill for an extension of the trio of federal unemployment insurance (UI) programs that lapsed on Labor Day—slashing benefits for roughly 9.5 million unemployed workers.

In recent weeks, the Biden White

House repeatedly made clear that it supported the expiration of a \$300-per-week federal boost to state-level benefits and said it would do nothing to stop the Republican-led states that ended the UI supplement prematurely.

While administration officials said in a recent letter that President Joe Biden believes the coronavirus pandemic "has exposed serious problems in our UI system that require immediate reform," the Democratic-controlled House Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday left UI reform out of a package of policy measures that it hopes to include in the emerging budget reconciliation package.

"This is a shocking dereliction of responsibility and every committee member should be ashamed," Rachel Deutsch of the Center for

Popular Democracy (CPD) tweeted Tuesday. "House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) must step in."

Jennifer Epps-Addison, CPD Action's co-executive director, echoed that message in a statement Tuesday night, declaring that "it's time for Congress to step up and ensure that every person in this country gets the support they need to not only survive this pandemic, but to thrive long term."

"Congress has known for decades that our UI system does not adequately support workers or stabilize our economy during recessions," said Epps-Addison. "Just this week, 9.5 million working people lost their lifeline when Congress allowed pandemic unemployment benefits to expire—the largest benefit cliff in history—while unemployment rates in communities of color remain

shockingly high. To pretend that we can 'build back better' without tackling this broken and racist system is absurd."

"President Biden urged Chairman Neal to take up the issue of long-term UI reform as part of the reconciliation process—but today, the Ways and Means Committee ignored his call," Epps-Addison added. "Speaker Pelosi and [Senate Majority Leader Chuck] Schumer must step up and ensure meaningful UI reforms are included in this reconciliation package."

The People's Policy Project (PPP), a left-wing think tank, estimated last week that around 35 million people will be impacted by the federal unemployment cuts, which are expected to leave more than seven million jobless people with no UI benefits at all. Nearly three million others

will lose the \$300-per-week federal boost, forcing them to get by on state benefits that average less than \$400 a week.

"Due to severe shortcomings in state UI programs, Congress had to create emergency pandemic unemployment programs in the CARES Act to offset barriers to eligibility, too-short payment durations, and inadequate benefit levels. These three pressing issues are priority UI fixes that can be taken on in the reconciliation budget," Rebecca Dixon, executive director of the National Employment Law Project (NELP), said Tuesday. "It is a sad and avoidable policy choice to leave unemployed people across the country without needed support."

The Alleged News®
from page one

"Failure to do anything at this critical juncture," Dixon added, "is a betrayal of the workers who have suffered so badly over the course of this crisis, and those who will need the program in the future."

Travis Curry, a 34-year-old freelance photographer who is set to lose all of his UI benefits, told the *New York Times* that "to just cut people off, it's ridiculous and it's unethical and it's evil."

In addition to the devastating effects the UI cuts could have on millions of jobless workers who are already struggling to afford food and other basic expenses, economists and commentators have also voiced concerns about the broader economic consequences of lawmakers' decision to let the emergency programs expire. Before they ended, the federal UI programs were pumping billions of dollars into the economy each week.

"We've got this fragile economic recovery and now we're going to cut income from people who need it, and we are pulling back dollars out

of an economy that is still pretty unsteady," Elizabeth Ananat, an economist at Barnard College, said in an interview with the *Times* earlier this week.

According to the latest figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U.S. economy remains more than five million jobs short of pre-pandemic levels, and the rapid spread of the highly contagious Delta variant appears to be taking its toll on hiring.

In a column on Tuesday, *The Week's* Ryan Cooper argued that "if I were the Democratic Party, I would be reversing these [UI] cuts immediately."

"Rule of thumb: A program to address an emergency should last at least as long as the emergency itself," Cooper wrote. "If it was necessary to pass a pandemic rescue back on March 11 when there were about 55,000 coronavirus cases per day, it stands to reason that we should still need those same rescue programs when cases are running about 160,000 per day."

"If Democrats had any sense," Cooper added, "they would add an extension of pandemic benefits to the reconciliation package currently



Veterans for Peace [VFP] went to the Blue Angels air show in Brunswick, Maine last Saturday. Rather than paying \$45 for tickets, though, they held up signs and handed out fliers opposing what they called a "disgusting display of the U.S. military's wastefulness and environmental destruction." Will Thomas, Co-Coordinator of N.H. VFP, offers the argument against militaristic air shows in a letter on page four.



THEN, AFTER A MERE TWENTY YEARS, THE MUSIC STOPPED

under discussion, and pass it immediately."

Prior to the Labor Day expiration of the emergency UI programs, 26 states—each led by a Republican governor except Louisiana—cut off the federal benefits early, arguing that the aid was dissuading people from returning to the workforce.

But subsequent research showed that slashing the benefits did virtually nothing to boost hiring, vindicating experts who disputed Republican leaders' talking points. The premature cuts did, however, dramatically reduce jobless workers' incomes—a possible preview of what's to come now that the federal programs have expired nationwide.

"You cannot say canceling unemployment benefits gets people back to work when we have the data to prove it doesn't," Rep. Cori Bush (D-Mo.) tweeted Tuesday. "What it will do is make life even harder for the single mom who's barely making ends meet while trying to balance childcare and staying healthy during a pandemic."

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TwitterBits

Twitter is an anarchic People's AP. Since we find it wicked entertaining, and informative as well, we decided to include in this issue a few succinct extracts from our Twitter feed. — The Ed.

@jacobin, 9/3/21, 8:30 p.m.: "For a fraction of the cost of the War on Terror, the U.S. could have decarbonized its electrical grid, erased student debt, extended the Child Tax Credit for 10 years, guaranteed free preschool, funded global vaccines—and still have had money to spare."

@GraniteGeek, 9/6/21, 8:38 a.m.: Vermont story of the week: "Vermont ambulances keep emergency supply of maple syrup"
@GraniteGeek, Replying to @GraniteGeek, 9/6/21, 5:23 p.m.: "Quebec says 'hold my...'"

@SpiroAgnewGhost, 9/6/21, 5:22 p.m.: "Black Conservative radio host and politician Larry Elder said during a 7/18 appearance on Prager University's 'The Candace Owens Show,' that an argument could be made in favor of reparations for slave owners whose legal 'property'

was taken from them after the Civil War."

@CarbonMonoxid17, 9/6/21, 3:30 p.m.: "DeJoy is at it again. This drive up mailbox at my local post office was removed last November and reinstalled in January. Now it's the ridiculous recall election to remove our democratically elected Governor Newsom and the drive up mailbox is padlocked shut."

@AmonyResists, 9/6/21, 3:30 p.m.: "I'm sick of this debate being falsely framed as 'pro-life' vs 'pro-choice.' It's pro-women's fundamental rights vs. anti-women's fundamental rights. When a zygote technically qualifies as a person isn't relevant; we don't force people to donate blood or organs to save others."

@ragepath, Replying to @mehdirhasan and @HC_Richardson, 9/5/21, 9:22 p.m.: "Imagine me telling you 18 months ago that 1,500 Americans would be dying each day and the NYT would think it's front page news that some people are mad at Biden for being too openly sad about his son being dead."

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Captain Thompson's Blotted Escutcheon

We were composing another cheap shot at the local real estate market—see the photos below—when we stumbled upon what may be an ancient miscarriage of justice. Or we may simply have found yet another way to demonstrate our ignorance.

We'll blurt out what we do know, and let the chips fall where they may. Perhaps one of our readers is familiar with this matter and will favor us with additional information. If we cannot expose an injustice, we can at least try to eliminate a typographical error. The town's putative 400th Anniversary is coming; both of these matters should be resolved by then.

—==—

The Continental Congress authorized the building of 13 ships in December, 1775, thus committing treason against the crown while sneering at triskaidekaphobia.

The 32-gun frigate *Raleigh* was one of those ships. Captain Thomas Thompson supervised its construction on what we now call Badger's Island. He was also its first captain—until he was relieved of duty.

To this day, the image of the *Raleigh* adorns the flag and the Great

Seal of the State of New Hampshire. Thompson's name survives mostly on the front of his former home. We can't help but wonder if his obscurity is fully deserved—lord knows he buckled plenty of swash during *Raleigh's* first cruise.

In September, 1777, about one-third of the way across the North Atlantic, Thompson located the British Windward Fleet: sixty ships under the protection of four British Navy vessels carrying 64 cannon among them.

Having previously acquired the fleet's signaling codes, he sailed the *Raleigh* in "a most audacious manner" in among them under cover of darkness. His only ally was the *Alfred*, "a dull sailer" of little use in a battle.

"The English were completely deceived and continued peacefully on their course, ignorant of the presence of an enemy," according to an official U.S. Navy history.

"Taking advantage of this, Captain Thompson carefully worked his way through the fleet until he had secured a position to the windward of the *Druid* when, having edged up to a favorable quarter, he he sud-



The Formerly Award Winning, Purportedly Local Daily [FAWPLD] recently reported that this glorious heap of lumber—built in 1784 for Captain Thomas Thompson, of Raleigh fame and infamy—has sold for \$4,650,000. That made it "the third most expensive home sale in Portsmouth over the last decade, according to Seacoast Board of Realtors statistician John Rice." An unsubstantiated rumor originating in our 100 Proof Department suggests that the sellers might have gotten more, had it not been for an embarrassing typographical error [see photo at right].



This escutcheon, on the front of the Captain Thomas Thompson House, has misspelled the name of his ship for at least a quarter of a century. Furthermore, it does so in two different ways. The first "G" is extraneous. Also, the "T" and the "E" are transposed. Otherwise, it's fine.

denly threw open his ports, ran out a row of sixteen guns and poured in a broadside of round and grape-shot upon the astounded enemy. ... for twenty minutes she hurled broadside after broadside into the unfortunate Englishmen, who were scarcely able to fire a shot in return. Consternation and confusion reigned throughout the fleet, and the ships crowded sail in every direction to escape...." Eventually the British realized that the *Raleigh* was on her own and "made sail to rescue the *Druid*." Thompson continued firing until finally forced to withdraw.

In March of the following year, returning home from France with a shipload of military stores, the sluggish *Alfred* was captured by the British. Rather than slogging upwind to risk his ship and its desperately-needed cargo in a fight with the odds stacked against him, Thompson left *Alfred* to her fate.

For that prudent decision, he was relieved of command. Unless there

were other factors....

On August 14, 1777, before sailing for France, Thompson had written indignantly to the New Hampshire Council and General Assembly about "the Conduct of the Officers Commanding at Fort Washington [now the Wastewater Treatment Plant] & Fort Sullivan [site of the Portsmouth Naval Prison]."

"[M]y particular Complaint is for not Shewing due Respect to the Continental Ship of War *Raleigh* namely, not Shewing any colours when She pass'd the Forts, but hailing several times in a very Insulting Manner, I ask'd them why they did not hoist their Colours, Instead of a proper Answer I was treated with ungentlemanlike Expressions, such as I blush'd to hear. ..."

The Captain called for an inquiry, and a joint committee was formed. Did it write a report? Is it still extant? What does it reveal about our Captain Thompson? Were there missing strawberries, as well?

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"What's done to children,
they will do to society."

— Dr. Karl Menninger
(1893-1990) psychiatrist

"There are worse crimes than burning books.
One of them is not reading them."

john@wordpraxis.com

— Joseph Brodsky

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— William Hazlitt

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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In Opposition to the Air Show
To the Editor:

On September 11th and 12th, the New Hampshire Air National Guard at Pease will host an aerial acrobatic display by the Air Forces' "Thunderbirds" which consist of six F-16 Fighting Falcons. Moreover, visitors will be able to board the new transport and aerial fuel tanker, the Boeing KC-46A Pegasus. And, folks can view up close other planes such as F-35A Lightning II's, F-16 Fighting Falcons, F-15C Eagles, A-10 Thunderbolts, and others! In addition, U.S. Special Ops Para Command teams will also be present to exhibit their skills. These include Army Rangers, Navy SEALs, and Marine Raiders. These trained experts in assassinations (see Jeremy Schahill's book, *Dirty Wars*) will no doubt attract youngsters. There will be a "family area" and the New England Patriots' plane to view, courtesy of owner Robert Kraft, an ardent Zionist supporter of an apartheid regime called Israel.

From the show's sponsor's website: "Thunder Over New Hampshire Air Show is pleased to present Patriot Plaza presented by Service Credit Union as this will be the heart of the Air Show and will be the hub of all activities. With more than 51 acres of space, Patriot Plaza will host dozens of aircraft displays, hands-on educational activities for kids of all ages, dining, concessions, and souvenir supplies for every air show fan, commercial exhibits, the Kidz Zone Play Area, and a variety of premium seating options."

N.H. Veterans for Peace (N.H. VFP) has a different perspective on why such military air shows ought to be banned. N.H. VFP objects to the "show" at Portsmouth and to the "Blue Angels" upcoming appearance in Brunswick, Maine. We believe that displays by the "Thunderbirds" and "Blue Angels" tend to glorify war as it showcases these "fighter" planes, their speed, power, and noise. For the young and not so young, such exhibits are dazzling spectacles and "fun" to watch. Yet, not so much fun for the many innocent civilians who have been killed by Americans flying such planes and operating killer drones courtesy of Un-

cle Sam (and those of us who actually pay federal income taxes).

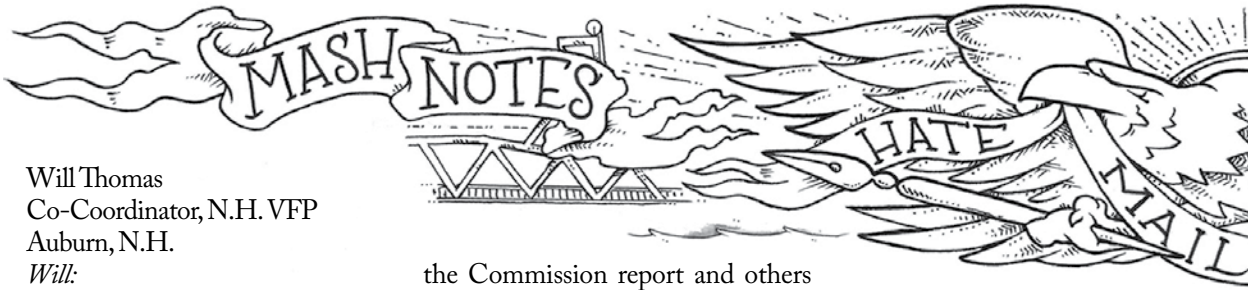
Reflecting on such spectacles, do we, as a society, want our impressionable young people to witness these machines and the skills of these pilots and others whose missions are designed to kill, maim and destroy other human beings?

Flying such planes over populated areas harms the environment, releasing exhaust that spews more greenhouse emissions that adds to global warming. Such performances cost millions of dollars, especially for fuel. As mentioned, such air shows act as a misleading recruitment incentive for many who may be people of color and lower economic status.

Clearly, the U.S.A. is a highly militarized country as we have been at war with someone for almost our entire history. Some folks who attend these performances and ceremonies call them terrific acts of patriotism. Yet a friend, Susan Hedrick, who attended an air show several years ago at Brunswick, Maine, once said "We've got to stop the Military-Industrial Complex. They benefit from shows like this." One protest sign said: "Air Show? War Show!"

N.H. VFP agrees with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that Militarism is the curse of America, not forgetting Racism and Economic Inequality, and now, Climate Change. Politicians keep reminding us about how exceptional is the country we live in. We are bombarded with propaganda that tells us that America and its military are a force for good in the world, and occasionally, we are. However with an obscene Pentagon budget of nearly a trillion dollars, financial resources for people who need healthcare, educational support, and affordable housing, miss out while Ike's Military-Industrial (Congressional) Complex grows richer and more politically powerful.

George Bernard Shaw wrote: "You will never have a quiet world till you knock the patriotism out of the human race." Actually, N.H. VFP would alter this, especially as it relates to the U.S. of A., "till you knock the nationalism out of Americans."



Will Thomas
Co-Coordinator, N.H. VFP
Auburn, N.H.
Will:
These are all valid reasons for opposing this air show. In our view, the noise pollution alone would justify a ban.

The Editor
=====

9/11—The Day Truth Got Trampled and Afghans Got Shafted
To the Editor,

Thank you for your latest Fortnightly Rant (August 27th), "Our Shattered Porcelain Anniversary," for opening the door a crack on some inconvenient facts and uncomfortable questions concerning 9/11 and its aftermath. With the hindsight of 20 years of rather sordid history and the recent demise of the fraudulent, phony and counterproductive war on terror as it was perpetrated in Afghanistan, it's more than time to re-examine some of the antecedents to this mess.

I do have to report that some of the basic questions have been answered or at least explored in several prior publications. I'm *not* talking about the 9/11 Commission Report of 2004, of which Commission co-chairs Tom Kean and Lee Hamilton have since said was set up to fail and was not the final truth, and that they were lied to in official testimony. One careful critic found over 100 falsehoods, omissions or distortions in that account, so it's rather ironic that people wanting a thorough investigation of the January 6th insurrection have been citing the 9/11 Commission as a worthy model to follow!

Another subject that is crucially relevant in recent years, but has been demeaned or ignored by many in a position to know better, is basic science surely as it relates to climate impacts and action, but also in understanding what happened on 9/11 as well. This is a huge subject that deserves more explanation, but suffice to say that the official conspiracy story presented by

the Commission report and others that the WTC twin towers, as well as the little-mentioned WTC building 7, could have collapsed at free-fall speed into their own footprints from asymmetrical plane crashes and/or fire damage simply does not comport with basic physics. Besides careful analysis of video footage of the collapses, the existence of smoking gun evidence of highly engineered nano-thermite explosive residue and byproducts in resulting ash from ground zero, as published by Harrit, Jones et. al. in peer-reviewed scientific journals a dozen years ago, should give any thinking person pause in simply accepting the official explanation of events that day. More info on these and related matters can be found in any number of books by David Ray Griffin or on www.ae911truth.org and other 9/11 online sites.

The history of Afghanistan war-making prior to 9/11 has also gotten short shrift in most popular explanations of why we went there to overthrow the Taliban and supposedly kill or capture Osama Bin Laden. As part of the great game of central Asian geopolitics, the little-known events then might shine some light on why our leaders insisted for so long in staying in Afghanistan well after Bin Laden had skipped town to Pakistan, as we learned later on.

As was reported after-the-fact by such mainstream media as the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *The Guardian UK*, the U.S. government under both Clinton and G.W. Bush, as well as private/corporate interests, far from being passive observers of events in Afghanistan prior to 9/11, had detailed and extensive covert operations and secret meetings going on in the years prior. Much of this of course had to do with Bin Laden having moved his operations there from

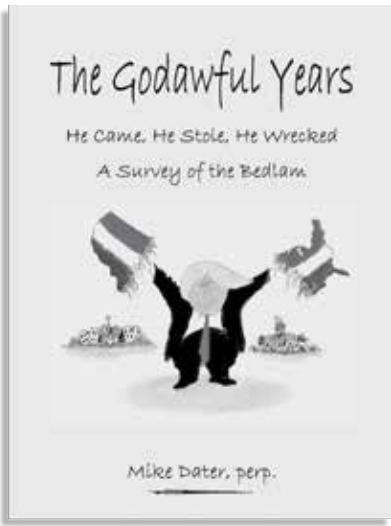
Sudan. But the fact that a consortium of oil & gas corporations headed up by the likes of now-familiar figures Condoleezza Rice, Hamid Karzai and Zalmay Khalilzad, had been negotiating for years with the Taliban rulers to get a gas pipeline built through there from central Asian countries to the Arabian Sea leaves one wondering if there might have been a prior and perhaps more ulterior motive and plan for pressuring the Taliban and failing that, to invade the country and overthrow them.

One should note too the curious fact that despite having Bin Laden on the FBI most-wanted list for previous African bombings, neither the Clinton nor the Bush administrations ever placed Afghanistan on the official State Department list of states charged with sponsoring terrorism prior to 9/11, presumably because this would preclude doing any deal on a pipeline.

A book released in November 2001 in France, entitled *Bin Laden, the Forbidden Truth*, written by Jean-Charles Brisard and Guillaume Dasquie, a former French secret service agent and an investigative journalist respectively, describes the belligerent efforts by U.S. officials to pressure the Taliban. At a February 2001 meeting with Taliban leaders in Washington, Brisard says, "At one moment during the negotiations, the U.S. representatives told the Taliban, 'either you accept our offer of a carpet of gold, or we bury you under a carpet of bombs.'"

The Guardian summarized the pre-war situation in a report shortly after 9/11: The threats of war unless the Taliban surrendered Osama bin Laden were passed to the regime in Afghanistan by the Pakistani government. The Taliban refused to comply but the serious nature of what they were told

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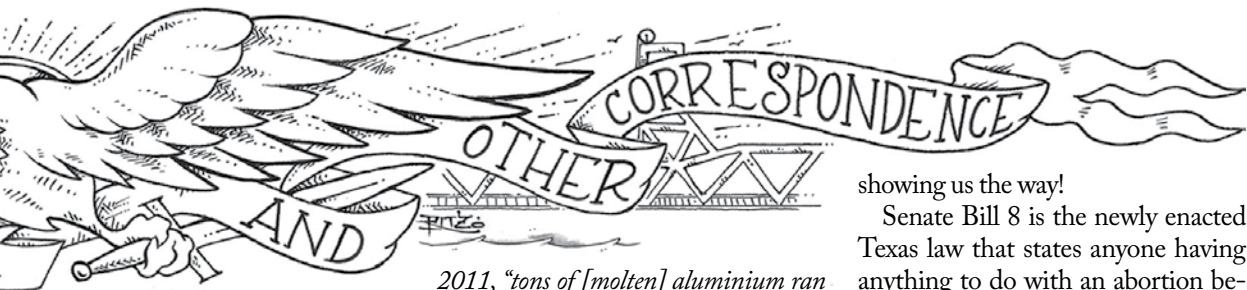
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raises the possibility that Bin Laden, far from launching the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon out of the blue...was launching a pre-emptive strike in response to what he saw as U.S. threats. None of this of course should excuse Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda for their likely roles in perpetrating the events of 9/11. But clearly there was more going on than the experts and officials want us to believe, evidence of which should lead us to consider whether it was in part an inside job and a false flag covert operation for ulterior purposes.

So after all is said and done concerning Afghanistan, where does this leave us? Well clearly, as with Vietnam, we owe it to them to aid in repairing the damage we did to the country and its people. But regarding 9/11, we at the very least should demand a more thorough, independent and honest investigation of the events of that day and their antecedents, since they so affected our history, national momentum and impact on much of the rest of the world.

Doug Bogen
Barrington, N.H.

Doug:

We could not agree more: using the 9/11 Commission as a model would guarantee failure. Might as well go back to the Warren Commission. Ditto for the issue of surreptitious petrochemical business dealings involving the usual suspects.

As for nano-thermite explosives and intentionality, though, we're skeptical. That explanation seems to require acceptance of the theory that someone planted explosives. Who? When? How? A simpler explanation has been offered by Christian Simensen, a scientist at SINTEF, an independent technology research institute based in Norway.

"If my theory is correct," he said in

2011, "tons of [molten] aluminium ran down through the towers, where the smelt came into contact with a few hundred litres of water.

"From other disasters and experiments carried out by the aluminium industry, we know that reactions of this sort lead to violent explosions."

According to an article at Phys.org, Simensen rejects the 9/11 Report theory that the collapse resulted from the over-heating and failure of the structural steel beams at the core of the buildings.

"Given the quantities of the molten metal involved, the blasts would have been powerful enough to blow out an entire section of each building....

"The aluminium-water scenario would also account for explosions from within the buildings just prior to their collapse that have fuelled conspiracy theories suggesting that the structures had been booby-trapped.

"Simensen presented his theory at an international materials technology conference in San Diego, California, and has detailed his calculations in an article published in the trade journal Aluminium International Today.

"The aluminium industry had reported more than 250 aluminium-water explosions since 1980," he said.

Alcoa Aluminium, Simensen said, conducted an experiment with 20 kilos molten aluminium, 20 litres of water, and a small quantity of rust.

"The explosion destroyed the entire laboratory and left a crater 30 metres (100 feet) in diameter," Simensen said."

The Editor

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The Private Right of Action

To the Editor:

Thanks to the Supreme Court, gun-control advocates finally have a clear pathway for shutting down private ownership of firearms. Many thanks to the great gun-slinging state of Texas, sponsor of Senate Bill 8, for

showing us the way!

Senate Bill 8 is the newly enacted Texas law that states anyone having anything to do with an abortion beyond six weeks from conception may become the target of a civil lawsuit. Under the Fourth Amendment, which conveys a citizen's "private right of action," [PRA] the Lone Star State not only provides folks with a license to hunt, it rewards them with a \$10,000 bounty for every "waskely wabbit" they bag. *Rowe v. Wade* be damned, saddle up boys and release the hounds!

Fortunately, with the "private right" genie out of the bottle, there's nothing to block more liberal states from enacting similar legislation pertaining to the sale and ownership of a firearm. Second Amendment be damned, if your neighbor owns a 12-gauge and you don't like guns, you could sue and collect a handsome bounty to boot!

Come to think of it, do the math. If you truly believe in the preservation of human life, wouldn't an anti-gun PRA statute make a lot more sense than a draconian ban on abortion?

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

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Ewing Confesses

To the Editor:

[Carveat Lector—For Entertainment Purposes Only. We print the following as received. Our 100 Proof Department refuses to have anything to do with it on general principles. The writer is known to accept a broad array of lunatics as credible sources. — The Editor]

Captain Whiteman and his platoon were ordered to support Afghan soldiers and protect a friendly Afghan village with its 12 American aid workers. Without orders Captain Whiteman withdrew his platoon during the night without telling his Afghan allies and leaving their position indefensible. He left behind a roster of the Afghan army officers, interpreters, cooperating village leaders, and the American aid workers. He also abandoned a cache

of sophisticated weapons that the Taliban didn't have and huge amounts of ammunition.

The Afghan village was attacked; the outflanked Afghan army was surprised and routed. The villagers and their families were tortured and killed. The women were raped and taken as sex slaves. The whereabouts of the American aid workers is unknown.

Captain Whiteman is being Court Martialed for many offenses with severe penalties, perhaps execution, including: conduct unbecoming an officer, cowardice, misbehavior before the enemy, desertion, and disobeying orders.

The incident described above is fiction. But what this fictional Captain did to a village, President Biden did to Afghanistan and all its' people. Biden withdrew our small, mostly non-combatant, military presence including the intelligence, maintenance, and air support that the Afghan military had been trained to depend on.

Biden abandoned Bagram Airbase at night without telling our allies so they could defend the base. Bagram held thousands of imprisoned terrorists which the Taliban released.

Biden abandoned over \$80 billion worth of sophisticated military weapons and equipment for the Taliban.

For the first time the Taliban has Air Force. They have used our (former) helicopters to hang some of the tens of thousands of our Afghan allies that Biden abandoned.

In their march to Kabul the Taliban tortured, killed, raped, and enslaved people. Now the Taliban has a new list of people to target; the list that Biden provided with the names of the Americans, our Afghan interpreters, and other people who helped our efforts that Biden abandoned in Afghanistan.

While Biden declares victory and the end of the Afghan war, the Islamic Terrorist war against the rest of the world continues with our abandoned allies in Afghanistan being the first victims.

With Afghanistan providing an even larger safe haven for al-Qaeda, ISIS, and other terrorist groups than in 2001, with more and better weap-

ons, with support and protection from Russia and China, and with American dependability shattered, President Biden has made the world a much more dangerous place than it was one month ago.

With open borders and with thousands of un-vetted Afghan refugees brought to our country, President Biden has made our country much less safe than it was only one month ago.

Don Ewing
Meredith, N.H.

Don:

At last, you admit that you're writing fiction. That explains a lot. We only wish you had done this earlier.

To pick just one example, your claim that the Taliban uses our old helicopters as gibbets has been debunked.

We have noticed lately, though, that folks on your end of the political spectrum have resumed the old practice of wearing tee shirts calling for a return to General Pinochet's old practice of throwing dissidents out of helicopters.

The Editor

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You Try Fighting Without Air Cover

To the Editor:

Former President Trump spent more than a year negotiating the handover of Afghanistan to the Taliban. He ignored the needs of the Afghan-istan people. He excluded the Afghan government from talks. He told the Taliban that we were leaving no matter what. His only condition was that they not attack our troops before we left. In return, he forced the Afghan government to release 5,000 Taliban and Al Qaeda prisoners.

No one should think Trump had any plan to evacuate the Afghans who helped us during the last 20 years in their country. Trump had four years to make sure they had the paperwork necessary to leave for America. It did not happen under his administration. It would not have happened before his May deadline to withdraw our troops.

President Biden has responsibility for delaying the start of the evacuation of our Afghan allies. He recovered and

Mash Notes, Hate Mail, &c.

to page six

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Afghanistan: Who's Responsible?

by W.D. Ehrhart

Surprise, surprise! Fox News and the Republican Party are blaming President Joe Biden for the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the horrific scenes of terror and confusion at Kabul Airport in the final days. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy—born in 1965—calls the evacuation “the biggest U.S. failure in my lifetime” (Saigon fell in 1975. Well, I’m just sayin’). Senators Josh Hawley and Marsha Blackburn are demanding that Uncle Joe resign. Endlessly mindlessly Talking Head Tucker Carlson called Biden “the supposed president of the United States.”

Nevermind that Donald Trump brokered a treaty with the Taliban promising the withdrawal of U.S. troops by last May. (Check out the great photo of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meeting with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban’s de facto political leader, in Doha, Qatar, in September 2020.)

Nevermind that George W. Bush invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 to destroy al Qaeda, but decided to take out the Taliban government while he was at it and create a U.S.-inspired democracy. (I think that’s called Mission Creep. Or perhaps Creepy Mission?)

Nevermind that 18 months later, “W” and his pals Dick “Dick” Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld

decided to invade Iraq, which had nothing whatever to do with the attacks on 9/11 (the attackers were 15 Saudis, an Egyptian, a Lebanese, and two men from the United Arab Emirates), thus turning Afghanistan into a neglected sideshow. (But of course, Iraqis would benefit by ending up living in another U.S.-inspired democracy.)

Nevermind that beginning way back in 1979, a succession of U.S. administrations, Democratic and Republican, actively supported, funded, and supplied fundamentalist Muslims—including Osama bin Laden, and many of those who became the Taliban—in their successful effort to overthrow a secular modernist Afghan government in a country where by the late 1980s, 50% of university students, 40% of doctors, 70% of teachers, and 30% of civil servants were women. Read that again. *Women! In Afghanistan.* And the U.S. helped to overthrow that government.

Then consider that, according to former Baltimore Sun reporter Arnold Isaacs’s calculations, U.S. direct aid to the Kabul government’s security forces over the last 20 years comes to \$270,000 for each and every one of the 307,000 Afghan defense and security personnel supposedly on duty as of January 2021 to defend the country against the Taliban in the wake of a U.S. withdrawal. That’s over a quarter of a

million bucks for every single soldier and policeman in Afghanistan. (We American taxpayers don’t seem to have gotten much back on that investment.)

Isaacs further points out, based on figures provided by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, that the U.S.—and that means you and me as taxpayers (at least those of us who actually do pay taxes, no need to name names here)—has spent \$20,925 on each and every man, woman, and child alive in Afghanistan today.

As Isaacs points out, “That’s way more than the entire income of the vast majority of Afghans during that period, especially if you leave out those who got rich from corruptly siphoning a lot of that money into their own pockets. Hard not to think we could have achieved a better result by just folding up some of those dollars in envelopes and handing them out to the population, including those subject to recruitment by the Taliban, to bribe them onto our side. That strategy apparently worked quite well for the Taliban this year.”

I’m not surprised that the shameless Republicans who twice refused to convict a lawless grifter of impeachable offenses, who have described the January 6th insurrectionists as “peaceful protesters,” “normal tourists,” and “true patriots,” who have obstructed and sty-



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meeting with Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, Doha, Qatar, September 12, 2020.

mied every attempt to investigate the instigator of that attack or the administration he headed, who have engineered the most right-wing Supreme Court since Roger Taney ruled on *Dred Scott v. Sandford* in 1857, would blame President Biden for what has unfolded in Afghanistan in the past month.

But what about the responsibility of those who engineered the overthrow of Afghanistan’s moderate secular government? What about the responsibility of those who armed and trained the fighters who would one day become al Qaeda and the Taliban? What about the responsibility of those who threw unimaginable amounts of money into a government they knew to be corrupt and ineffective? What about the responsibility of those who told

the American people year after year that our efforts were making progress and bearing fruit?

I hate to get personal here, but does anybody with a functioning brain in his or her head really think this is all Uncle Joe’s fault? I feel pretty confident in arguing that Biden’s decision to withdraw from Afghanistan is the first smart decision this country has made about Afghanistan in the past forty-two years.

=====

W.D. Ehrhart received the Purple Heart Medal, Navy Combat Action Ribbon, and a Division Commander’s Commendation for his service as a Marine in Vietnam. He is author of *Thank You for Your Service: Collected Poems*.

=====

Leavenworth hangman: “Hurry it up you Hoosier bastard.”

No—Hoosier should not have been capitalized (as we used to say) as in the Hoosier (Indiana) state’s nickname. “hoosier” is a dated disdainful term for someone who was awkward, rustic and/or “not too bright.”

J.K. Folmar I
California, Pa.

Dear J.K.,
Good lord. That Alabama/Arkansas screw-up...oh, dear. It makes us feel like hoosiers.

Now we are even further in your debt—unless that should be “farther.”

Thank you.
The Editor

Where’s the “Dignity of Work” When Work Kills Workers?

by Jim Hightower

Corporate acolytes and right-wing moralists constantly preach to laboring stiff about the uplifting dignity of work.

Of course, that’s “dignity” as defined and controlled by corporate elites, not by workers, and the reward for it frequently includes on-the-job injuries...and death. Not that CEOs and well-heeled investors intend to sicken, maim, and kill thousands of laborers every year—but they certainly do put them in positions that assure such unhappy

results. For example, they demand that farmworkers go sunrise to sunset picking crops in California’s 105° desert heat, and that construction crews toil in the muggy, dog days of Florida summers tarring condo roofs. Low-paid, powerless workers die, but no one in the corporate hierarchy did the deed, right? Heat was the killer.

But wait, not only are aloof, air-cooled bosses the ones who knowingly subject subordinates to deadly heat, but they’re also the ones who hire squads of lobbyists and lawyers to kill simple, inexpensive rules to

stop these deaths—such rules as requiring ample water at work sites; ensuring paid rest breaks in cool spaces; training on-site managers and employees to detect and react to signs of heat stress; requiring good ventilation and proper clothing; establishing emergency response procedures; fostering a safety-first culture; and imposing serious punishments for violators.

Such sensible steps have repeatedly been proposed as official workplace policy for at least the last 50 years—but intense industry lobbying has killed the adoption of all

attempts to prevent what amounts to workplace murder by corporate profiteers. Instead, the U.S. government pretends to “protect” workers by printing posters admonishing employees to beware of heat, basically telling them, “Goodbye and Good Luck.”

But at last, a real proposal has been put on the table by more than 110 grassroots groups. See it—and join it—by contacting Public Citizen: *Citizen.org*.

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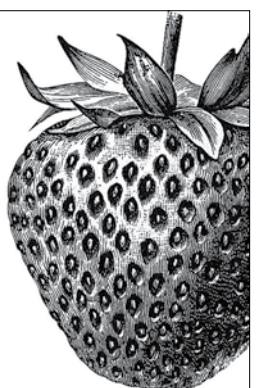
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ADMIRAL FOWLE’S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

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.

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2008—Former Goldman Sachs boss Hank Paulson tells Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers execs the Fed will leave them twisting in the wind. 2004—WSCA-LP goes live. 1994—Frank E. Corder, 38, dies at 1:49 a.m., crash-landing a stolen Cessna on the White House grounds after a day-long beer and crack spree. 1983—Puerto Rican nationalists <i>Los Macheteros</i> rob a Well Fargo depot in West Hartford, Conn. of \$7 million. They throw some cash from the roof to display their disdain for capitalism. 1977—Activist Steven Biko, 30, dies in the custody of South African police. 1970—Tim Leary busts out, leaving in his cell a clipping in which Gov. Reagan says he’s “not a security risk.” 1970—<i>The New York Times Magazine</i> publishes Milton Friedman’s article, “The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits.” Capitalists read it as a license to pillage. 1964—Unwilling to leave his Vermont farm, condemned to build I-91, Romaine Tenney, 64, shoots himself as it burns down around him. 1860—William Walker, the American-born ex-dictator of Nicaragua, deposed by Cornelius Vanderbilt and captured by the British, is executed by a Honduran firing squad. 1857—<i>S.S. Central America</i> sinks in a hurricane off the Carolinas, drowning about 420. Ten tons of gold go down with the ship, the loss of which contributes to the Panic of 1857. 3:37 3:57 9:39 10:19	2010—After calling for civility in the Primary, ex-Gov. John H. Sununu tells the <i>N.Y. Times</i>, “I came in [as N.H. GOP Chair] to clean the vermin [Democrats] out, then I’ll leave.” 2005—Two weeks after the catastrophe, George W.[MD] Bush admits the Federal response to Hurricane Katrina was less than ideal. 2001—Reverend Jerry Falwell says “The ACLU’s got to take a lot of blame for [9/11].” Reverend Pat Robertson replies, “I totally concur.” 1981—William Loeb, alleged newspaperman, goes to his eternal torment. 1971—Staties blast Attica with 2,200 rounds in nine minutes; the dead include 29 prisoners and ten guards. 1971—In the Oval Office, Dick Nixon says to Bob Haldeman, about Attica, “You know what stops them? Kill a few.” Haldeman replies, “Sure.” 1948—In sneakers and a Speedo, Rollie Free sets a Bonneville record: 150 mph on a Vincent Black Shadow. 1945—<i>U-3008</i>, now <i>U.S.S. U-3008</i>, motors into Portsmouth harbor. 1940—A Luftwaffe plane drops six bombs on Buckingham Palace. 1913—Mary, an elephant who had killed her cruel, untrained trainer the day before, is hanged from a railroad crane in Erwin, Tenn. 1848—Lebanon, N.H. native Phineas Gage, working for a Vermont railroad, loses a good chunk of his brain when an iron bar is blasted through it, but lives 12 more pretty good years. 4:35 4:55 10:33 11:20	2019—Thieves steal a solid gold toilet from Winston Churchill’s birthplace. 2008—At his gym, Lehman Brothers CEO Richard Fuld gets punched in the face by a complete stranger. 2005—At the UN, during the World Summit, the Leader of the Free World passes a note to his Secretary of State saying, “I think I may need a bathroom break. Is that possible?” 2001—In Manhattan, standing in rubble his failure helped to create, George W.[MD] Bush fatuously declares that America’s “responsibility to history” is to “rid the world of evil.” 2001—Barbara Lee [D-Calif.] casts the lone vote against letting George W.[MD] Bush do whatever he wants. 1964—LBJ pins the Medal of Freedom on notorious crypto-fascist and arch-propagandist Walt Disney. 1959—Ike signs the Landrum-Griffin Act. An “anti-union corruption” measure, it’s really just anti-union. 1938—The 803-foot <i>Graf Zeppelin II</i>—world’s largest airship—first flies. 1899—New Yorker Henry Bliss becomes the first person in the U.S. to be killed by an automobile (an electric). 1874—New Orleans’ Crescent City White League takes over Louisiana for three days in a bloody coup d’état. 1867—<i>Das Kapital</i> is published. 1836—Eliza Jumel’s ex-husband dies the day their divorce becomes final. He was Aaron Burr—the first Vice President to shoot a man. Her lawyer was Alexander Hamilton’s son. 5:38 5:59 11:34	2008—Lehman Bros. drops 90 percent; the Dow is down 500 points. 2007—Laura Bush condemns Myanmar’s crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators. Hours later thousands march in D.C. against the Iraq War; 190 are arrested, many are Iraq vets. 2004—D.C. cops on a 911 call find Cynthia Ore, 28, in the bathroom of Rep. Don Sherwood (R-Pa.), 63. 1982—Israeli Defense Forces surround Palestinian refugee camps Sabra and Shatila and let Christian Phalangist militiamen slaughter 3,500. 1980—A nuclear-armed B-52 burns for hours at Grand Forks AFB, N.D. 1970—In the Oval Office, Richard Nixon orders CIA boss Dick Helms to prevent the inauguration of Chile’s just-elected socialist Salvador Allende, or overthrow him afterwards. 1963—Two Klansmen bomb Birmingham’s 16th St. Baptist Church, killing four girls and injuring 22. One bomber is convicted 14 years later, despite the FBI withholding evidence. 1915—The Portsmouth-built <i>U.S.S. Portsmouth</i>, which took San Francisco (then Yerba Buena) from Mexico in 1846, helped Britain take Canton in the Second Opium War, and blockaded Texas during the Civil War, is torched as part of a festival in Boston. 1830—At the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, the first steam railroad, William Huskisson, M.P., becomes the first person killed by a train. 6:48 7:07 12:26 12:40	2016—MSNBC, CNN, and Fox treat Donald Trump to a free 1.5 hour infomercial consisting mostly of a live shot of an empty podium. 2001—Dick “Dick” Cheney vows to work on “the dark side.” His only side. 1976—Unelected Vice President Nelson Rockefeller is photographed giving “the finger” to students at SUNY Binghamton, N.Y. 1975—After winning by 355 votes, losing a recount by ten votes, and winning a ballot appeal by two votes, notorious Red-baiter Louis Wyman [R]—an appointed but not-seated Senator for three days—loses a special election to the droll John Durkin [D]. 1974—President Ford announces a conditional amnesty for Vietnam War deserters and draft dodgers. 1968—Richard M. Nixon appears on “Laugh-In” and says, “Sock it to me”—which, eventually, they do. 1964—UC Berkeley bans free speech. 1942—U.S. B-24 pilot J.D. Hardin spots <i>U-156</i> of the coast of Africa. A Red Cross flag on its deck, it’s carrying survivors of the <i>Laconia</i> sinking. As ordered, he attacks. The sub submerges; troops, POWs, civilians, women, and children are left adrift. 1940—A prescient FDR signs the first peacetime draft into law. 1920—A bomb in a horse-drawn wagon explodes in front of the J.P. Morgan building on Wall Street, killing 38 and wounding 400. 1620—The <i>Mayflower</i> sets sail. 7:58 8:15 1:35 1:49	2011—Wall Street gets Occupied. 2002—President George W.[MD] Bush says, “... fool me once, shame on—shame on you. Fool me...you can’t get fooled again.” 2001—President George W.[MD] Bush gives the CIA secret authority to do...secret stuff. It’s classified. 1980—“Operation Reptile:” in Paraguay, a team of Sandinistas whack Anastasio Somoza with an RPG. 1967—The Mount Washington Cog Railway train derails; eight die. 1955—A B-36 carrying a live nuclear reactor takes flight; a planeful of paratroopers follows, thus ensuring safety. 1948—In Jerusalem, the Zionist Stern Gang assassinates Count Folke Bernadotte, the UN’s peace envoy. 1942—B-24 pilot J.D. Hardin sights and tries to sink <i>U-506</i>, but <i>Laconia</i> survivors on board survive yet again. 1908—Lieutenant Thomas Selfridge becomes the first plane crash fatality, in a Wright Flyer piloted by Wilbur. 1862—At Antietam, in Maryland, 113,000 men clash; 3,654 are killed and 17,292 are wounded. It’s the bloodiest day in U.S. military history. 1859—Norton I, Emperor of the United States, proclaims his reign. 1787—Having signed the Constitution, its authors head to a tavern. 1665—Charles II is crowned King of Spain. His father was his mother’s uncle. He is his mother’s first cousin, and his father’s grand-nephew. He’s three, and an idiot; his reign goes poorly. 9:02 9:18 2:41 2:54	2001—Five journalists receive letters laced with anthrax. Five people die, the perps remain unknown. 2001—Complying with a White House request, EPA head Christine Todd Whitman says it’s safe to breathe the air at “Ground Zero.” It isn’t. 1987—The <i>N.Y. Times</i> reports the FBI’s been spying on public library patrons. 1980—Cuban Arnoldo Tamayo becomes the first Black person in space, thanks to the Soviet Union. 1980—A dropped 30-pound socket wrench hits a Titan II missile fuel tank in Damascus, Ark. The tank springs a leak; the leaking fuel catches fire. 1975—The FBI catches “Tanya,” press baron Wm. Randolph Hearst’s bank-robbing granddaughter. 1970—RIP Jimi Hendrix. 1961—UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld and 15 others are murdered when their DC-6 is brought down in Northern Rhodesia. 1947—The CIA’s fell meddling starts. 1931—Japanese troops blow up their own railroad at Mukden, Manchuria, blaming it on the Chinese to justify an attack on Chinese Nationalists. 1873—Railroad baron Jay Cooke goes bust, sparking the Panic of 1873. A five-year depression ensues. 1755—Mark and Phillis, enslaved Blacks, are executed in Charlestown, Mass. for poisoning Captain John Codman, their “owner.” She is burned at the stake; he is hanged. His gibbeted body is displayed for 20 years. 9:59 10:15 3:40 3:53
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23	FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24	SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

2014—Iraq War veteran Omar J. Gonzalez jumps the White House fence and runs into the East Room.

2001—George W.[MD] Bush tells CIA chief George Tenet to look for links between S. Hussein and al-Qaeda. Lacking credible evidence, he suggests Dick “Dick” Cheney as a source.

2001—The U.S. goes to war against Afghanistan—what could go wrong?

1991—Alpine tourists discover 5,300 year-old Otzi the Iceman.

1980—After eight hours of fire, a missile silo in Arkansas explodes, hurling a nuclear weapon 600 feet. Somehow only one person is killed.

1964—The first gay rights demonstration is held at the Whitehall Army Induction Center in New York City.

1961—Betty and Barney Hill of Portsmouth, N.H. find their trip back home from a vacation takes two hours longer than expected due to a detour.

1945—William “Lord Haw-Haw” Joyce, U.S.-born fascist of Irish descent, is sentenced to death in England for broadcasting German propaganda.

1944—William of Orange, a pigeon sent loose by Brits surrounded at Arnheim, arrives in Blighty, saving 2,000.

1881—Shot July 2nd by loony Charles J. Guiteau, President James Garfield dies of malpractice. Adverse result notwithstanding, loony Dr. Doctor [sic] William Bliss submits a huge bill.

1692—After two days being crushed under huge rocks, convicted warlock Giles Corey, 80, dies in Salem.

10:50 11:05

2006—“The devil came here yesterday,” says Hugo Chavez at the UN, “and it smells of sulfur still today.”

2001—George W.[MD] Bush declares a War on a noun, *viz.*, Terror, before a joint session of Congress, which somehow takes him seriously.

1968—A U.S. military spokesman in Saigon says Agent Orange has no harmful effects on human health.

1958—A deranged woman stabs Martin Luther King, Jr. while he’s autographing books in Harlem.

1945—Ex-Nazi, former SS member, and rocket scientist Werner von Braun begins working for the U.S.

1830—In Philadelphia, 38 free Blacks form the National Negro Convention to abolish slavery.

1797—The frigate *Constitution* is launched in Boston.

1797—Captain Pigot of *HMS Hermeine* orders that the bodies of three sailors who died trying to fulfill his orders be thrown overboard.

1777—British troops conduct a surprise nighttime bayonet attack near present-day Malvern, Pa. The Paoli Massacre leaves 272 dead, wounded, captured, or missing.

1565—Spanish forces slaughter 135 Frenchmen in Florida, “for heresy.” It’s the first clash between European colonialists in the New World.

1378—French cardinals elect Robert of Geneva, aka “The Butcher of Cessena,” to be Pope Clement VII, bringing the number of sitting Popes to two.

11:35 11:51

2014—A spokesman for the Islamic State calls U.S. Sec. of State John Kerry an “uncircumcised old geezer.”

2001—CIA chief George Tenet tells the V.P. his Iraq/al-Qaeda link appears to be fiction. Dick “Dick” Cheney continues to repeat it.

1989—The Chase Manhattan Bank accepts for deposit a check sent as a prank by *Spy Magazine*. Endorsed by “short-fingered vulgarian” Donald J. Trump, it’s for \$0.13.

1983—Defending the diversity of his staff, Reagan’s Sec. of the Interior, James G. Watt boasts, “I have a Black, a woman, two Jews, and a cripple.”

1982—Edward Lee Howard, a CIA agent suspected of spying for the U.S.S.R., eludes FBI surveillance in Santa Fe and splits for Helsinki.

1976—Ex-Chilean Ambassador to the U.S. Orlando Letelier, and assistant Ronni Moffit, are assassinated by car bomb in Washington, D.C.

1956—Testing a Grumman F-11, T.W. Attridge, Jr. hits the afterburner. Its jets ingest just-fired 20 mm rounds: he shoots himself down—but lives.

1956—Loathsome Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza García is assassinated by Rigoberto López, poet.

1938—A nameless 183 m.p.h hurricane kills 700 in New England.

1915—As a whim, Cecil Chubb pays £6,600 at an auction for Stonehenge.

1897—A *New York Sun* editorial lies to a girl named Virginia, telling her a mythical “Santa Claus” is real.

12:16

2003—“A year from now,” Richard Perle says, “I’ll be very surprised if there is not some grand square in Baghdad that is named after President Bush.”

1987—Navy Reserve Capt. Timothy J. Dorsey shoots down a Navy plane during a training exercise. Its crew survives with injuries. Dorsey’s career is unscathed: daddy’s an Admiral.

1975—Disabled ‘Nam vet Oliver Sipple deflects Sarah Jane Moore’s shot, saving President Gerald Ford.

1970—President Nixon requests more FBI spies for college campuses.

1959—Fire Commissioner Robert J. Quinn sounds the air-raid sirens to celebrate the White Sox’s pennant win. Many Chicagoans assume it’s war with the Russkies.

1950—Truman vetoes the McCarran Act, but Congress overrides him. Communies must now register; the gov’t can preventively detain “threats.”

1922—Right Wing American capitalists form “Sentinels of the Republic,” one of several front groups for the fascist American Liberty Lobby. Eleven years later many of them will plot to overthrow FDR.

1906—Following a gubernatorial campaign in which the candidates—both Democratic newspapermen—run on their racism, 10,000 whites use unsubstantiated newspaper stories as an excuse to attack Blacks in Atlanta. Death toll: 25 Blacks and two whites.

1862—Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation.

12:34 12:55

1999—The \$328 million Climate Orbiter crashes on Mars because Lockheed forgot to use the metric system.

1998—The New York Fed bails out broke hedge fund LTCM, establishing a suicidal precedent.

1990—As Dan Quayle speaks at a \$2,500-plate fundraiser in Portland, Ore., the Reverse Peristalsis Painters protest by vomiting red, white, and blue mashed potatoes.

1975—Already fired for spying on citizens, ex-CIA counterintelligence chief James Jesus Angleton testifies, “certain individual rights have to be sacrificed for the national security.”

1960—Alan Ginsberg, Peter Orlovsky, and LeRoi Jones meet in Manhattan with Fidel Castro.

1957—Nine Black students enter Little Rock High School, but are escorted out again by police to pacify a howling mob of white segregationists.

1955—A white male jury which believes they’re guilty finds Emmett Till’s murderers “not guilty.”

1952—R. Nixon uses his daughter’s pet dog to deflect corruption charges.

1945—French soldiers who’d been detained in Saigon by the Japanese are released and armed by British General Douglas Gracey. Terrorizing the Vietnamese, they stage a *coup d’état*.

1806—Lewis, Clark, and nearly all the rest make it back to St. Louis, Mo.

1779—John Paul Jones takes the British ship *Serapis* as the *Bonhomme Richard* sinks under him.

1:15 1:32

2007—A plane previously used for “rendition” flights carrying alleged terrorists to Gitmo crashes in the Yucatan carrying 3.3 tons of cocaine.

2006—The *New York Times* reports that our spies think the Iraq War makes Islamic terrorism more likely.

2006—George W.[MD] Bush says, “When the final history is written on Iraq, it will look just like a comma.”

1981—CIA boss Bill Casey says the Freedom of Information Act shouldn’t apply to intelligence agencies.

1978—On his yacht in Chesapeake Bay, right-handed CIA spook John Paisley takes a shotgun blast behind his left ear. It’s ruled suicide.

1968—Protestors destroy 10,000 draft files in Milwaukee, Wis.

1957—The 101st Airborne arrives in Little Rock, Arkansas and establishes a perimeter around Little Rock High.

1955—Vacationing Ike has a heart attack but his doc diagnoses indigestion. He falsifies papers to protect his reputation and Ike’s electability.

1945—Reacting to yesterday’s French coup, the Viet Minh paralyze Saigon with a general strike, storm the jail, and liberate hundreds of comrades.

1911—Portsmouth native Ensign Charles Emerson Hovey, 26, is shot and killed by natives on the island of Basilan in the Philippines.

1869—Black Friday: Jay Gould and Jim Fisk conspire to “corner” gold; the market collapses, chaos ensue. Both are charged, neither is convicted.

1:55 2:09

2008—Somali pirates capture the *MV Faina*, a 500-foot freighter with a cargo of 33 Soviet tanks.

2007—Texas kills Michael Richard on schedule because Judge Sharon Keller refused to work overtime.

2003—An early draft of an interim report from weapons inspectors in Iraq says no WMD have been found.

2002—George W.[MD] Bush says nonsensically, “You can’t distinguish between al-Qaeda and Saddam when you talk about the war on terror.”

1966—The White Sox beat the Yankees 4-1 before the smallest crowd in the history of Yankee Stadium—413.

1962—While listening to the first Liston/Patterson fight, Vivian Stan-shall and Rodey Slater form the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band.

1959—The U.S. Navy loses a nuclear depth charge, minus its fissile core, in Puget Sound.

1957—Nine Black kids get to enter Little Rock High School, courtesy of the President and the 101st Airborne.

1945—Vietnamese of all factions massacre French civilians in Saigon.

1926—Henry Ford announces the eight-hour, five-day work week.

1915—At Loos, France, British forces release 150 tons of chlorine gas towards German troops. Then, to their chagrin, the wind shifts.

1789—The Bill of Rights passes.

1662—Portsmouth adopts a bounty: £5 for every wolf killed whose head is “nayle[d] upon the meeting house.”

2:36 2:47



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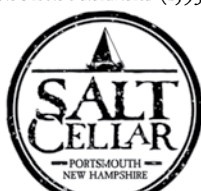
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