

The Fortnightly Rant

Understatement of the Century

Time Magazine's "Man, Woman, Thing, or Random Editorial Notion of the Year" is a promotional stunt masquerading as a tradition. Every year, though, Americans* pay attention to it. Why? Ask Charlie Brown why he lands flat on his back every fall.

This annual marketing ritual does have one saving grace: it reliably provokes the savage wit of our Starving Artist. The magazine misfired badly by featuring a billionaire who wants to go to another planet without having understood this one. Mr. Dater, on the other hand, has once again pinpointed—or pen-pointed—the single most salient thing going on today. Our only quibble is that "...of the Year" is the understatement of the century.

Cheap flim-flammy is all we should expect from a rag with such a pernicious history; in its 98 years, *Time* the magazine has done more damage than the natural phenomenon after which it is named. Much of that history is archived in the pages of Henry Luce's weekly news magazine. Don't take *Time's* version at face value, though. Many essential elements are missing, especially certain linkages which would help to explain a great deal of the 20th century's bloodshed.

Luce was born in China, the son of a Presbyterian missionary. That personal connection convinced him, despite ample evidence to the contrary, that he knew all anyone needed to about the Celestial Empire. In this he greatly resembled a powerful contemporary with a similar, if less respectable, connection. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's grandfather Warren Delano Jr. had made the family's fortune by smuggling shiploads of opium into China. In fact, many "respectable" American fortunes were founded by 19th century drug pushers.

Even Luce, the missionary's son, had his own connection to the opium racket. His was just a few steps further removed, in the person of a one-time Person of the Year.

At the height of its power, from the 1930s through the 1970s, *Time* was a mighty megaphone for the China Lobby. Unelected, uncredentialed, and unchecked, the China Lobby practically dominated U.S. foreign policy.

Mussolini, Hitler, and Stalin were the

"strong men" of Europe. Luce tried to mold his own strong man in China.

In 1937 *Time* named Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and his wife Soong Meiling—referred to as "Madame Chiang," of course—as its International Man & Wife of the Year. A rare honor, perhaps, but the couple had appeared on the cover before, in 1931.

"Madam Chiang" made another appearance, solo, in 1943. Far from being outdone, the Generalissimo's face appeared alone, aglow with all the glory *Time's* art department could bestow upon it, in 1927, 1933, 1936, 1938, 1942, 1945, 1948, and 1955.

That's a lot of hype to lavish on one man, even a supposed ally—particularly when that ally's corruption was so pernicious that it led FDR to OK his assassination.[†]

FDR's ire stemmed from Chiang's habit of demanding ever-greater amounts of aid to support his starving, ill-equipped Koumintang troops. Never mind that they were starving because Chiang was raking off much of the money, or that when it came time to fight the Japanese, or later the Communists, his troops were elsewhere, and otherwise occupied. Among the Koumintang's other occupations, opium smuggling ranked high.

Despite his innumerable flaws and failings, Chiang remained a hero in the pages of *Time*. Its constant cheerleading on behalf of the China Lobby diverted assets from the fight against Japan, and set the stage for wars in Korea and Vietnam.

We have offered this forced march down memory lane with a sense of nostalgia for a better, happier time. Sure, the world was at war everywhere you looked, even as our weapons became ever more frightening. Bellicose fools seemed determined at every junction to make things worse by hook or by crook.

But all throughout we had the hope—perhaps not well-founded, but hope it was—that we might turn things around. Within living memory we had seen peace treaties signed, followed by periods of prosperity.

Most people believed that most other people just wanted a chance to make a decent living so they could raise their families in peace. How could that be too much to ask? Espe-



cially here, in the biggest, strongest country on Earth. That ought to matter, right?

Uh, nope. Not anymore, Bunkie.

The moral and political successors to the China Lobby think there has been entirely too much democratizing going on around here.

Bolstered, like Luce, by the strength of their misguided opinions, they have diligently labored to make sure that policies the public favors by two-to-one majorities don't stand a chance in Congress.

If the people don't like it, let them pester the Supreme Court, where perjurers in black robes can solemnly pronounce their concerns to be irrelevant and immaterial.

We have even lost the comforting notion that we might be overstating the magnitude of the threat. Former New Hampshire Supreme Court Chief Justice John Broderick wrote on Monday, in the Hollowed Out Local Daily, that "Republicans in Congress and... legislatures across the country are actively working to grind our democratic process to a halt and replace it with autocratic rule."

Having stolen nearly everything that's not nailed down, the GOP has taken to toting claw hammers and crowbars.

Certain things, though, can never be stolen, only cherished and used, or surrendered: our hope, and our will to fight back.

* For the purposes of this Rant we will write as if the Americas were uninhabited outside the U.S.A. Our apologies to the non-U.S. citizens who outnumber us by a margin of two-to-one.

† The bumpoff was requested by General "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell, FDR's liaison to Chiang's Koumintang, and was thwarted by—surprise, surprise—the China Lobby. See our Volume 265, No. 19; June 4, 2021.

Notice:
Subscription Fulfillment Has
Been Temporarily Suspended

We are temporarily suspending the mailing of our newspaper to subscribers. We will resume just as soon as conditions allow.

We are loathe to take this step. Considering the Omicron variant's transmissibility, its ability to overcome even full vaccination, the average age depth of experience of our staff and volunteers, &c.—we believe this is necessary. The paper will continue to be available for physical pickup and online at www.nhgazette.com.

—The Editor

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The Warped Politics of Inflation

by Thomas Meisenhelder

The recurring mantra from Fox, the Republican Party and the mainstream media is that Joe Biden, government spending, and the rising incomes of ordinary people are responsible for our increasing inflation rate. That is incorrect and this error is preventing an effective national response to inflation.

This misconception about inflation leads to policy errors similar to those made in response to the 2008 housing mortgage crisis and economic recession. Somehow the media and the politicians understood that crisis to be the result of unwise decisions by consumers and overly

generous government housing policies. In other words, ordinary Americans were the problem. As a result of this thinking, the government responded to the crisis by providing banks and other financial institu-

"...our politicians and other 'talking heads' in the news are focusing on everything but corporate profits."

tions with huge amounts of stimulus money while doing very little for everyday homeowners who were losing their savings and their homes.

Today's economic problem is a slightly high inflation rate (6-8 percent or so) driven, everyone seems

to agree, by the rising price of oil, selected commodities, and essential services such as health care and education. Conservatives, the media, and even many so-called liberals seem to agree that prices are rising because the government has allowed ordinary people to have too much money.

Doesn't hearing these explanations make you want to ask what country these people live in? Do you and your neighbors have too much money? Working people do not control prices. Corporations control prices and they increase them to protect their profits.

Still, our politicians and other "talking heads" in the news are fo-

cusing on everything but corporate profits. Their focus is on how rising oil prices are increasing production costs (cost-push inflation, really "profit push"); how supply chain problems are pushing prices up by creating a situation where too much money is chasing too few goods (demand-pull inflation, really "profit pull"); and, how things like the national debt, low interest rates, human psychology, the rising cost of imports, and the declining worth of the dollar are causing higher inflation. In short, Joe Biden is to blame: he gave too much money, directly

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to page two

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and indirectly, to ordinary people, which overlooks the fact that inflation and government spending are at best only weakly correlated.

What is not talked about are the ever-growing profits of banks, financial institutions, and corporations and the wildly increasing incomes and shrinking tax responsibilities of the wealthy. It is never recognized that neither Biden nor us ordinary folks control the cost of oil, health care, education, or the operation of international and national supply chains.

Finally, the argument is made that the only thing to be done is for government and the federal reserve to tighten the money supply by increasing interest rates, increasing taxes on the middle and working classes, and decreasing government spending (except, of course, for defense and the military spending). These austerity policies, it is said, will

reduce inflation, protect returns on investment, and maintain the value of our currency. These are all issues of concern to banks and corporations; they matter much less to the middle and working classes who do not derive their incomes from loans and investments.

Could it be that the overblown and disturbing talk about inflation from the media and the political Right reflects the corporate fear of low unemployment, rising wages, low interest rates, and subsequent falls in profits and “rents” (meaning payments received from then ownership of debts and material resources). In the new American economy dominated by finance, natural resources, and exports, corporations do well when interest rates are high and wages are low. When unemployment is low and wages go up, corporate profits are threatened. So they raise the alarm about so-called “hyperinflation,” hoping to convince the Fed to increase interest rates, de-



Long stretches of freezing rain during a pandemic can tend to take some of the lustre out of life—especially against the background of a slow-motion fascist coup. To remind ourselves and our readers that strange and wonderful things have happened, and therefore may happen again, we present a couple of examples. On the afternoon of August 31st, passersby in Market Square were serenaded by The East Cackalacky Ascetic Marching Death Band. That's Tom Senkus, aka CrapBot 6, on guitar, and Sharmini Wijeyesekera on the musical saw, tambourine, and vocals. The band had been busking around America for a year and a half. As one might expect, their music was full of strange delights.

crease spending and slow the economy in order to raise unemployment, decrease wages, and protect their rents and profits.

These are the hidden politics of inflation.

So, what would a government truly interested in ordinary folks do? It would adopt economic policies that allow a healthy rate of inflation (around two percent or so) but avoid hyperinflation. Government could regulate the markets and control the prices of the main drivers of inflation, such as health care, education, housing, and energy. It could use the power of Medicare and Medicaid to control the cost of health care. It could use federal agencies to insure that basic needs and life choices are available at an affordable price. It could promote moderate and low-income housing. It could subsidize new environmentally-friendly forms of energy and demote fossil fuels. It could control the money supply by taxing wealth and higher incomes while increasing wage minimums. It could respond to increas-

ing demand by spending money in ways that increases the production of the things we need. It could use price controls to stop obvious profiteering, as was done during World War Two, the Korean War, and even during the Nixon presidency. It could focus on how profits fuel inflation, seeing wage increases as an indicator of the improving quality of life of ordinary working people.

Inflation is a result of corporate decisions to protect profits by raising prices.

It's time to change the politics of inflation by no longer blaming inflation on ordinary people, their wages, and their needs.

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Thomas Meisenhelder is a retired Professor of Sociology from California State University, San Bernardino. He lives in Huntington Beach, Calif.

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Governor Sununu's Energy Policy: A Road to Ruin

by Rep. Peter Somssich and Rep. Kat McGhee

While the rest of the country, and the world, set a course for a cleaner energy future, Governor Sununu and his party are, as one energy contractor put it, steering New Hampshire “back to the dark ages.”

This regression is the result of four ideological tenets: 1) Rejection of climate science, 2) Loyalty to the fossil fuel industry, 3) Belief that government has no role in the clean energy transition, and 4) Certainty that scuttling proven state energy programs aids the prior three tenets.

The rejection of science on the House Science, Technology and Energy Committee is unforgivable. But relegating New Hampshire to a high-cost, fossil-fuel-laden, energy future that negates 20 years of state efforts deserves your attention.

Stagnant energy leadership began when Governor Sununu dismantled

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Sold by F. B. Coleman.

N.H.'s Office of Energy Planning (2018). But coincident with greater Libertarian/Free Stater control of state government, reliable energy policies have come under full-blown attack.

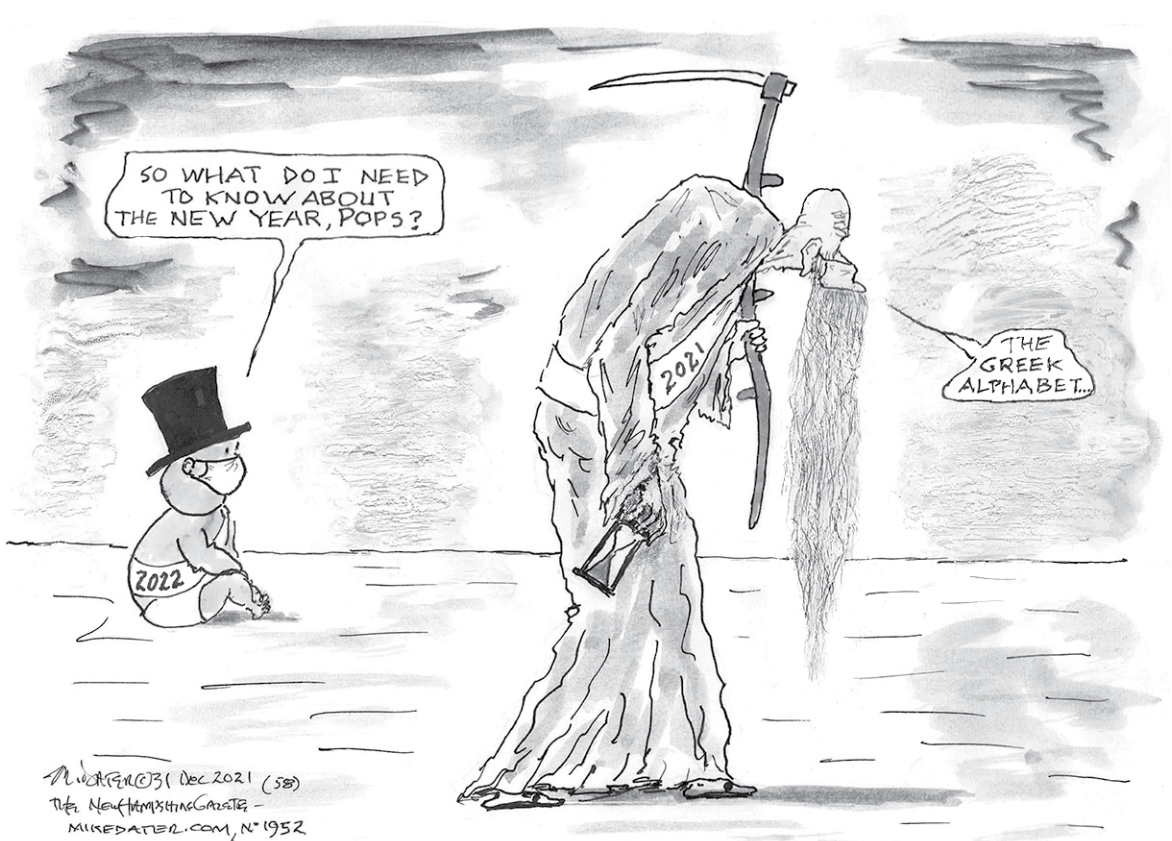
Most of us thought lawmakers could agree on the benefits of energy efficiency, and the value of assisting low-income residents with energy bills; these are investments to make us more resilient and less vulnerable to volatile fuel prices. We assumed bipartisan support was a no-brainer for cleaner forms of locally-generated energy that lower fuel costs, keep energy dollars in the state, and shave costly demand.

But, with a single pen-stroke, we watched Governor Sununu abandon N.H.'s biomass industry and permanently damage N.H.'s forest industry, cementing a lurch towards greater out-of-state, fossil-fuel dependence. House hearings brought us testimony of lost jobs and economic ripples that would hit every county and timberland owner in the state. We heard how biomass plants kept N.H. forests healthy, aided tourism, and produced six percent of the state's sustainable electricity. But 'political loyalty' was the governor's weapon of choice when he coerced environmentally minded Republicans to change their vote and let his

biomass veto stand. A bipartisan, veto-proof majority disintegrated, along with six percent of N.H.'s local, renewable energy.

Governor Sununu's fossil-fuel allies on House Science, Technology and Energy chose to challenge the need for a new three-year energy efficiency (EE) plan in a letter to the PUC (November, 2020). Energy efficiency is the most effective and stimulative policy in N.H.'s energy portfolio. Our colleague, Rep. John Mann, says "the payback on EE is rapid and compounds over time." When fuel prices go up, as is predicted this winter, the value of energy-efficiency multiplies. Weatherized buildings reduce fuel demand permanently. Conversely, the loss of those gains also compounds.

New Hampshire residents and businesses should cry foul for the recent PUC rejection of a stakeholder-approved three-year N.H. Saves Energy Efficiency Plan. The order, signed on November 12, 2021 by a head commissioner who resigned the same day, was 11 months overdue. No justification was given for pulling the rug out from under New Hampshire's home-grown weatherization businesses, their workers, (who lost their jobs for Christmas), and the utilities, which have long maintained successful, good-faith



Less entrancing but equally strange, on the Fourth of July, 2011, these four young men, along with one other who was out of the frame, and a girl, and a pit bull, celebrated by parading around Market Square with very large snakes draped over their necks. The Award-Winning Local Daily's Police Log notes that two complaints were filed, but no violations were found.

collaborations in carrying out the N.H. Saves program. This regulatory conclusion rejected the evidence and caved to calls for sabotage. What is the cost of this loss of predictability?

We question the lack of meaningful objectives set forth by the self-proclaimed "manager" whose recent reorganization of executive and regulatory energy agencies places political loyalists in key jobs at the new Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Environmental Services (DES), and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The greatly pared down PUC is now chaired by an acolyte of the "4 tenets," who possesses no background in regional energy, utility rate-setting or clean energy markets. Side-stepping regulatory objectivity and expertise in favor of dogma brings New Hampshire closer to cronyism.

As other New England states take decisive action to reduce fossil fuel dependence, their need for expensive, dirty, and outdated infrastructure, goes down. As N.H. resists steps to reduce fossil fuel de-

pendence, and fails to plan for the inevitable, our share of regional grid costs, goes up. N.H.'s long-standing approach has been to adopt proven energy strategies and modest, incremental improvements as a hedge against volatile fuel prices. Governor Sununu's approach curbs proven strategies, like portfolio diversity, and inhibits new energy markets from taking root. Is this both pattern and plan?

We want young people to move to New Hampshire knowing state government believes in climate science and acts accordingly. We want businesses to choose New Hampshire because we pursue smart energy policy and can be counted on for stability.

Embracing the past, as innovation sprints on around us, is a road to ruin.

Rep. Peter Somssich is the Ranking Democratic Member and Rep. Kat McGhee is the Deputy Ranking Democratic Member of the House Science, Technology & Energy Committee

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Flotsam & Jetsam

Governor Chris Sununu says he's not running for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Maggie Hassan. We read that to mean he's eyeing the White House in 2024.

His announcement was the starting gun for a GOP stampede.

Former First District Congressman Frank Guinta is acting as if he had a chance in hell, which seems unlikely. He'd have to edge past the well-heeled Bill Binnie, who's also eyeing the slot. Binnie has tried this before, though. His money wasn't much help in 2010, when he came in a distant third. No, Guinta's real obstacle, though, would be the *Union Leader's* memorable 2015 anti-endorsement: "Frank Guinta is a damned liar."

"Corky" Messner seems to have the inside track, but his Denver law firm's legal work for a state-run Chinese insurance company against a U.S. manufacturer may come back to haunt him.

And some people say there's nothing amusing in the news....

Murph's Fortnightly Quote

"Don't raise your voice, improve your argument."

— Desmond Tutu (1931-2021)

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— Robert G. Ingersoll, Preface to *Men, Women and Gods* (1885), by Helen Hamilton Gardner

— Not-So-Random Thoughts from an Oregon Subscriber

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**Court to Decide:
Shall We Make Things Worse, Or Not?**
Dear Editor:

President Biden's mandated that all businesses employing more than 100 people, and federal contractors, require either Covid-19 vaccination or weekly Covid-19 testing. Further, all health-care facilities are mandated to require vaccination of all staff. In response, Republican Governors, including Chris Sununu, sued the administration "to protect Americans and their liberties."

These are some of the same Governors that order mandatory evacuations of your home and business during a hurricane, order children to get vaccinated to attend schools, order women to undergo invasive medical exams for reproductive services, prohibit people from getting food and water while waiting in line to vote, pass laws making voting more difficult for minority populations, prohibit the teaching of historical facts in public schools, oppose marriage equality, and mandate many more policies that do not "protect Americans and their liberties."

The Republican approach to protecting Americans and their liberties is very selective and solely based on their ideological biases.

Whether Republicans want to believe it or not, we are in the midst of an all out war. The enemy is not a nation state or even a terrorist organization, but a stealth virus that has invaded our homeland and has established beach-heads in every state. The front lines of this war are not some place overseas, far from the civilian population, but here in every community. The force fighting this enemy is not a military power, but every one of us—and we are all the potential casualties of this war.

In fact, to date the enemy has killed over 800,000 Americans, including 1,875 New Hampshire residents, and "wounded" 51.6 million Americans, including 189,000 New Hampshire residents, in less than two years.

No war in our history has inflicted as many casualties as has the war with Covid-19, yet Republicans are more worried about "protecting Americans and their liberties," than fighting the

enemy. Sadly, it seems more like the Republicans are allied with the virus, rather than doing what is necessary to defeat it.

When America has been in all-out wars, such as WW II, the government has instituted very strict controls and limitations on people's liberties in order to protect the nation and save American lives. During WW II, rationing of many goods, blackouts, curfews, mandatory conscription, nationalization of businesses, price controls, and many more measures placed limits on our traditional freedoms.

Unlike many Americans today, who defy voluntary vaccination and mask wearing because it "violates their liberties," the "greatest generation" accepted the limits put on their freedoms during WW II because they realized it was for the greater good. Protection of the nation and the people during a deadly conflict was more important than their individual rights. The Governors of the time did not complain about America becoming a "nanny state," or sue the government to "protect Americans and their liberties." Of course not—they were patriots, and realized what would be at stake if they failed to act boldly, with courage and determination.

As a people, we have fallen far short of the "greatest generation"—a generation that understood sacrifice, enduring personal hardship, and loss of some individual rights, because they knew what was necessary to secure a better future for their children and their children's children. They realized that personal freedom came with individual responsibility to the nation and to one another. If they were told by the President to get a vaccination and to wear a mask they would do so without hesitation, because they understood they were all part of a community and a nation, not 300 million individuals simply occupying the same land with no commitment or responsibility to one another. That is not a nation, that is a mob.

The U.S Supreme court has agreed to hold an emergency session on January 7th to decide the constitutionality of the Biden vaccine mandates.



Past Supreme Court decisions, including *Jacobsen vs Massachusetts* in 1905, upholding a smallpox vaccination mandate, have established an important legal precedent: government vaccination mandates for the protection of public health do not violate the Constitution.

Unfortunately this precedent, which has served public health well for over 116 years, is now in serious jeopardy. Considering the makeup of the current Supreme Court, with five extreme right wing justices, including three Trump appointees, I will be very surprised if they do not decide in favor of the plaintiffs, and overturn *Jacobsen vs. Massachusetts*. If they do, that ruling will have serious, and even catastrophic, short and long term consequences.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to grow, especially with the new, very infectious Omicron variant, the stakes are higher than at any time during this pandemic. Our ability to control future pandemics, which are certain to occur, will also be greatly weakened if the court decides in favor of the plaintiffs.

The advancement of political ideology and political self-interest can result in catastrophic consequences when they are placed over the interests of, and conflict with, public health. No society can successfully combat an enemy, either human or biological, when the "rights" of the individual are placed above the rights of the greater community.

Rich DiPentima, LTC, USAF, Ret.
Portsmouth, N.H.

Rich:
Well, this is more than a little bit terrifying. We were not exactly in the market for yet another worry to throw on our growing heap, but since this case is coming up, it's better to know about it than not.

Thanks once again for acting as our de facto health correspondent
The Editor

The War On Fox's Fake Christmas Tree

To the Editors:

What was the big kerfuffle over the "Christmas Tree" fire in front of the Fox building in New York all about? You would think, listening to Fox "News" personnel, that it was an apocalypse—a 36-hour, uninterrupted breaking-news event. But it was just a short, relatively small, confined blaze, set by a deranged arsonist, who perhaps had a dislike for a fake, wannabe-tree, erected instead of a real tree. After all, what burned was just a wire frame that had some greens and ornaments attached to it—not a real tree at all. If it had been a real tree, it would have been a real loss, but a fire on an ornamental structure—what's all the noise about? A fake "tree" in front of the fake news cable channel—how very appropriate! Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year to all!

Paul Cully
Dover, N.H.

Paul:
The only thing so-called conservatives love more than mocking "virtue-signaling" progressives is casting themselves as victims.

The Editor

The GOP Plan for America

To the Editor:

Sit in on any high school debate class and you'll quickly learn that using personal attack to undermine your opponent's argument is catamount to admitting defeat. It's considered the strategy of last resort and will cost you points every time.

Thank goodness such academic nonsense doesn't apply to the adult world of political discourse. If it did, those of us who favor democracy over autocracy might never learn that our belief makes us godless blood-sucking baby molesters who hate America!

Absent a coherent party platform,

the Republican vision for America's future has two basic elements. First, they promise to reinstate a dangerously vindictive autocrat bent on punishing their enemies while destroying the nation's social order. Second, they promise to deregulate and hand day-to-day operation of the country over to the Wall Street Oligarchs who fund their campaigns.

Defending such an odious plan under the rules of forensic debate would be exceptionally difficult to do. Hence, the party's reliance on distraction, threats, political theater, and a well-oiled right-wing propaganda mill to shield them from accountability. No high school debater would get away with these tactics, but the Republicans are—and it's working!

Rick Littlefield
Barrington, N.H.

Rick:
We pored over your letter quite closely, looking for inaccuracies, exaggerations, or misrepresentations. Finding none, we ran it exactly as you sent it.

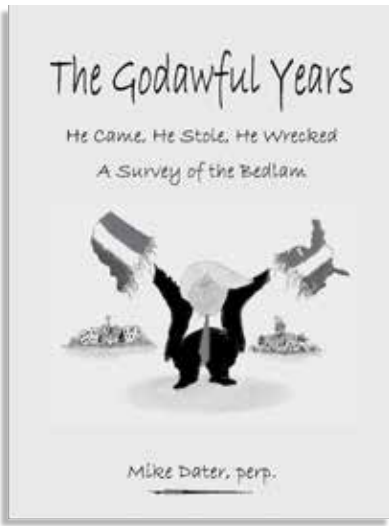
The Editor

We Need the Build Back Better Bill

To the Editor:

Given his troublesome vote, Senator Joe Manchin must want a Build Back Cheaper Bill. But that attitude fails because big problems demand big solutions. When our Revolutionary ancestors faced the world's fiercest nation, they shouted, "Give me liberty or give me death," not "Give me liberty unless it's too pricy." We would have failed to defeat the Nazi threat if we tried to fight on the cheap. War is costly but our ancestors faced a stark choice: pay now, or pay more later. They paid because they faced clear and present dangers. The price of victory is high, but the price of failure is higher and longer-lasting.

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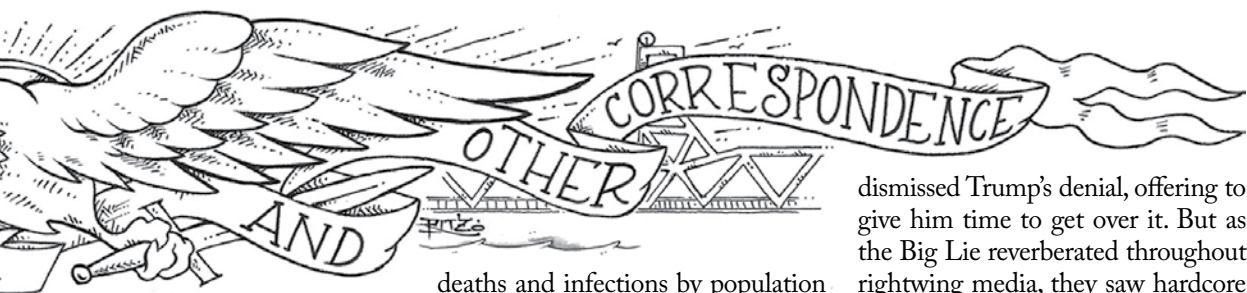
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**Rule by corporation
is not democracy.**



Our ancestors recognized emergencies and willingly paid because they knew cheap efforts fail. They knew we must act as one nation when we face a crisis. With over 800,000 dead, millions suffering from Delta and Omicron variants, and long-term Covid we too know a crisis.

Some might ask what does the Build Back Better Bill have to do with Covid? I respectfully quote a Clinton-era comment, “It is the economy, stupid.” While the Covid nightmare has crushed our economy, infrastructure projects infuse money now just when we need it. If workers can’t take these new jobs because they have children, then we must follow other great nations and offer affordable day-care. This costs us something now, but it quickly pays for itself. Notice how our economy boomed after WWII. Our economic pump needs priming to make it work.

Our liberty is worth it.
John Atherton
Dover, N.H.
John:
If only you were Joe Manchin’s Chief of Staff—and had the power to overrule your boss!
The Editor

=====
Give Priority to the Majority
To the Editor:

In late October I went to a concert at Merrill Auditorium in Portland, Maine. To get in you had to show proof of vaccination. Masks were required full time. I felt very safe. The next night I went to a show at St. Anselm in Manchester. Vaccines were not required nor were masks in the concert hall. People acted like it was 2019. I won’t be back there no matter who is playing.

It is no wonder, in New England, New Hampshire has the most Covid

deaths and infections by population and is last in vaccinations. The governor and the GOP controlled State House act as if the unvaccinated and unmasked are more important than the majority of us.

It reminds me of the days when employers and businesses gave preference to smokers and expected the rest of us to put up with the smoke or go elsewhere. It wasn’t until the non-smokers demanded change that the government and businesses stopped protecting smokers. I believe it is time the vaccinated tell businesses and government to give priority to the majority or lose our support.

Walter Hamilton
Portsmouth N.H.
Walter:
We remember quite well attending a press conference at the Portsmouth Brewery which was held to announce a ban on smoking in the bar and restaurant. It was a first, for this town, anyway, and seemed like a bold and risky move.

Looking back, it now seems obvious, prudent, and visionary, all at once. Just try to imagine sitting at the bar with some stranger’s smoke wafting in your face. It’s unimaginable.

Let’s hope we live to see the day when exhaling viruses onto your neighbors is viewed the same way.
The Editor

=====
Death Watch for Democracy
Dear Editor,

Trump lost the election. As a narcissist, his greatest fear is being seen as a loser. So he built a wall of denial around himself, contending that the election was rigged. His minions brought case after case before judge after judge; all were thrown out for lack of evidence. Nevertheless, his fragile ego compels him to cower behind his Big Lie.

Initially, Republicans in authority

dismissed Trump’s denial, offering to give him time to get over it. But as the Big Lie reverberated throughout rightwing media, they saw hardcore followers embracing it. Republicans now realize that fostering the stolen election falsehood gives them justification for stealing the next election, and that’s what they are fixing to do.

In some states, they are limiting access to voting booths and restricting absentee ballots. They’re replacing professional election officials with partisan apparatchiks. They are gerrymandering district boundaries to assure gaining more seats with fewer votes. They’re preparing to override their states’ Secretaries of State to enable Republican-dominated legislatures to rescind the majority outcome if it doesn’t go their way.

Limiting voting, falsifying the count, gerrymandering, and reversing the result of an election will drown our democracy. Federal election standards, proposed in the Freedom to Vote act and in the John Lewis Voting Rights act, can counter these preparations for dictatorship. Democrats must “carve out,” or bust, the Senate filibuster rule, as they have done twice this month for other purposes, and pass voter-protection laws. If they don’t use the life-preservers now, democracy will die.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.
Bruce:
What an alarming reading of current events. Sadly, it’s very accurate.
The Editor

=====
Support the Freedom to Vote Act!
To the Editor:

The right to vote is the most basic human freedom in a democratic society. Yet the N.H. House Special Redistricting Committee has gerrymandered our electoral districts for their own partisan benefit. This will impact our N.H. elections for at least a decade.

The Freedom to Vote Act bans ger-

rymandering once and for all, stops the flow of dark money, and requires that voting machines be made in the U.S.A. In addition, it makes sure that paper ballots are accessible at every poll. It makes Election Day a national holiday so that Americans don’t have to choose between work and voting.

Please call your senator and tell them to support this!
Laurel Keefe
Concord, N.H.
Laurel:
It’ll be an uphill fight all the way, considering—all the more reason to give it everything we’ve got.
The Editor

=====
Is It Separatism? Or Survival of the Historic Nations of the Spanish State?
To the Editor:

The Kingdom of Spain has recently improved its image in the EU by releasing the Catalan political prisoners responsible for the 2017 independence referendum. But, at heart, it is utter hypocrisy, as the grassroots independence movement continues to suffer repression from Spanish ultra-nationalism. Spain is now attacking republican targets, minorities and rap musicians, such as Hasel and Valtronic, prosecuted for insulting the Spanish crown and saying what is public knowledge: that ex-king Juan Carlos is a thief!

A French television news programme gave the biased headline “separatists exit.” This term “separatist” is connoted in France as violent, illegitimate and unsupportive, and not as a pro-independence movement born of an instinct to survive in the face of repression. Europeans, with a folkloric vision of Spain based on Castilian-Andalusian imagery (bullfighting, flamenco and the dancer on TV), have a profound misunderstanding of Spain which, like France before the sometimes violent and sometimes vexatious Jacobin unification, is a conglomeration of distinct peoples! There is a conflict over the future of a multi-national entity made up of nations established from east to west: the Catalan Countries, Navarre, Euskadi, Castile and the absorbed peripheral regions, Asturias/Leon and Galicia (of which Portugal

is the historical extension).

Faced with this dilemma, the Jacobin, or rather Castilian vision defends a forced standardization through the Spanish language (in reality it is the Castilian language), even if it means making other cultures and languages disappear.

That is why Catalans, Basques, Galicians and Asturians defend their identity (and even reject symbols such as bullfighting and the monarchy). In the past, they sometimes accepted being Spanish without ever accepting being Castilian. The arrival of the republican left, in particular the Podemos party (which defended multi-nationality), raised hopes of an inclusive solution. However, this has not happened, quite the contrary, and the division between complete and incomplete Spaniards has been accentuated! Recently, Podemos has even advocated the exclusion of the Catalan dialect of the Balearic Islands from the Catalan linguistic group (which is absurd unless it is politically motivated). And we have also seen the incidents in Toxa (where Galicians demanding respect for their place names were repressed by the Guardia Civil). These kinds of events show that the civil war in the post-Franco kingdom is not over.

To deny this, from Europe, is to accentuate the historical division of a state built on mass killings and thousands of mass graves (it is the world runner-up after Cambodia!). If the methods have changed and the way is open to democracy, Catalans, Basques and Galicians have a legitimate right to survive as peoples. If this democratic way out is denied, we cannot condemn the desire for independence of minorities who suffer from the inequality of citizenship!

Tiago Douwens Prats
Fontenay-le-Fleury, France
Tiago:
Superficially, it’s a relief to read of internal conflicts having little or nothing to do with the U.S.
More seriously, your letter provides a very interesting perspective on an other-

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

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Sailors
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HUD-VASH does have a dedicated fund for purchasing new items veterans may need. Donations to that fund may be sent to The VA Medical Center, 718 Smyth Rd., Manchester, N.H. 03104-7007. HUD-VASH should be included on the subject line. Every penny will go into home goods for veterans.

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from page five

wise rather baffling situation.
The Editor

=====

Welcome to Our Anocracy
Dear Editor:

A word most of us are unfamiliar with, but will become commonplace in the months and years to come, is anocracy—or semi-democracy—a form of government that is loosely defined as part democracy and part dictatorship, or as a regime that mixes democratic with autocratic features.

The Center for Systemic Peace [CSP] has downgraded the United States of America's system of government from a democracy to an anocracy. I invite the reader to confirm this on the CSP website.

The United States dropped below the "democracy threshold" (+6) on the polity scale in 2020 and is now considered an anocracy (+5). In the process the United States also lost its designation as the world's oldest, continuous democracy; that designation now belongs to Switzerland (171 years), followed by New Zealand (142 years), and the United Kingdom (139 years). The CSP adds that further degradation of democratic authority will trigger an "Adverse Regime Change event." It is significantly important that Americans understand that this downgrade can be explicitly tied to the Trump administration's activities during and since his term in office.

This analysis also places the United States at "high risk of impending instability (*i.e.* adverse regime change and/or onset of political violence)" and designates "the ongoing efforts of the U.S.A. executive to circumvent electoral outcomes and subvert democratic processes as an 'attempted (presidential) coup.'"

It appears the American experiment has run its course as a full-fledged democracy. Approximately two and one-half centuries is quite a stretch but our era ended January 20th, 2017, the moment Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th



President of the United States.

Prior to that date, any theory proclaiming the United States would backslide this far would have been regarded as unimaginable, beyond comprehension. In retrospect, it doesn't require the skill of a brain surgeon to trace the cause of our collapse to the exact source.

The reason for our downfall isn't rocket science and neither is the remedy. We all learned in school what democracy means; a "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." We need not devise a foolproof plan to restore democracy in America, it's been done; by Plato, "The strength of democracy is judged by the quality of its services rendered by its citizens;" also by Louis Pasteur, "The true democracy is that which permits each individual to put forth his maximum effort;" and by J.R. Lowell, "Democracy is that form of society, no matter what its political classification, in which every man (or woman) has a chance and knows it;" and Harry Fosdick, "Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people."

There is just one element missing, and this one's up to us. As the famous Italian patriot and revolutionary, Giuseppe Mazzini (1805-1872) reminds us, "Democracy is the progress of all, through all, under the leadership of the wisest and the best." What more do we need to know?

David L. Snell
Franklin, N.C.

David:

Thanks—we think—for this confirmation of our most uneasy feelings.

The Editor

=====

Virus Don't Care

To the Editor:

The heated rhetoric around the Covid 19 virus is a distressing example of our polarized country, the toxicity of our politics, and the dys-

function of our government.

Covid is a non-partisan virus—it doesn't care if you are a Republican or a Democrat, whether you live or die, or whether the economy tanks. It is just looking for a warm place to replicate and mutate. Intelligent people working together, with the resources we have available to us in this highly developed country are capable of defeating or at least managing this common enemy. Instead, we are fighting each other and the virus is winning.

Who else is winning? Which politicians, media groups and individuals are promoting, amplifying and benefiting from this divisiveness at the expense of the rest of us? When are American citizens going to have enough of having our emotions exploited, start listening to each other, and band together to work on this and other problems our country faces?

It is up to us to keep our democracy safe, by electing leaders who are able to focus on the common good and, through an honest exchange of well thought out ideas, collaboration, and compromise, get things done.

Cynthia Muse
Rye, N.H.

Cynthia:

As with the indoor smoking issue we referenced in response to Walter Hamilton's letter, we'd like to think there will come a day when we look back on these times in wonder and say, "What the [expletive deleted] were those people thinking?"

The Editor

=====

The Rich Can't Handle Their Money

Dear Editor,

It is clear that members of the one percent class do not know how to act responsibly with their tens and hundreds of millions of dollars in yearly disposable income.

They invest in large corporations

rather than small businesses. They invest in American companies who have moved their operations to China. They impose usurious interest rates on the working poor.

They invest in news media conglomerates that distort reality, and food conglomerates that sell harmful products and services. They invest in energy companies that do little during the climate crisis.

The luxury class invest in industries that are popular with Americans, but destructive to democratic character, like professional sports, superficial entertainment, gambling, vaping, social media, and video gaming.

They fail to invest in public education, having no need for it. Instead, they use private schools and later pay bribes to get their children into private universities. They resist investing in public health care, welfare, and criminal justice programs, because they have their own exclusive world of services to care for them apart from the rest of society.

Kimball Shinkoskey
Woods Cross, Utah

Kimball:

Uh...you're exactly right.

The Editor

=====

GOP Trampling the Constitution [Again]
To the Editor:

Do you know whether your town is getting its own dedicated representative in the New Hampshire State House? Fifty-six towns may lose out.

The N.H. Constitution, Article 11 states: "When the population of any town or ward, according to the last federal census, is within a reasonable deviation from the ideal population for one or more representative seats, the town or ward *shall* have its own district of one or more representative seats." The "ideal population" in the 2020 Census is 3,444 people, and if your town has that population, you should have your own House dis-

trict with one or more reps. Why does this matter? Imagine your town needs a new water or sewer system and needs state help to finance it. Having a state representative who lives in town, knows the people, and knows the issues, is invaluable. In some towns, like Canaan and Gilmanton, they're eligible for their own districts, but are in a district with other towns and have no reps from their towns.

Currently 56 N.H. towns with a population of 3,444 or more may be deprived of unique representation in the proposed redistricting maps. That means 56 violations of the N.H. Constitution. Other proposed maps substantially reduced that number.

Please ask your representative to attend deliberations January 5th, 6th, and 7th to vote *no* on this "majority map." Please also ask them to vote *no* on the majority map that gives us Congressional districts that are non-competitive and gerrymandered.

Susan Richman
Durham, N.H.

Susan:

Because they know they are demographically doomed, the current crop of Republicans are committed to an all-out, no-holds-barred fight to grab and hold power by whatever means are available to them. Their policy appears to be, "ignore the law, ignore the Constitution—if you can get away with it, it's OK."

We'd like our Rep to go further than you suggest. A "Hell No!" vote would just barely suffice.

The Editor

=====

The Need for Build Back Better

To the Editor:

I am the mother of four children, all four of which have varying levels of disability. I am a highly educated parent with knowledge in the medical and special education fields. From a young age, all of my children have needed therapy and significant home support for their cognitive, behavioral health and mental-emotional well-being.

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Early on, we learned that daycare would not be an option; our daycare providers informed us that they could not manage my eldest two children with their limited resources and staff. My kids' behavioral needs were so intense that my husband had to leave his job twice over four years so that he could be home with the children full-time. I remained employed full-time in order to maintain insurance coverage. We have never been able to hire a typical babysitter, because they would be completely overwhelmed by my children's behavior and cognitive needs. Eventually, my husband started his own business, working from home so that he could remain present as much as possible.

My first daughter had to be hospitalized at nine for severe and dangerous behavioral health issues. We had home support through our local community mental health agency, but due to frequent turnover and entry-level staff, our needs could not be met. Home care workers would come in, form a meaningful relationship with my children, and then move on after six months. The cycle would repeat. This was hard on my children, who formed attachments to workers only to see them replaced.

We had never qualified or could not privately pay for skilled home support until we were directed to the Fast Forward program through the state. The Bridges Foundation, funded by the Department of Be-



havioral Health, helped us survive and begin to heal from the trauma.

These home care workers have been essential to my family's survival. It's unfair and unethical that they are paid so little that we can't retain them in the industry, and because of that they eventually move on to take jobs in retail or some other sector of the economy, rather than where we need them. It's wrong that our service providers don't have the funding to help pay for additional training for their staff so that workers dealing with significant challenges, like the ones my family provided, have training beyond the entry-level that they can fall back on.

Once the pandemic began, and due to severe caregiver burnout from working full-time while managing three children with disabilities, it was necessary to quit my job in order to become a 1:1 assistant to three of my children at home. Since I carried private insurance through my employment this was impacted. When my daughter required rehospitalization we were limited in our choices in psychiatric facilities due to the limited rate of reimbursement the state provides. Due to our experiences with previous hospitalizations we knew the N.H. choices were not appropriate for the intensity of her needs. We were left without options.

Build Back Better would raise Medicaid reimbursement rates so providers can pay their workers more and provide additional training. They'll be able to attract and retain skilled workers who want a career in home care. Families like mine will be able to have home care workers when we need them. We'll also benefit from family medical leave, so we can take care of our children without quitting our jobs.

Call your Senator today and tell them to support Build Back Better.
Nicole Sheaff
Exeter, N.H.
Nicole:

An uphill battle but well worth fighting. Did you see that Congress just gave the Pentagon \$24 billion is had not requested?

The Editor

====

Catalan Pro-Independence Supporters Form A Parliament Outside Spain
To the Editor:

Elections for the Assembly of Representatives of the *Consell per la República* (Council for the Republic; consellrepublica.cat/) were held 29-31 October. The "Consell per la República" wants to be a government of Catalonia in exile, based in Waterloo (Belgium), to prepare the foundations of the future Catalan

Republic by avoiding the fierce and antidemocratic Spanish repression.

The duly registered people voted online for the 500 candidates who presented themselves on open lists. One hundred twenty-one people were elected, 70 percent of them women, who have already chosen a president of the assembly and will have to choose a president of the "Consell per la República"—until now, it has been provisionally the President of Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont, during whose mandate, the 2017 referendum, was held, and who went into exile in Belgium to avoid being unjustly imprisoned. Imprisonment is what the other members of the government who stayed in Catalonia had to endure. They were vindictively sentenced to nine to 13 years in prison, although, due to pressure from European institutions, they were released after almost four years in prison.

The *Consell per la República* has 101,913 registered members, despite the fact that in order to register, personal details must be given, and this generates caution in an extremely peaceful and democratic movement that has suffered repression against 3,300 people. Moreover, there are sectors of the pro-independence movement that do not see this strategy of defiance towards Spain as a

clear strategy, precisely for fear of its violent reaction. Despite all this, the number of Council members is growing day by day.

Europe should not ignore the fact that the *Consell per la República* is a huge organisation that intends to overwhelm Spain's control of Catalonia with peaceful mobilisations unlike any ever seen before. These mobilisations will create social and economic disruption in Spain and the EU and will try to force a European intervention to avoid a violent reaction from Spain as happened in the 2017 referendum. The Council sees this as the only way out to defend its legitimate objective, because it has learned that Spain will never accept a democratic solution where Catalan citizens have the last word.

Knowing that the time is approaching when the *Consell* will initiate a Gandhian-style non-violent struggle, it would be far better—and would prevent undue suffering for all—if the EU would act before these mobilisations have a harmful effect on Europe, and would facilitate an agreed democratic solution in which Spain is forced to accept, not unilateral independence, but a binding referendum that democratically decides on the matter.

Núria Bou Torrent
Sant Cugat del Vallès, Catalonia
Núria:
We U.S.A.ians may need to study your methods.
The Editor

Special Gifts For Special People

by Jim Hightower

Ho-Ho-Ho, wait till you hear about the gifts I gave to some of America's power elites for Christmas.

To each of our Congress critters, I sent my fondest wish that from now on they receive the exact same income, health care, and pensions that we average citizens get. If they receive only the American average, it might make them a bit more-hum-

ble—and less cavalier about ignoring the needs of regular folks.

To the stockings of GOP leaders who've so eagerly debased themselves to serve the madness of Donald Trump, I added individual spritzer bottles of fragrances like "Essence of Integrity" and "Eau de Self-respect" to help cover up their stench. And in the stockings of Democratic congressional leaders, I put "Spice of Viagra" and "Bouquet du Grassroots" to stiffen their spines

and remind them of who they represent.

For America's CEO's, my gift is a beautifully boxed, brand new set of corporate ethics. It's called the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Going to pollute someone's neighborhood? Then you have to live there, too. Going to slash wages and benefits? Then slash yours as well. Going to move your manufacturing to sweatshops in China? Then put your

office right inside the worst sweatshop. Executive life won't be as luxurious, but CEO's would glow with a new purity of spirit.

To the Wall Street hedge-fund hucksters who've conglomerated, plundered, and degraded hundreds of America's newspapers, I've sent copies of *Journalism for Dummies* and offered jobs for each of them in their stripped-down, Dickensian newsrooms. Good luck.

And what better gift to the Trump

family—Donald, Ivanka and Jared, Eric, Donnie Jr., and the whole nest of them—than to wish that they live with each other constantly and permanently. No, really, each of you deserve it.

Populist author, public speaker, and radio commentator 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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ADMIRAL FOWLE’S PISCATAQUA RIVER TIDAL GUIDE (NOT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES)

Portsmouth, arguably the first town in this country not founded by religious extremists, is bounded on the north and east by the Piscataqua River, the second, third, or fourth fastest-flowing navigable river in the country, depending on

whom you choose to believe. The Piscataqua’s ferocious current is caused by the tide, which, in turn, is caused by the moon. The other player is a vast sunken valley — Great Bay — about ten miles upriver. Twice a day, the moon

drags about seventeen billion gallons of seawater — enough to fill 2,125,000 tanker trucks — up the river and into Great Bay. This creates a roving hydraulic conflict, as incoming sea and the outgoing river collide. The skirmish line

moves from the mouth of the river, up past New Castle, around the bend by the old Naval Prison, under Memorial Bridge, past the tugboats, and on into Great Bay. This can best be seen when the tide is rising.

Twice a day, too, the moon lets all that water go. All the seawater that just fought its way upstream goes back home to the ocean. This is when the Piscataqua earns its title for xth fastest current. Look for the red buoy, at the upstream end of

Badger’s Island, bobbing around in the current. It weighs several tons, and it bobs and bounces in the current like a cork. The river also has its placid moments, around high and low tides. When the river rests, its tugboats

and bridges work their hardest. Ships coming in laden with coal, oil, and salt do so at high tide, for more clearance under their keels. They leave empty, riding high in the water, at low tide, to squeeze under Memorial Bridge.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2	MONDAY, JANUARY 3	TUESDAY, JANUARY 4	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5	THURSDAY, JANUARY 6	FRIDAY, JANUARY 7	SATURDAY, JANUARY 8
2021—Georgia Sec. of State Brad Raffensperger refuses Dolt #45’s demand that he “find 11,780 votes.” 1996—At Bill Clinton’s invitation, Monica Lewinsky drops by the Oval Office. Sequestered in the bathroom, they violate his marriage vows. 1972—During a one-hour interview on CBS, Richard Nixon tells Dan Rather that the bombing in Southeast Asia had been “very, very effective.” Next day in a note to Hank Kissinger, he tells the truth: “The result = zilch.” 1970—The Supreme Court nixes Gen. Hershey’s effort to reclassify all draft protestors as 1-A, or draftable. 1967—In Florida, 72 men are arrested, thwarting an invasion of Haiti financed by CBS in exchange for exclusive film rights of the landing. 1962—Outnumbered four to one, vastly outgunned, without helicopters or armor, 350 Viet Cong defeat U.S.-advised ARVN at Ap Bac. 1923—As evidence of his corruption mounts, Interior Secretary Albert Fall resigns. President Harding then offers him a seat on the Supreme Court. 1920—U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer has thousands of alleged subversives arrested. 1905—The I.W.W., aka The Wobblies, “organize” in Chicago. 1882—Standard Oil reorganizes so as to allow John D. Rockefeller to keep his oil monopoly; laws be damned. 1872—Brigham Young is arrested for having 24 wives too many.	2021—Dolt #45 tries to replace Acting AG Rosen with Jeffrey Clark, who’s more likely to back his coup. 2006—Hotshot Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleads guilty to three felony counts for defrauding Indian tribes and bribing officials. 1967—Jack Ruby conveniently dies in prison while awaiting retrial. 1966—Ronald Reagan announces for Governorship of California, claiming it leads in bankruptcies and has 40% higher unemployment than the rest of the country, neither of which is true. 1966—Navy vet and civil rights activist Samuel L. Younge, Jr., 21, is murdered in Tuskegee, Ala., by a white, 68-year-old gas station attendant later acquitted by an all-white jury. 1961—In Idaho, three enlisted military technicians are killed in a steam explosion at a nuclear reactor. 1955—The U.S. government announces that over 3,000 federal employees have been sacked to quell Joe McCarthy’s paranoia. 1943—SSgt. Alan Magee falls 22,000 feet from a doomed B-17 without a parachute and crashes through the roof of a St. Nazaire railroad station. He dies in 2003 at 84. 1931—Fearing insurrection, merchants in England, Ark. hand over food to a mob of 500 hungry people. 1924—British brigand Howard Carter loots Tutankhamen’s tomb. 1891—L. Frank Baum calls for “total extermination” of Native Americans.	1971—George Mellendorf, in Vietnam, mails a letter to the White House complaining of slow mail delivery. His answer arrives in 1978. 1965—Having forced UC Berkeley Regents to drop their ban on political speech, the Free Speech Movement holds a rally that’s legal for a change. 1960—During a Minimum Interval Takeoff at Pease AFB, the second in a flight of three B-47s crashes and burns; four crewmen die. 1958—In a New York cab, ex-Commie, ex-McCarthy aide and ex-editor of <i>Confidential</i> Howard Rushmore shoots his wife, then himself. 1956—A Senate Internal Security Subcommittee begins investigating newspapers, including the <i>New York Times</i>, for alleged Commie influence. 1955—The U.S. agrees to pay Japan for nuking the Marshall Islands. 1933—Farmers in Primghar, Iowa throw a rope around a banker’s neck and threaten to lynch him unless he promises to end foreclosures. 1903—Topsy the Elephant, unjustly accused of being a killer, is fitted with copper sandals, fed carrots laced with a pound of cyanide, and electrocuted by the owners of Luna Park at Coney Island. An Edison crew films the fun. 1882—John McCarton, ship’s printer aboard the <i>U.S.S. New Hampshire</i>, leaps overboard off Newport, R.I. to save Musician 2nd Class Jabez Smith from drowning; McCarton is later awarded the Medal of Honor.	2021—Dolt #45’s Chief of Staff Mark Meadows emails that the National Guard would be at the Capitol Jan. 6th “to protect pro-Trump people.” 2011—Freshly-minted Rep. Frank Guinta [R-N.H.] assures David Koch he’ll show fealty attend a party later. 1970—Kenneth Yablonski discovers his dad, UMW presidential challenger Joseph “Jock” Yablonski, his mom, and his sister dead. All were murdered in their sleep five days earlier on orders of incumbent UMW president “Tough Tony” Boyle. 1968—Feds indict Dr. Spock for expressing concern about the health of his ex-patients now in uniform. 1968—The CIA sends LBJ a third report on its illegal surveillance of U.S. students. It, too, is rejected because it found no foreign influence. 1964—The FBI starts bugging MLK. 1942—Mutual Broadcasting’s John B. Hughes begins an anti-Japanese-American radio campaign that results in the establishment of U.S. concentration camps. 1937—The Abraham Lincoln Brigade is formed to fight fascism—“prematurely,” some say. 1914—To reduce his 370% turnover rate, Henry Ford offers \$5 for an 8-hour day—to workers who comply with his rigid behavioral standards. 1781—Benedict Arnold helps the Brits burn and plunder Richmond, Va. 1776—New Hampshire ratifies the nation’s first state constitution.	2021—A misguided mob of purported patriots attacks the Capitol to subvert democracy and install a dictatorial doofus. Five die, many are injured, but Dolt #45’s <i>autogolpe</i> fails; the Republic is spared by ineptitude. 2018—Pres. Donald J. Trump asserts that he is a “very stable genius.” 2006—George W.[MD] Bush OKs \$20 million for a celebration of “success” in Iraq and Afghanistan. 2005—A switching error causes a 2:40 a.m. train wreck in Graniteville, S.C.; 60 tons of chlorine gas escape, killing nine immediately and one month later. 1986—One person dies and 100 are injured in an accident at Kerr-McGee’s nuclear fuel plant in Oklahoma. 1951—U.S.-backed South Korean security forces torture and massacre between 212 and 1,300 unarmed suspected commies in Ganghwa. 1947—Callahan, Calif. school kids find a Black man lynched near their one-room schoolhouse. 1946—Thousands of GIs storm HQ in the Philippines, protesting slow re-deployment back to the U.S. 1944—RIP Ida Tarbell, pioneering muckraker, in Bridgeport, Conn. 1895—Ex-Queen Liliuokalani is arrested in Hawaii after a failed coup against Sanford Dole. 1853—President-elect Franklin Pierce and his wife Jane survive an Andover, Mass. train derailment, but, with two sons dead already, see their third son dead, nearly decapitated.	2015—Two brothers, Wahhabi extremists, kill 12 and wound 11 at <i>Charlie Hebdo</i>’s offices in Paris. 1999—The Senate tries Bill Clinton for lying about canoodling with a young intern. His prosecutor: Rep. (and adulterer) Henry Hyde [R-Ill]. 1998—<i>The Washington Post</i> reports that George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush lied: he did attend meetings about arms sales to Iran. 1980—San Franciscans hold a grand bash to honor Emperor Norton I on the 100th anniversary of his demise. 1948—Captain Thomas F. Mantell, a Kentucky Air Guard ace, takes his F-51 too high pursuing a UFO; hypoxic and unconscious, he crashes. 1945—<i>U.S.S. Hovey</i>, named for Portsmouth-born Ensign Charles Emerson Hovey, is sunk by kamikazi and torpedo attack off Luzon. 1931—Inspired by the Jan. 3rd “food riot” in England, Ark., Will Rogers begins a campaign for federal assistance—helping to topple Hoover. 1861—Mayor Fernando Wood, a Democrat, proposes that New York City secede from the Union. 1851—“That a war of extermination will continue to be waged...until the Indian race becomes extinct,” Gov. Peter H. Burnett informs the California legislature, “must be expected.” 1806—Cherokees in Tennessee and Alabama cede 7,000 square miles of land to whites, in return for which gesture they are not killed.	2020—Reacting to the U.S. drone-strike assassination of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad, Iran fires missiles at bases in Iraq; 64 U.S. troops suffer traumatic brain injuries. Trump denies any were injured. 2007—The <i>U.S.S. Newport News</i>, submerged, collides with a Japanese oil tanker near the Strait of Hormuz. 2005—The <i>U.S.S. San Francisco</i>, submerged, collides at flank [top] speed with an undersea mountain near Guam. One sailor dies, 98 are injured. 2003—“The war on terror involves Saddam Hussein,” explains George W.[MD] Bush, “because of the nature of Saddam Hussein, and his willingness to terrorize himself.” 1992—At a formal dinner in Japan, Pres. George Herbert [Hoover] Walker Bush turns his head to P.M. K. Miyazawa and vomits in his lap. 1982—Reagan’s White House grants tax-exempt status to racially-segregated colleges. (That lasts 4 days.) 1973—Five employees of President Nixon plead guilty to burglary. 1958—An accident at the Che-lyabinsk plutonium plant in the U.S.S.R. kills hundreds. 1956—Indigenous Hoaroanis in Ecuador register their annoyance with missionaries by spearing five to death. 1811—A small group of enslaved Black men attack a plantation owner, take up arms, and march for New Orleans; their numbers grow as they go.
3:52 4:40 10:13 10:57	4:46 5:33 11:06 11:50	5:40 6:25 11:59	6:33 7:16 12:42 12:52	7:27 8:07 1:34 1:45	8:23 8:58 2:27 2:40	9:20 9:51 3:21 3:37
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9	MONDAY, JANUARY 10	TUESDAY, JANUARY 11	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12	THURSDAY, JANUARY 13	FRIDAY, JANUARY 14	SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

2002—Future A.G. Al Gonzales writes that parts of the Geneva Conventions are “obsolete” and “ quaint.”

1980—Sixty-three participants in the 1979 seizure of the Grand Mosque at Mecca are beheaded with swords in the public squares of eight Saudi cities.

1967—Calculations show ARVN desertions at 5.7x the rate of the NVA.

1964—Panama suspends relations with the U.S. after U.S. troops kill 21 anti-American protesters.

1952—In Phenix City, Ala., anti-vice crusader Hugh Bently’s house is destroyed by a bomb.

1939—In Missouri’s “Bootheel,” 1,700 homeless sharecroppers, Black and white, stage a sit-down strike in the middle of Highways 60 and 61.

1918—The 10th Cavalry and Yaqui Indians conduct the last battle of the Indian Wars at Bear Valley, Ariz.

1913—Richard Milhous Nixon is born in Yorba Linda, Calif.

1861—Mississippi declares it’s seceding because “none but the Black race can bear exposure to the tropical sun...[and] a blow to slavery is a blow at commerce and civilization.”

1811—The number of enslaved but armed Black men marching on New Orleans rises into the hundreds.

1805—Ohio passes “Black laws”—no Blacks may testify in court.

1766—A “grand mob” in Portsmouth relieves stamp master George Meserve of his commission and raises the colonies’ first “No Stamp” flag.

2017—CNN reports on the Steele dossier; *Buzzfeed* publishes it.

2002—George W.[MD] Bush denies ever meeting Enron CEO Ken Lay, his largest campaign donor.

1992—A busted shipping container releases 28,000 floating toy animals in the mid-Pacific, which are then tracked by oceanographers; the gripping tale is told in *Moby Duck*.

1984—Responders to a false alarm about an accidental missile launch at Warren AFB, Wyo. park an armored car atop the silo as a precaution.

1967—Lester Maddox, a school dropout who gave ax handles to his restaurant customers to ward off integration, becomes Governor of Georgia.

1957—Four Black churches and homes of two Black leaders in Birmingham, Ala. are bombed.

1946—“I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its stupidity,” says Ike in Ottawa, Canada.

1880—Emperor Norton’s funeral draws 20,000 in San Francisco.

1860—The Pemberton Mill in Lawrence, Mass., overloaded with machinery to boost profits, collapses killing 145 and injuring 166: the worst industrial disaster in state history.

1855—The last 88 Clackamas Indians sign away the best timberland in Oregon for \$500 and some food.

1776—*Common Sense* is published anonymously in Philadelphia by Thomas Paine, who takes no royalties.

2008—“There will be a signed peace treaty [between Israel and the Palestinians] by the time I leave office,” says George W.[MD] Bush.

2003—“You can count on this,” Donald Rumsfeld tells Saudi Prince Bandar, showing plans for the Iraq War. “This is going to happen.”

2002—Joe Foss, 86, ex-Governor of South Dakota, is detained at a Phoenix airport; security personnel mistake his Medal of Honor for a weapon.

2000—“Rarely is the question asked,” says George W.[MD] Bush, “is our children learning?”

1986—The CIA polygraphs Ollie North’s co-conspirator Manucher Ghorbanifar. Two answers out of 15 are true: name and birthplace.

1974—Joint Chiefs Chair Admiral Moorer is reported to have spied on the executive branch to get secret info on U.S. diplomatic initiatives.

1943—Carlo Tresca, influential editor of an anarchist newspaper, is shot dead on 5th Ave. Carmine Galante likely did it for Generoso Pope. Pope wanted it done as a favor for his pal, Mussolini. Pope’s son Generoso Jr., 20, founds the *National Enquirer* ten years later.

1917—Fire consumes 39 buildings comprising a munitions plant in Lyndhurst, N.J. Switchboard operator Tessie McNamara’s warnings help 1,400 workers escape.

1912—In Lawrence, Mass., 32,000 women and children strike for bread—and roses, too.

1991—Congress authorizes the first Bush vs. Hussein War.

1984—Reagan Deputy Secretary of Defense W. Paul Thayer resigns after being charged with insider trading. He ends up in the can.

1971—Rev. Philip Berrigan is indicted for conspiring to kidnap Henry Kissinger and bomb federal buildings.

1968—Lima Site 85, a tiny USAF navigational facility on a remote mountaintop in Laos, is rocketed, bombed, and strafed by two NVA-pilots, Soviet-built Antonov biplanes. One, damaged by groundfire, crashes. A flight mechanic in a CIA Huey shoots down the other with an AK-47.

1962—U.S. helicopters fly their first combat mission in South Vietnam.

1951—For bombing an airliner, Albert Guay goes to the gallows in Canada, saying, “At least I die famous.”

1943—Federal bureaucrats announce that hot dogs will henceforth contain less meat and more soybeans, and be called “victory sausages.”

1932—Ms. Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-Ark.) becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

1931—Raymond Gunn, 27, accused of killing Maryville, Mo. schoolteacher Velma Colter, is chained to the roof of her schoolhouse, which is then set ablaze.

1928—Tom Howard of the *New York Daily News* takes an unauthorized photo of Ruth Snyder as the State of New York kills her in an electric chair.

2018—Hawaiian authorities issue an alert: “BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND ... SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL.” A retraction comes 38 minutes later.

2017—N.H. State Rep. Carolyn Halstead [R-Milford] drops a loaded handgun on the floor during a packed public hearing at the State House.

1987—Lee Atwater admits the Reagan anti-drug campaign was “the epitome of the fad issue, a classic really. It came and went in three weeks, max.”

1975—The *NYTimes* reports that USAF Maj. Harold L. Hering was discharged for asking, during Minuteman training, “How can I know that an order...to launch my missiles came from a sane president?”

1964—The tail falls off a B-52, which crashes in Barton, Md. with two nukes aboard. Four crewmen bail out alive, but two of them die of exposure, one just 800 yards from a streetlight.

1957—Frisbees go on sale.

1946—In Paris, 500 GIs adopt an Enlisted Man’s *Magna Carta*. It’s for radical reform of the master-slave relationship between officers and enlisted.

1874—NYC Police Commissioner Abram Duryée says 1,600 cops beating unemployed demonstrators was “the most glorious sight I have ever seen.”

1842—Riding into Jalalabad alone is William Brydon, sole survivor of the 4,500 British soldiers who began a retreat from Kabul one week earlier.

2000—“This is still a dangerous world...of madmen and uncertainty and potential mental losses,” warns George W.[MD] Bush.

1969—After warnings from enlisted men aboard the nuke-powered *U.S.S. Enterprise* go unheeded, the exhaust of a flight deck tractor cooks off a Zuni rocket. It hits an F-4’s fuel tank, causing a fire which detonates 4.5 tons of bombs. The whole farrago kills 27, injures 85, and nearly sinks the ship.

1967—The First Human Be-In is held—in San Francisco, of course.

1975—Standing on a gold star marking the spot where Jefferson Davis was sworn in as president of the Confederacy, George Wallace, being sworn in as Governor of Alabama, vows, “segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.”

1957—“I never should have switched from Scotch to Martinis,” says former Portsmouth Naval Prison guard Humphrey Bogart, dying at 57.

1942—A B-18 crashes on Mt. Water-nomee, two die. Future Gov. Sherman Adams helps rescue five survivors.

1878—The U.S. Supreme Court says railroads may provide unequal levels of service on the basis of race.

1850—Anarchist Mikhail Bakunin is sentenced to death at 35. That sentence suspended, he spends years in a dungeon, contracts scurvy, is sent to Siberia, escapes, travels the world making trouble for authorities, and eventually dies in Switzerland at 62.

1992—George H.[H.]W. Bush, in N.H. for votes, says “[W]e are blessed. So don’t feel sorry for ... don’t cry for me, Argentina.”

1989—TV guest Donald Trump asks host Larry King, “Do you mind if I sit back a little...your breath is very bad.”

1989—The Gipper, on MLK Day, says some civil rights leaders are “doing very well...keeping alive the feeling that they’re victims of prejudice.”

1977—Bill Murray makes his debut on SNL; the host is Ralph Nader.

1970—The *Washington Monthly* tells U.S. citizens 1,000 U.S. Army spies have been watching them since 1965.

1968—Near Dak To, SP/5 Dwight H. Johnson engages so fiercely in a firefight that he is later awarded the Medal of Honor. In 1971 he’s shot to death in a suicidal robbery.

1968—Ex-Rep Jeanette Rankin [R-Mont.], 87, who voted against WW I and WW II, leads a march against the Vietnam War.

1965—Cuba deports Alan Ginsberg for calling Che Guevara “cute.”

1943—Future Senator Strom Thurmond [R-S.C.] has backseat sex with murderer Sue Logue as she’s being driven to the electric chair.

1919—In Boston, a badly-built tank collapses, releasing a flood of molasses—a raw material for war munitions; 21 die, 150 are injured.

1885—W.A. “Snowflake” Bentley makes the first successful photograph of a snowflake in Jericho, Vermont.



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